

P-18 **END OF LIFE COMPANIONSHIP: EQUIPPING VOLUNTEERS WITH BASIC SKILLS TO OFFER SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY**

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Background The value of volunteer end-of-life companions has been recognised in hospitals and compassionate neighbourhood schemes (Hall & Meiton, 2019. *BMJ Support Palliat Care*. 9:229; Wilson, Justice, Thomas, et al., 2005. *Health Serv Manage Res*.18:244). Experience of people spending their last days in isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic intensified the call that no one should be left to die alone unless it is their wish (Ramos, Hashimoto & Henry, 2020. *Int J Care Caring*. 4:595). The End of Life Companionship project is a funded collaboration between the Centre for the Art of Dying Well at St Mary's University, Twickenham and the St Vincent de Paul Society, England and Wales (SVP) to equip SVP Members with basic companionship skills to support people nearing the end of life and their families.

Aim To provide End of Life Companionship training to 500 SVP Members during 2021-2022; to give them increased confidence to support dying beneficiaries, friends, and family members; to raise awareness of opportunities to volunteer as a companion in hospitals, hospices and community settings.

Method A three-hour online training course introduces the context of death and dying in the UK, spiritual values underpinning companionship, self-care and settings for companionship. Data from pre- and post-course surveys are analysed using a qualitative content analysis approach (Lindgren, Lundman, Graneheim, 2020. *Int J Nurs Stud*. 108: 103632) to gain understanding of changes in participants' perception of how it is to be with someone who is nearing the end of their life. In phase two of the evaluation, beneficiary experience of companionship will be explored using Transformative Evaluation (Cooper, 2014. *The Learn Org*. 21:146).

Results In the year to April 2022, 176 participants completed the course. Initial analysis of the first 90 surveys shows that 64 participants identified changes in themselves including feeling of reassurance, reduced fear of death and better understanding of the qualities needed to be a companion. 19 participants, who mostly had previous experience of end-of-life accompaniment, described no change in perception but they reported heightened awareness and/or that the course has broadened their knowledge.

P-19 **ONEBEXLEY: IMPROVING COLLABORATION AND ACCESS TO END OF LIFE CARE BY DELIVERING ADULT SOCIAL CARE SUPPORT**

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Background/Aims In 2019, Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice (GBCH) joined a consortium with seven other local organisations in Bexley – 'OneBexley'. This consortium comprises: Age UK Bexley; Bexley Mencap; Bexley Voluntary

Service Council; Carers' Support Bexley; Crossroads Care South East London; Inspire Community Trust; Mind in Bexley.

Since September 2020, GBCH have been the prime contractor for a contract that has seen the London Borough of Bexley commission 'OneBexley' to undertake Care Act assessments, reviews and carers' assessments for non-complex referrals to Adult Social Care. The organisations have engaged trained Trusted Assessors, trained to use the Council's CRM and to fulfil the statutory requirements of Care Act assessments, using their knowledge of the local landscape to implement creative care packages that enable people to live a life, not a service.

Methods/Results/Conclusions We will discuss how working in partnership has enabled the hospice to provide support to patients with palliative care needs as well as those of our partners' ability to support people at the end of life via their own services. We will share case studies of where the hospice team in completing a Care Act assessment during/ following routine hospice visits has enabled us to better support our patients. We will reflect on how this joint work has enabled us to provide ad hoc training to people working outside of the end of life care system, enabling others to deliver better care and support to our beneficiaries. We will discuss how stronger links with key colleagues at the Local Authority have strengthened our relationships and have contributed to the hospice's sustainability. We will share evidence demonstrating how working with Adult Social Care has enabled us to identify people appropriate for hospice support earlier, as well as enabling palliative care support for more people who would not otherwise have been referred for hospice support.

P-20 **END OF LIFE EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONALS IN A RESPONSE TO AN URGENT NEED IN THE A CRISIS SITUATION AS AN EFFECT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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Background Dying and death are still a taboo topic in society, highlighting barriers in holistic management of end-of-life care. People are living longer and will require end of life care in community environments. The pandemic evidenced this significantly, bringing a raised awareness of lack of knowledge in care of the dying.

Aim Collaboration was inspired and launched in response to unprecedented numbers of deaths. Three hospices and an NHS Trust in the south of England developed fundamental end-of-life training initially aimed just at nonqualified health care professionals who work across all areas of social care, from domiciliary carers and carers from residential and nursing care homes, as they are the biggest end of life care givers in our community.

Methods Eleven bite-size education sessions on end of life with multimedia contents for all learning styles, delivered virtually. This was agreed through the strategy group for quality and governance. Evolvement to a pre-learning assessment to compare and contrast the pre- and post- evaluations of