MARIE CURIE PALLIATIVE CARE DEMENTIA SERVICE—AN EVALUATION OF PROCESSES, OUTCOMES AND IMPACT AFTER THE FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION

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Introduction Access to the end of life care received for patients with dementia and their carers is of paramount importance—by 2021 the number of people with dementia in Wales is projected to increase by 31%. Currently, inappropriate hospital admissions are common and patients are less likely to be referred to palliative care services. Primarily this is because patients and carers are infrequently informed of the terminal nature of dementia and advance planning discussions are rare.

The Marie Curie Palliative Care Dementia Service has been developed to; support dementia patients in achieving their preferred place of care and death, other health and social care professionals in understanding and meeting the needs of dementia patients at the end of their lives.

Having reached its first year of operations, an evaluation has been conducted to establish the impact of the service thus far.

Aim(s) and method(s) The evaluation has been conducted through the analysis of service performance data, case notes, and interviews with carers, patients, primary and secondary care professionals, using content analysis.

Results This paper will focus on the primary aims of the MCPC Dementia services; processes, outcomes and impact. Service performances and outcomes will be presented against relevant frameworks for end of life care for dementia, and the impact of the service on patients, their carers, and NHS services will also be.

Conclusion(s) This paper will conclude with its vision for the future direction and development of the MCPC Dementia service, outlining its recommendations for palliative care for dementia patients.