

NOW to improve knowledge and access to end of life care for people with learning disabilities.

**Results** In partnership with SpeakEasy NOW:

- Created a bespoke easy-read hospice leaflet which has been peer reviewed by people with a learning disability;
- Filmed a video with people with learning disabilities on why and how to talk to loved ones about end of life wishes;
- Hosted a free event on growing older and end of life for people with a learning disability and their carers involving information stalls and interactive workshops;
- Exploring learning disability champions in hospice clinical teams;
- Exploring hosting conversation events across the county about end of life with people with learning disabilities.

**Conclusion** St Richard's Hospice is committed to ensuring everyone who has a specialist palliative care need has access to appropriate support. In partnership with SpeakEasy NOW, we are improving access, awareness and conversations about death and dying with people with a learning disability and their loved ones.

### P-23 HOSPICE PRIDE

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**Background** Previous joint working between member hospices of the 'Midlands Community Engagement Network' led to a collaborative community development approach attending Pride 2019 as one united group.

**Aim** To support the LGBT community, representing individual hospices and demonstrating partnership working, whilst promoting the message of supporting all communities to ensure everyone has access to good palliative and end of life care. The group aspired to raise awareness of hospice care in a non-discriminatory way, promoting and celebrating equality and diversity of the LGBT community.

**Methods and results**

- Hospice float and walking group at Birmingham Pride parade 2019;
- Seven hospices worked collaboratively;
- Well represented and supported on the day with a mix of over seventy members of staff and volunteers;
- 'Preparing for tomorrow, living for today' joint message;
- 1000 stickers handed out asking people how they would like to be remembered;
- Hospice heart selfie board used;
- Reach of event magnified by PR and social media, locally and nationally;
- A hashtag #HospicePride used and adopted by other hospice pride events across the UK;
- Impact of event went beyond the actual parade, across all seven localities and nationally;
- Led to potential collaboration with other hospices, together we can achieve more approach;
- Internally hospices involved reported positive response and feedback from staff;
- Enriched engagement with LGBT community;
- Future joint working planned.

**Conclusion** Pride offered a valuable opportunity to work collaboratively between hospices with persons working in community development roles, all dedicated to widening the reach and access of palliative and end of life care for the LGBT community. This work can be easily replicated amongst other hospices; establishing beneficial links and demonstrating a national message of hospices providing bespoke, person-centred care that meets individual needs.

### P-24 ENSURING INCLUSIVITY FOR OUR LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY: BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS

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**Background** The LGBTQ+ communities face many difficulties and challenges in accessing health and social care. These barriers are magnified when trying to access support for palliative care, end of life care and bereavement support.

**Aim** Since February 2019, we at Marie Curie Hospice West Midlands are ensuring that we are a LGBTQ+ friendly organisation for patients, carers, staff and volunteers.

**Method** We recognised that our hospice services were not actively promoted as LGBTQ+ friendly. This led to initiatives at both regional and national level to address this.

**Results** Development of a hospice LGBTQ+ working group for staff, volunteers and service users. Bi-monthly meetings with our aim to ensure promotion, inclusion and equity to all our services for patients and carers identifying within the LGBTQ+ community. Also ensuring our work environment is LGBTQ+ friendly for all staff and volunteers. Collaborative working with Birmingham LGBT and an ambassador visit from Ageing with Pride. Implementation of a LGBTQ+ awareness training programme for staff and volunteers. Initiated a #hospicepride float @BirminghamPride2019 working collaboratively with six regional hospices. Raising awareness of hospice services as well as promoting equality and celebrating diversity within our community. Hospice staff and service user LGBTQ+ education boards have been placed in well attended areas. A stakeholder event planned autumn 2019 to facilitate co-design of palliative care services with our local LGBTQ+ community. We are members of the national Marie Curie LGBTQ+ working group – working on national initiatives and organisational developments to ensure Marie Curie is a LGBTQ+ friendly care-provider and employer.

**Conclusion** Everyone with a terminal illness should have access to high quality palliative care. LGBTQ+ people can feel excluded from palliative care services. It's important that we ascertain specific needs and assets to do everything we can to ensure equity of our services for our diverse community.

### P-25 MEN'S SPACE AT KIRKWOOD

Pam Wood. Kirkwood Hospice, Huddersfield, UK

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Kirkwood Hospice's Support and Therapy team have launched a new support service for male service users, patients, carers, and bereaved men, taking place as a drop-in group held weekly. This new initiative has drawn upon the wider multi-