

**P-34** INTRODUCTION SCHOOL CHILDREN TO HOSPICE CARE – BENEFITS TO PATIENTS AND PUPILS

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Nottinghamshire Hospice is passionate about providing hospice care to all our communities. Previously primary school groups have come in to sing Christmas carols to patients in day therapy and in the Summer two local schools came for picnics with patients. These picnics involved more interaction between pupils and patients than Christmas singing had provided. Patients and pupils played games together, shared stories about their ‘teddies’ and toured the hospice gardens.

It was concluded that this was a great starting base to take schools work further and to develop an interactive teaching programme which benefits patients, pupils, schools, parents and Nottinghamshire Hospice.

The hospice therefore invited a class of children into the hospice for four afternoons to work on a 1:1 basis with patients with the aims of:

- Raising awareness in the community about the hospice’s work;
- Address myths and reduce anxieties around loss and bereavement;
- Create healthier attitudes towards death, dying and aging;
- For patients and pupils to have some fun and laughter.

**Activities involved**

- Patients and pupils talking and getting to know each other’s interests, what’s special to them and what they enjoy about the school and hospice. This was evidenced in creating poems which were read out to patients and parents;
- Pupils saw all aspects of hospice life including HR, finance and maintenance;
- Reading and discussing ‘Paper Dolls’ story together which talks about memories and having a workbook and craft around this story.

Feedback was positive from pupils, patients, parents, school staff and hospice staff. The children learnt a lot about ‘their patient’, this was reflected in the poems they wrote together.

School staff and parents were reflective on the warm and happy atmosphere that the hospice provided and how the children had interacted with people much older than themselves and hospice staff enjoyed sharing their knowledge.

**P-35** EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH – EARLY EDUCATION OF YOUNG MINDS ABOUT MODERN-DAY HOSPICE CARE

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**Background** In September 2018, a Community Engagement Schools and Colleges Co-ordinator was recruited to set up and deliver a new educational outreach service. With a background in teaching, the Co-ordinator recognised the value and potential of linking the work of the hospice to National Curriculum objectives that would support and enrich learning inside and out of the classroom.

**Aims** To strengthen collaborative working with schools, colleges and youth organisations within the catchment area; to

promote awareness of the work of the hospice, the hospice movement in general and palliative and end of life care.

**Methods** October 2018: research began into schools and colleges work currently on offer by other hospices. Professional links made. November 2018: marketing materials developed. Co-ordinator searched National Curriculum documents and Schemes of Work to see where educational links could be made. December 2018: educational pack developed for primary schools to include curriculum-based assemblies, lessons or group talks. January–March 2019: in-house schools visits and projects investigated and developed to encourage young people to visit the hospice.

**Results** Between January–July 2019, the Co-ordinator attended over 20 local schools for assemblies and talks. Awareness is growing for the new service and future bookings are being made for the 2019/20 academic year. From March to June 2019 three pilot in-house schools projects took place where children worked with day services patients. Initial evaluations from patients, teachers, children and parents has been extremely positive, with patients asking to sign up again.

**Conclusions** Through our educational outreach, we are not only educating our next generation on what modern day hospice care is, but it has the potential to dispel myths and change wider public perception. Based on initial positive feedback, next steps are to embed the Primary service and extend out to Secondary schools through talks, enterprise initiatives or community projects.

**P-36** WHY EVERY HOSPICE SHOULD HAVE A SCHOOLS PROJECT

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**Background** The National Council for Palliative Care (2015) highlighted that there are considerable social taboos when discussing death and dying, yet it is well documented that honest end-of-life conversations can enhance capability to live and die well (Department of Health, 2008).

In line with national strategies to increase public awareness of hospices’ work and after exploring other approaches to this project, the hospice was keen to establish and evaluate the benefits of running a course for school children, patients and hospice.

**Aims**

- Engage, create links and inform our community about the hospice’s work;
- Offer an opportunity for patients to engage in activities of sharing their knowledge and life–stories with children and wider community;
- Provide safe environment for children to explore aspects of ill–health, death, dying and the ‘circle of life’;
- Impact evaluation of all participants.

**Methods** January 2016 to May 2016: literature review, networked with other hospices, internal consultations, service planning; June 2016 to August 2016 - school recruited, year-5 students and patients to participate in pilot project; September 2016 to March 2017 - ran pilot project and evaluation; September 2017 to present - eleven courses/academic year as established service; participants counted. Self-assessment/questionnaire evaluation by all participants. Social media activity monitored.