

The One Gloucestershire Way



Priority Summary:

End of Life: Dying matters

Our ambition

To provide high quality palliative and end of life care to the population of Gloucestershire. We want to support people who are approaching the end of their life to have a dignified and peaceful death in the place of their choice.

What are we doing?

- Our vision for end of life care was developed in partnership with patients, families and carers. They told us that the paperwork used with people in their last few weeks and days of life was confusing, so we have developed new documentation which focuses on 'what is important to me'.
- Just in Case medication boxes have been introduced for people to keep in their own homes. This ensures people have access to the right drugs to manage their symptoms in a timely way, supporting them to remain at home if that is their wish.
- Avoiding unplanned hospital stays is often key to supporting people to die at home. The Specialist Palliative Care line is available to healthcare professionals for advice to help prevent admission to hospital where possible. In 2018, 93% of people being cared for by the Hospice at Home service were able to die in their preferred place.

Case Study

Edward's parents lived in a farmhouse at the end of a remote country lane. For that reason, he was concerned that it would be difficult for his father to spend his final days of life at home, particularly in winter. Edward praised the care his father received, with the Hospice at Home, NHS Continuing Healthcare and Specialist Palliative Care teams working seamlessly to support Edward's family through a difficult Christmas and New Year.

Edward explained:

"My father was treated with enormous humanity, by health professionals who were unfailingly kind. It is of great comfort that he was able to spend his final weeks in the home he loved, surrounded by his family."



What next?

- A new initiative, known as ReSPECT (Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment) will be introduced in late 2019. The plan will ensure that a person's wishes are understood by everyone involved in their care.
- We are working to improve access to those eligible for fast-track Continuing Healthcare funding to enable more people to die in the place they choose.