

TRANSFORMING END OF LIFE CARE IN BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL

Macmillan Specialist Care at Home



MACMILLAN
SPECIALIST CARE
AT HOME
WE CARE
WE CURE
WE SUPPORT
CANCER SUPPORT

Marie Curie
Cancer Care



BIRMINGHAM
ST MARY'S
your hospice



NHS

There are no dress rehearsals, we have to get end of life care right for people with cancer and other life limiting conditions, first time and every time.

That's why Macmillan is working in partnership across Birmingham and Solihull with NHS Trusts, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Marie Curie Hospice, West Midlands and Birmingham St Mary's Hospice, to develop consistent palliative care services by trialling a new way of working called Macmillan Specialist Care at Home.

It is a two year project, supporting local services to work more effectively together and enhance the quality of care and treatment they provide for people at the end of their lives, and those around them.



An innovative approach to end of life care

Birmingham and Solihull is one of six innovation centres across England designed using a best practice model of care first trialled by Macmillan in Midhurst, West Sussex.

Key features include:

- Consultant led
- Early referral
- Proactive person centred care
- Clinical interventions provided at home and in community settings
- Collaboration – shared care with other service providers, especially in primary care
- Good coordination of care
- Flexible use of a multidisciplinary team including trained volunteers

The model follows national guidelines and drivers for more people to be supported in their preferred place, with less unscheduled hospital admissions for people in the last year of their life.

Key benefits of the Midhurst model include:

- Is valued highly by patients, families and GPs
- Allows the clinical team to work more flexibly, accommodating and complementing other services
- Maintains good relationships with other services and gains the confidence of patients and carers

In Midhurst, the model has had a real impact on patients and services.

Key outcomes include:



84% of people died in their preferred place of care in 2012/13, which is significantly up on the national average.



If the service was replicated elsewhere, the total **cost of care could be reduced by 20%.**



The service has resulted in **fewer A&E visits and nights in hospital** from the people who use it.



By using their different specialisms, team members ensure **a person-centred approach and optimum use of time.**



Volunteers fulfil many important roles, and are a key part of the service.

We know this approach works in Midhurst – what we want to find out is whether it can be just as effective in different local contexts.

The project in Birmingham and Solihull started in April 2014 and will run until 2016, when there will be a formal evaluation of results to inform future plans.

How we're transforming end of life care

Across Birmingham and Solihull

Specialist training for professionals – We have created a new network of 20 GPs across Birmingham and Solihull who are getting additional ongoing training on how they can provide the best possible quality of care for people at the end of their lives, when they need it most.

The training includes areas such as early identification of end of life patients, prescribing in end of life care and how to communicate with people with life limiting conditions and their families.

The learning network will also give GPs the opportunity to share best practice and create closer links with other professionals involved in end of life care. A similar network for nurses is also being planned.

Birmingham

Providing support through volunteers – Macmillan will be testing out the use of local volunteers in end of life care by providing specialist training for a small number of volunteers in Birmingham, so that they can provide additional practical and emotional support to patients in their own home. The volunteers will be linked to three GP practices in the city. This model may be rolled out more widely, once the impact of this pilot has been evaluated.

Solihull

Providing specialist clinical interventions at home – Going into hospital and attending hospital appointments can be extremely distressing and stressful for people with life limiting conditions. As part of the project, some of the clinical interventions normally delivered in hospital such as blood transfusions and bisphosphonates will be offered at home, or from the Marie Curie Hospice, West Midlands, which is based in Solihull. The project will also work towards offering ultrasound scanning and paracentesis in hospices.



To find out more about Macmillan Specialist Care at Home in Birmingham and Solihull contact:

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To find out more about the project at a national level,
go to macmillan.org.uk/specialistcareathome

