

Arthur Rank Hospice's Hospice at Home service

The Arthur Rank Hospice's Hospice at Home service provides registered nurses or health care assistants to care for the patients overnight in their own homes. A mobile senior specialist palliative care nurse is on duty all night to add additional support to the staff or to deal with urgent requests for support from GPs and community nurses.

Over the past two years the Hospice at Home service has expanded from two nurses to six, with an additional two bank nurses, 14 health care assistants and a complementary therapist. The service now cares for an average of 40 patients a month, enabling them to die in their own homes.

From September 2012 to August 2013 the episodes of care provided to these patients more than doubled from just over 60 to nearly 180 each month.

The out of hours care service is typically provided in the last stages of life when the family is perhaps struggling to cope and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has agreed to give a contribution to the service so it can be extended across most of Cambridgeshire.

A new survey recently conducted for the Hospice by the NIHR CLAHRC (National Institute for Health Research Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, a collaboration between Cambridge and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Cambridge in partnership with other regional health and social care providers, has found that the Arthur Rank Hospice at Home service enabled 263 patients (96 percent) to die in their own home, in accordance with their wishes.

In addition, the evaluation showed that:

- 45 percent of patients were referred from the community, 35 percent from within the Arthur Rank Hospice, and 20 percent from hospital;
- The majority of patients died within a week of referral and 13 percent were referred more than a month before death; and
- The three most frequent reasons for referral were psychological support for the patient, psychological support for the family, and symptom control.

Arthur Rank Hospice is dedicated to providing specialist palliative care and support to adult patients and their family, friends and carers. All care is provided free of charge and is offered to people living throughout much of Cambridgeshire. The care is provided by Cambridgeshire Community Services with funding from the NHS and the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity. The aim is to enable patients and those close to them to live as fully as possible, and make the most of the time that remains. For further information on the Arthur Rank Hospice visit www.arhc.org.uk.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG is a clinically led organisation with 108 GP practices as members across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and parts of Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire. They are the third largest CCG in England and responsible for ensuring that high quality NHS services are provided to their 891,298 patient population. For further information on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG visit www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CLAHRC were a collaboration of academic researchers, clinicians and managers who undertake applied health research focused on the needs of patients and service users, supporting the translation of research evidence into practice in the NHS and social

care. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CLAHRC came to the end of its five year funding in December 2013. In its place, a new CLAHRC for the East of England came into being, which started on 1 January 2014. For further information on the CLAHRC for the East of England visit www.clahrc-eeo.nihr.ac.uk.

Footnotes

- The evaluation team was led by Dr Stephen Barclay, University Lecturer in General Practice and Palliative Care, General Practitioner and Honorary Consultant Physician in Palliative Medicine. The evaluators were Dr Jackie Buck and Margaret Lay of the University of Cambridge.
- The evaluation study was funded by the NIHR CLAHRC (National Institute for Health Research, Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with additional support from the Arthur Rank House Charity.
- The evaluation team included Dr Stephen Barclay, Dr Jackie Buck, Maggie Lay, Katie York, Andrea Newman and Andy Cowan from the University of Cambridge; Dr Lynn Morgan from the Arthur Rank House Charity; Clare Kitchener, Lorraine Moth and Liz Webb from the Arthur Rank Hospice (Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust).
- The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health.