

Friday 14th February

Pilot makes end of life care at home a reality for Dudley patients.

A brand new project which aims to offer care in the home for patients during their final days will be launching in Dudley.

The Specialist Care at Home pilot, launching on 14th May 2014, will give patients and their loved ones the all important choice over where they would like to be cared for – be it at home, in hospital or in a hospice or care home.

With the help of a £250,000 grant from Macmillan Cancer Support, the scheme looks to give Dudley some of the best palliative care in the country.

The project is a collaboration between The Dudley Group, Dudley CCG, Mary Stevens Hospice and national cancer care charity Macmillan, and is one of just six pilots across the country.

Focusing on tailoring each patient's package of care to suit their individual needs, Specialist Care at Home will see doctors, nurses, support workers and other healthcare professionals working together to provide personalised care.

Paula Clark, Chief Executive at The Dudley Group, said, "We are thrilled to be one of the few trusts taking part in the innovative Specialist Care at Home pilot to improve palliative care for our patients.

"We know that many of the patients we care for nearing the end of their lives would prefer to be cared for in a comfortable and familiar environment like their own home, rather than in hospital.

"By working together with our colleagues at Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, Mary Stevens Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Support we can make a real difference to improving end of life care for our patients."

Ciarán Devane, Chief Executive at Macmillan Cancer Support, said, "We know that three quarters of cancer patients would prefer to spend their final days in their own home with family and friends, but less than a third actually do.

"To allow people a real choice, we need health and social care services to be coordinated into a seamless package of care.

"We hope that by testing the Macmillan Specialist Care at Home approach in Dudley we will further demonstrate a blueprint for the way end of life care is delivered in the future."

Stevan Jackson, Chief Executive, Mary Stevens Hospice said, “Mary Stevens Hospice is delighted to be involved in this partnership which will allow a single point of access to services for patients with life shortening conditions.

“It will enable earlier referral to services, help prevent unplanned hospital admissions, facilitate early crisis intervention and to support more patients at home or other preferred place of care for the 313,000 people in the Dudley Metropolitan Borough.”

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For more information, please call Alice Ford, Communications Assistant for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on (01384) 456111 extension 1064 or email alice.ford@dgh.nhs.uk