



Carer Support Pathway in End of Life Care Executive Summary

A summary of a report based on a six month pilot project to identify needs and recommend solutions for supporting carers during the 'final year of life' phase of a caring role

Delivered by The Carers' Resource

Report compiled Spring 2011
by Anna Jackson, Head of Development.
The Carers Resource

Project funded by:



Carer Support Pathways at the End of Life

Executive Summary

'How people die remains in the memory of those who live on'
Dame Cicely Saunders, Founder of the Modern Hospice Movement

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Carers' Resource secured six months' funding through Government Office Yorkshire and the Humber Improvement Partnership's Carers' Innovation Fund to identify existing provision in carer support services, identify gaps and create a pathway showing when, how and where carer support is and/or should be offered.

The project was delivered in partnership with various teams based in hospitals, clinics and community settings.

Despite a tight five month timescale it was able to reach 95 carers and was hailed a huge success by everyone who worked on it or was supported by it.

It was able to establish the essential needs of carers for support during the end of life stages including appropriate locations, timing and format. The project looked at specific aspects of support including financial, emotional and practical needs of carers and assessed the best routes for accessing additional support outside the project itself if required.

The team identified great partnership opportunities linking with health and social care teams and built strong relationships with existing palliative care services.

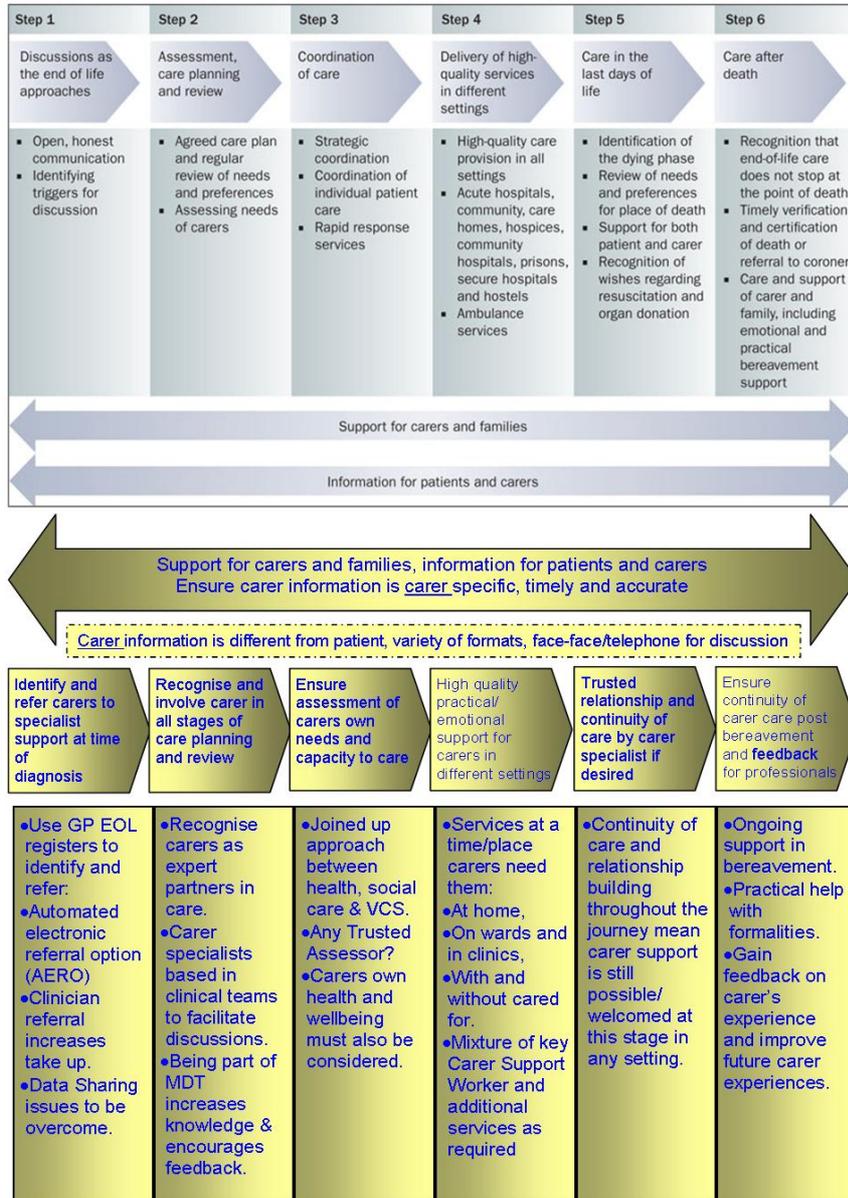
With feedback from carers and staff, the project team was also able to identify areas for improvement in future delivery including referral mechanisms and triggers, major gaps in service provision around distance support, communities of interest and carers in employment.

PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations from the project have helped draw up a Carer Support Pathway which we believe harmonises with the existing Department of Health End of Life Care (Patient) Pathway and offers guidance and suggestions based on our evidence and findings to recommend how the proposed stages could be implemented.

Among our recommendations are:

- Provision of specialist help for carers / caring families in their own right
- Links to primary care and use of the EOL register for identification and referrals.
- Co-location of teams to facilitate referral and feedback plus information sharing
- Joint working between carer specialists and community liaison posts
- Options around assessments to reduce duplication and increase value
- Practical bereavement help and better chance for feedback



EOL Pathway diagram reproduced from Department of Health (2008) *End of Life Care Strategy—promoting high quality care for all adults at the end of life* © Crown copyright.

Further detail on all aspects of the pathway can be found in the full report including the feedback/evidence from the pilot project.

We are delighted that this project has been supported so wholeheartedly by all the statutory teams involved in Bradford and that the report and proposed pathway will be presented to the End of Life Programme Board as a suggested model for future service provision for the city.

Further information from

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