

BETTER TOGETHER PROJECT

A 2 year Pilot study in Bradford and Poole (Sept 2006-Aug 2008)



Aim: To provide a service joining the expertise of BHF heart failure specialist nurses with Marie Curie nurses and health care assistants to help with provision at home of hands-on care for patients estimated to be in the last year of life.

Outcomes of working together and training together

The pilot study found that -

- Marie Curie Staff and BHF Heart Failure Nurse Specialist working together was extremely beneficial.
- It increased the knowledge and confidence in both sets of staff.
- It enabled provision of a more comprehensive care package.
- BHF Heart Failure Specialist Nurses and Marie Curie staff have built a strong relationship.
- They have a good understanding of the patients and carers health and social needs
- They can be the key worker to best coordinate multi-disciplinary palliative and end of life care.



CARING TOGETHER PROJECT

A 5 year (incl 1 year of research and 1 year pilot) collaboration to develop a project for heart failure patients at end of life in Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Aim: The Caring Together project aims to develop an improved approach to the management of palliative care for heart failure patients at end of life and their carers in Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

Objectives:

To develop a pioneering model of palliative care for heart failure patients at end of life in Greater Glasgow and Clyde which:

- Meets the needs of patients and carers
- Complements the optimal management of heart failure conditions
- Promotes equity of access to palliative care for heart failure patients
- Acknowledges the patient's preferences in place of care, including home
- Enables increased choice of place of care for patients
- Improves coordination of care among stakeholders.

To contribute additional learning to the evidence base regarding the palliative care needs of heart failure patients at end of life by commissioning a robust, independent evaluation of the project.

To consider the opportunities for application of the model elsewhere in Scotland and across the UK.