

Approaches to Quality End-of-Life Care in NHS Lothian

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Background - Organisational Commitment

In 2010 NHS Lothian set out its vision for high quality Palliative and End-of-Life Care (EOLC) in *Living and Dying Well in Lothian*¹, and set the objective to introduce the Liverpool Care Pathway (LCP) in all settings to support identification and co-ordinated care for those in their last few days of life.

LCP Implementation within Lothian University Hospitals Division

- The LCP implemented in 78 wards across 5 acute hospitals
- 2405 nurses / clinical support workers and all relevant medical staff in all areas trained in use of the LCP

LCP Implementation within CH(C)Ps

- LCP implemented in 124 GP Practices, 15 Community Hospitals and all Community Nursing Teams
- Approximately 1100 nursing staff and 450 medical staff will have been trained by project end

Audit data demonstrates sustained and appropriate use of the LCP and improvements to the delivery and documentation of care

EOLC Quality & Governance Programme

It is recognised that to sustain and build on the successes of the LCP projects it is necessary to develop processes to support, measure, report and reflect on quality, person-centred EOLC, and to embed these processes in organisational governance.

The following work streams have been set up to support these aims:



Outcomes

- Existence of a set of nurse-sensitive measures, reportable at the point of care and within existing structures, which highlight widespread good practice, facilitate shared learning and support ongoing improvement of quality of EOLC.
- An organisationally rooted programme of education that is accessible and supports all relevant staff to deliver best practice in EOLC.
- Systems to support regular capture of patient and relative/carer experience of EOLC.
- Routine reflection of EOLC provided and associated learning.
- Sustained effective use of the LCP.

References:

1. NHS Lothian (2010) *Living and Dying Well in Lothian: Lothian's Palliative Care Strategy 2010-2015*

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