

Adult and children's palliative care services working together to transform transitions through trust and innovation

There is growing evidence of the increased number of young adults (YA) living with life limiting conditions in Scotland (1), as well as evidence of their unmet needs and poorer outcomes (2). As a result adult hospices have been challenged to acknowledge the role they have in supporting the YA and their families (3). To support the above transitions The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice (PPWH) recognised the need to ensure their staff had the appropriate knowledge, skills and competence to support YA and their families. Recognising a gap in these areas the hospice sought support and collaboration with the Children's Hospice Across Scotland (CHAS).



The Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice



Children's Hospices Across Scotland



CHAS staff

"Delighted to have nurses from PPWH and to share the knowledge we have gained over the years of caring for YA."

PPWH staff

"Working with YA for the majority of the shift allowing continuity of care and ability to form relationships helped me to build my confidence as previously anxious and nervous about caring for a YA."

Parent of YA

"Having to move from children's to adult hospice services is bittersweet. While it's an achievement that your child has survived childhood, it's also a daunting prospect having the uncertainty of what lies ahead in an adult environment. In the short time we have been coming along to the PPWH, I am now convinced that transitioning was the right thing to do and have no fears for the future in adult hospice services."

Young Adult transitioned

"A lot of people think it's only for old people. It's good that I can help develop services for younger people. I want to help people understand that the hospice does work with younger people. A lot of people don't know that."

HEARING OUR VOICES



CHAS staff

"A brilliant opportunity for increased joint working with children and adult services"

OUR AIMS

- + Develop and support hospice staff to deliver a high standard of care to YA and their families, identifying gaps requiring further training and education
- + Establish relationships and trust between children and adult hospice services, YA and their families

To inform the development of the hospice services model in collaboration with CHAS

OUR METHODS

- + Provision of joint workshops to identify staffs' anxieties and learning needs around YA care
- + Development of secondment programme to CHAS open to all staff January 2017-March 2018
- + Post secondment evaluation informed by feedback from workbook; staff questionnaire, 1:1 and group reflection

OUR RESULTS SO FAR

- To date 12 clinical and 6 non-clinical staff have taken part in the secondment programme +
- Following their one or two day secondment, all staff have reported a greater understanding of the needs of YA with increased confidence and empowerment to meet these needs. +
- Improved relationships and trust with YA and their families resulting with increased referrals +
- Greater opportunity to engage with YA and their families which has informed the development of the YA Service Model. +

OUR CHALLENGES

- Release of staff to take part in secondment
- Availability of designated member of CHAS staff to contact and co-ordinate visit
- Ensuring YA are in the children's hospice during the secondment period
- Establish more effective ways of working

OUR NEXT STEPS

- + Celebratory event in June 2018 with YA, families, staff from both hospices and potential YA and their families working towards transition, allowing participants to highlight their experiences of this work and the difference it has made.
- + Consider future ongoing support and partnership working such as:
 - Link nurses in each area
 - Annual teaching sessions from CHAS to PPWH staff on selected aspects of caring for YA
 - Secondment opportunities for CHAS staff at the new PPWH in Autumn 2018