

# Macmillan advanced specialist practitioner

## CARE HOMES



South West  
Yorkshire Partnership  
NHS Foundation Trust

Since December 2018, Macmillan Cancer Support has funded an advanced specialist practitioner position, hosted by South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, to support care home residents in Barnsley with palliative care needs.

The practitioner's main duties are to identify care home residents with palliative care needs, focusing on advance care planning to ensure that care home residents' preferences and wishes are identified in order to enhance the palliative care that they receive.

# MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Macmillan Cancer Support have commissioned an external evaluator to identify the impact of the post. Below is a summary of the recently published interim evaluation report covering a 12 month period from 1 March 2019 to 29 February 2020.

The advanced specialist practitioner supported **83 care home residents** during this period.

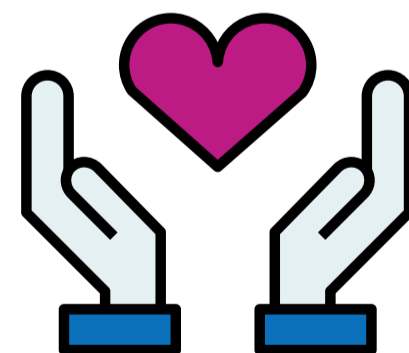


### AS A RESULT OF THE ADVANCED SPECIALIST PRACTITIONER'S INPUT:

- **88% of the residents supported had an emergency care plan created.**  
'Emergency health care plans' can support decision making in and out of hours for professionals who may be called for advice or when a visit is requested.
- **84% of the residents supported had a treatment escalation plan produced.**  
The treatment escalation plan gives treatment parameters and indication of ceilings of treatments. The treatment escalation plan should reflect the patient's preferences and wishes, advance care planning conversations or best interest outcomes.
- **74% of the residents supported had a best interest decision made.**  
If a person has been assessed as lacking capacity then any action taken, or any decision made for or on behalf of that person, must be made in his or her best interests. The person who has to make the decision is known as the 'decision-maker' and normally will be the carer responsible for the day-to-day care, or a professional such as a doctor, nurse or social worker where decisions about treatment, care arrangements or accommodation need to be made.
- **55% of the residents supported had an advance care plan completed.**  
Advance Care Planning (ACP) is the voluntary process of discussion about future care between an individual and their care providers. If the individual wishes, their family and friends may be included. It is recommended that with the individual's agreement this discussion is documented, regularly reviewed and communicated to key people involved in their care. By taking into account the patient's wishes for their future care, this has the potential to improve the experience of patients and their carers in relation to the care they receive.
- **100% of the residents supported had an EPaCCS completed.**  
Electronic Palliative Care Co-ordination Systems (EPaCCS) are electronic registers that document up-to-date information about patients' preferences and plans for care, in a format that allows sharing of information among different healthcare providers including general practitioner (GP) practices, out-of-hours services, emergency departments, ambulance services, hospices and care homes, among others.

**97% of the care home residents supported by the advanced specialist practitioner, who were able to state a preference, confirmed that they wanted to die within their care home environment.**

**95% of residents that were supported by the advanced specialist practitioner, who were known to have died during the evaluation period, did so within their preferred place of death.**



**Stakeholders such as gps and care home managers and their deputies provided feedback as part of the evaluation process.**

#### GPs said...

- "The practitioner role has fostered better collaborative working with care home staff."
- "The practitioner role has resulted in GPs being asked more proactively by care homes to be involved in their residents' care."
- "The practitioner role has increased awareness generally of end of life and palliative care and helped to improve the management of care, rather than intervention, during end of life care."



#### Care home staff said...

"The practitioner role has empowered care home staff and made them more confident to raise concerns about their residents."

With **all of us** in mind.