

**Palliative Care and Dementia: Moving Forward in Partnership**

23rd January, London

Organised by the National Council for Palliative Care (NCPC), this important conference discussed an area of dementia care that is inconsistent across the country. Palliative care services are improving in the UK, care for cancer sufferers is excellent however for those with dementia more needs to be done.

Drawing together leading figures in palliative care, dementia care, care home provision, a GP and experienced carer the day sought to find ways to move forward to improve palliative care for people with dementia.

Lucy Sutton, National Policy Adviser for the NCPC explored the national context of palliative care and dementia. There is an increasing policy focus on both palliative care and dementia care which should help this area to move forward. However Lucy iterated the differences in care across the UK, some of it good and some in need of improvement. She highlighted the importance of understanding when to discuss the end of life with a dementia patient and explained that it is necessary to look at current services, workforce development, outcomes, commissioning, funding and regulation to achieve quality palliative care for those with dementia.

Dr Julian Hughes, Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry summarised what palliative care means and why dementia needs it. His interesting speech looked at what palliative care should mean for people with dementia and discussed different research as to why it is necessary. He concluded that multidisciplinary teams providing comprehensive and continuing supportive care is important for those with dementia.

Alison Blight, Dementia Project Manager discussed the NCPC's Dementia Project summarising the key issues such as the increase in people with dementia, or likely to develop dementia in the near future. The NCPC's Dementia Project aims to promote increased and better quality palliative care for people with dementia. They have mapped current services and highlighted gaps as well as the varied nature of palliative care for this group of people. They've also researched the needs of the user and carers and identified notable practice and developed guidance. They have compiled their early findings and will move on to explore these further, evaluate them and share the information.

Barbara Pointon, the wife of Malcolm Pointon whose care for Malcolm was documented in ITV1's *Barbara and Malcolm: Love's Farewell* presented the carer's perspective of palliative care for those with dementia. Her many years caring for Malcolm towards the end of his life has made her an expert by experience and she shared some of the difficult times she had to endure. Barbara called for more information to be made available to carers and support for them when they need it. She would have benefited from joined up working by all those involved in Malcolm's care and felt that one expert, to whom she could turn for guidance, advice and support would have helped her.

Sharon Blackburn, Executive Director of Heart of England Housing and Care explained how she took control of the issue in her organisation. After finding that she did not receive the assistance she needed from her PCT she took it to a local level and invited district nurses in to guide and assist. This proved successful and by reducing unnecessary admission to hospital eventually created interest from the PCT.

The day finished with the formal launch of the NCPC's new publication *Creative Partnerships: Improving Quality of Life at the End of Life for People with Dementia – A Compendium*. It is available for purchase from the NCPC's website.

**What's on? Feb/Mar**

**EVENT:** The Age Agenda Conference 2008  
**DATE/LOCATION:** 26 February, London  
**CONTACT:** Age Concern England, Tel: 020 8765 1366

**EVENT:** Navigating the Legal Maze: Social Care and the Law  
**DATE/LOCATION:** 26 February, London  
**CONTACT:** Laing & Buisson, Tel: 020 7923 5348

**EVENT:** Turning Social Care on its Head: Developing a Workforce for Personalised Social Care Services  
**DATE/LOCATION:** 27 February, Nottingham  
**CONTACT:** Pavilion Conferences, Tel: 0870 890 1080

**EVENT:** Counsel and Care 3rd Annual Conference: Personalised Care and Support: Making Choice and Control a Reality for Older People and their Carers  
**DATE/LOCATION:** 27 February, London  
**CONTACT:** Neil Stewart Associates, Tel: 020 7324 4363

**EVENT:** Retirement and Extra Care Housing Conference  
**DATE/LOCATION:** 27/28 February, London  
**CONTACT:** Centaur Conferences, Tel: 020 7970 4770

**EVENT:** Managing New Realities: Making it Personal – Individual Services in Health, Housing and Social Care  
**DATE/LOCATION:** 3/4 March, London  
**CONTACT:** Pavilion Conferences, Tel: 0870 890 1080

**EVENT:** The 2008 Annual Long Term Care Conference: Quality, Choice and Value: Reality or Impossible Dream?  
**DATE/LOCATION:** 4/5 March, London  
**CONTACT:** Laing & Buisson, Tel: 020 7923 5344

**EVENT:** Diet, Nutrition and Care for People with Dementia  
**DATE/LOCATION:** 5 March, London  
**CONTACT:** Alzheimer's Society, Tel: 01904 633581

**EVENT:** Social Care Association Annual Seminar 2008: Valuing Social Care  
**DATE/LOCATION:** 11/12 March, Cardiff  
**CONTACT:** Social Care Association, Tel: 0208 397 1411

**EVENT:** Structured Partnership Working: Improving the Efficiency, Effectiveness and Outcomes of Partnerships in Health and Social Care  
**DATE/LOCATION:** 13 March, London  
**CONTACT:** CareandHealth, Tel: 0845 055 9207

Please quote Care Management Matters when making your booking. If you have a conference that you would like featured in the magazine, please email details to [editor@caremanagementmatters.co.uk](mailto:editor@caremanagementmatters.co.uk).