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PRESS RELEASE

**NCPC National Neurological Survey Highlights the
Need for Greater Integration
Between Services Involved in Providing Palliative
Care**

The National Council for Palliative Care (NCPC) this week publishes *Neurological Conditions: From Diagnosis to Death*, the first national survey to explore the interface between the specialties of palliative care, neurology and rehabilitation in the management of people with long term neurological conditions.

Produced as a result of the work of NCPC's Neurological Conditions Policy Group and supported by the Motor Neurone Disease Association, the Parkinson's Disease Society and the Big Lottery Fund, this unique survey aims to determine and describe existing access to specialist palliative care for those with long term neurological conditions. It identifies the current gaps in service provision by collating the views of consultants and teams in the three specialties and establishing their opinions on how services should develop in the future to best meet the needs of people with long term neurological conditions.

The results highlighted a number of challenges facing the specialties working to provide good palliative care, particularly, a lack of clear links between services. The different specialties were instead relying on ad hoc connections which highlights a need for greater integration between the range of services working with people with long term neurological conditions.

Participants also felt they did not know enough about the roles of other specialist services and further learning was required to share each others' expertise.

Aiding the specialties to work together more systematically will become a focus of NCPC's further work, starting with NCPC's national event ***Palliative Care and Neurological Conditions*** to be held on the **15th of September in London.**

The survey and its results will be presented at the event which will build upon the Neurological Conditions Policy Group's work of identifying shared core models and good practice. ***Palliative Care and Neurological Conditions*** will explore the need for palliative care for those with neurological conditions and suggest a pathway to aid future service development and initiate change.

The conference will also be the starting point for a further NCPC consultation document based on identified good practice models and with the aim of aiding and developing integrated working between services for the future.

Iain Henderson, Chief Executive at Sue Ryder Care and the Chairman of the Neurological Conditions Policy Group said:

"I am delighted at the outcome of the Neurological survey, with full credit going to the three consultants concerned: Nigel Sykes, Eli Silber and Lynne Turner-Stokes who carefully crafted a very comprehensive questionnaire. The responses have produced some very valuable data and, additionally, clearly point up areas where further important work should be undertaken".

Eve Richardson, Chief Executive at NCPC said:

"This survey has clearly highlighted the importance placed on palliative care for people with long term neurological conditions. NCPC's role is to now harness this enthusiasm and provide practical policy solutions so that peoples' needs can be met through sustainable relationships and shared models of care".

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. For further information and press and media enquiries contact our Communications and Publications Co-ordinator Alexa Gainsbury on 020 7697 1520, or email her at: a.gainsbury@ncpc.org.uk

2. *Neurological Conditions: From Diagnosis to Death – exploring the interface between palliative care, neurology and rehabilitation in the management of people with long term conditions* will be available from the 26th of June at a cost of £10 per copy. To order the publication please contact Alexa Gainsbury on 020 7697 1520 or a.gainsbury@ncpc.org.uk.

3. *Palliative Care and Neurological Conditions: Defining the Way Ahead* is now taking bookings. For more information contact our Events Co Ordinator Mridu Rana on 020 7697 1520 or email her at m.rana@ncpc.org.uk

3. The National Council for Palliative Care (formerly The National Council for Hospice and Specialist Palliative Care Services) is the umbrella organisation for all those who are involved in providing, commissioning and using hospice and palliative care services in England, Wales & Northern Ireland. It promotes the extension and improvement of palliative care services regardless of diagnosis in all health and social care settings and across all sectors to government, national and local policy

makers. To read more about the National Council for Palliative Care log on to our website: www.ncpc.org.uk

4. The Neurological Conditions Policy Group was established as part of the NCPC's commitment to address palliative care for all who need it regardless of diagnosis or care setting. This group is made up of professionals and users across health and social care and its initial aim was to explore the available data on the current status of palliative care for people with long term neurological conditions (LTNC).

5. The National Council for Palliative Care is a registered charity in the UK.

Registered as charity no: 1005671.

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