



April 27th, 2017

We need to talk about death and dying

Palliative care staff in South Tyneside are supporting Dying Matters Awareness Week 2017 by encouraging people to talk more openly about dying, death and bereavement and to make end of life plans.

The theme of the week, which runs from May 8th to 14th, is 'What Can You Do?'. South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's specialist palliative care team, who work in the community and at South Tyneside District Hospital, will man a stall in the hospital's Ingham Wing on Tuesday, May 9th, from 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

Bev Ferguson, Macmillan Nurse with the team, said: "We hope that patients, visitors and staff will take this opportunity to talk to us to find out what they can do to be more active in planning for dying and death and to help support those in times of grief and bereavement.

"It goes against our instincts to plan for death but talking about it and planning for it doesn't bring it closer. The earlier the conversation is had regarding issues such as your care, making a will, organ donation and your funeral wishes, then the easier it is, emotionally and practically, for everyone."

As well as the stall in the hospital, the specialist palliative care team have arranged a session for health and social care professionals, including GPs and social workers, as well as the Trust's own staff, on Monday, May 8th. Information will be available on the day from South Tyneside charity Cancer Connections, St Clare's Hospice in Jarrow, Macmillan Cancer Support and young carers' representatives, among others.

The national Dying Matters coalition's mission is to get people to talk openly about dying, death and bereavement. For more information go to www.dyingmatters.org

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Pictured above: South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's Specialist Palliative Care Team

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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