

# Compassionate Communities

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# What is a Compassionate Community?

A Compassionate Community is where a community recognises the importance of supporting people who are affected by dying, death and bereavement.

These communities are able to help reduce the barriers often associated with end of life and enable people to remain independent and to stay as part of their community for as long as possible.

To achieve this there are many different types of communities involved:

- Families and carers
- Neighbours
- Local organisations and services
- GP Surgeries
- Voluntary and support groups
- Faith groups
- Local businesses



## What are the benefits?

- Improved access to information and advice relating to local services and support;
- Partnership working between community groups and organisations to help reduce barriers, reduce isolation and improve the health and wellbeing of communities;
- People are better supported to remain in their own home for longer, or to die at home as part of their end of life planning;
- Existing volunteer and befriending services are given the necessary skills and training to provide practical support to people affected;
- Communities are able to raise awareness and discuss issues relating to dying, death and bereavement.



# Toolkits

Suggested models and toolkits to develop Compassionate Communities:

- 1) **Volunteer and befriending service** – Organisations/groups to develop their own community companions to provide practical support to people
- 2) **Signposting, Information and advice** – Organisations to establish local ‘hubs’ or ‘networks’ to provide advice and support to patients, family members, friends and carers
- 3) **Community Ambassadors** – Raising awareness and talking about barriers faced by people affected by a life limiting condition (Events, presentations, talks)
- 4) **Training Programmes** – Community organisations who are training providers to educate and train carers in the community (Caring for people with dementia, personal care, care planning)
- 5) **Bereavement Support** – Development of bereavement help points (cafes, support groups, activities, counselling etc.)

# Bereavement Help Points

## Talking about it can help!

- Bereavement Help Point Café is a place to meet and talk to others who have experienced loss and grief.
- Helping to find mutual support and encouragement when it's need most.
- Bereavement Help Point Café is not a counselling service but an opportunity to talk and meet people who will listen and respect peoples experiences.



Thank you for your time!

**Any Questions?**

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