Dear All

We need your help!

We would like to identify as many groups as possible that are involved in delivering a ‘Compassionate Community’, so that we can link them into the support we can offer.

What we mean by a ‘Compassionate Community’ is, a community where:

- Someone is supported and cared for throughout their life, including at the end of their life, whether that is due to age or illness.
- Their family and loved ones are also supported and cared for during the journey and when they are bereaved.
- The care / support could be; emotional, practical, spiritual or simply companionship / listening.
- The majority of the support provided is given voluntarily by families, friends, community members or volunteers, although this may be coordinated or supported by paid workers.
- A compassionate community is also a community that is comfortable talking about death, dying and loss.
- Activities to develop a compassionate community are community led and centred.

The types of activity, therefore, that a group might be involved in could include: home visiting, practical support, befriending, mentoring, bereavement support / listening, groups supporting carers or people with a life limiting illness, good neighbour schemes etc.

The Cheshire Living Well, Dying Well Partnership has a ‘Compassionate Communities’ group that meets once a quarter to network, share good practice, support one another and to make a difference in Cheshire by championing the important work of the partnership. These are some of the benefits that members of the group have identified:

- Gained knowledge from other members and guest speakers
- Referrals for our service and referrals to other services to help clients
- Encouragement / courage to continue
- Learning what works from other people’s experiences
- Learning about support that is available in our area – making links
- Being made aware of different thoughts and ideas
- Training centrally run for volunteers
- I wouldn’t miss it! I always get something out of it

If you have contact with any groups that you think fit the description and would benefit from being linked in with us, within Cheshire East or Cheshire West and Chester, please let us know on 01606 551246 / 555698 or at publichealth@stlukes-hospice.co.uk

Thank you

Cheshire Living Well, Dying Well Programme Team