Press Release

Trust launches Home Care Support Team

HAMPSHIRE Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has set up a dedicated team to help people close to the end of their lives stay out of hospital and in their own homes.

The trust’s 12-strong Home Care Support Team covers Winchester, Andover, Chandlers Ford and Eastleigh, looking after patients in the final weeks of their lives.

The carers are trained in end of life care and provide a similar service to agencies, helping patients to wash and taking them meals, with the patient’s GP and community nursing team remaining responsible for their medical and nursing needs.

The trust, which runs Royal Hampshire County Hospital, in Winchester, Andover War Memorial Hospital and Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, has developed the service to help support the need for more end of life carers in the community.

The service has been commissioned through the NHS Continuing Care Team and is supported by senior palliative care nurses at Winchester hospital and the Countess of Brecknock Hospice, Andover to provide a timely, high quality-package of care that will be flexible to meet the needs of patients where there is no existing community care available.

Senior staff nurse Sandra Leonard, day care leader for the Home Care Support Team, said: “It’s going really well and all of the patients we have been caring for have been very positive about the service.

“Being at home, in their own environment, rather than in a hospital, makes a huge difference to a lot of patients coming to the end of their lives. In many cases, we can make that happen by offering a little bit of help and support, and the Home Care Support Team is the ideal way to provide that service.”

ENDS

Photo: Members of the Home Care Support Team, who are helping patients close to the end of their lives remain at home for longer

Notes to Editors

1. Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital services to a population of approximately 600,000 people in Hampshire and parts of West Berkshire.
2. HHFT has around 5,500 staff and a turnover of £345.6 million a year.
3. HHFT delivers one hospital service across multiple locations including its own hospitals, Andover War Memorial Hospital, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital and Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. It also provides outpatient and assessment services from Bordon and Alton community hospitals.
4. As a Foundation Trust, HHFT is accountable to the local community through a system of local
ownership with members and elected governors. HHFT has around 18,000 staff and public members. Foundation Trusts are free from central government control and can reinvest any surplus to develop clinical services. They are authorised and regulated by NHS Improvement, an independent regulator.

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