

What is Hospice Care?



Alice House Hospice
Serving the communities of
Hartlepool & East Durham



Alice House Hospice exists to ensure people affected by a life limiting illness or the death of a loved one have the care, comfort and support they need. As the only adult Hospice in the Hartlepool and East Durham areas of the UK, our unique range of services make a vital difference to the lives of thousands of families each year.



Vision

Every person, to the last moment of their life, has the right to dignity, respect, support and care.



Mission

To provide services that add value to life and make a difference to patients and their families.



Values

- We value each person as an individual.
- The patient is at the heart of all of our activities.
- We believe in the importance of celebrating life and relationships.
- We will demonstrate integrity and professionalism at all times.
- We will be modern and progressive and seek out new opportunities to develop our services.
- We will strive to be the best we can and encourage staff and volunteers to actively seek opportunities for personal growth and development.
- We will exercise responsible financial management to ensure long-term sustainability.

What is a Hospice?

A Hospice is not just a building, it is a way of caring for people; improving their lives when their illness may not be curable.

A Hospice helps people to live as actively as possible after diagnosis to the end of their lives, however long that may be.

Did You Know

One in three people have been touched by Hospice care!

Why is a Hospice Different?

A Hospice not only takes care of a person's physical needs, they consider their emotional, spiritual and social needs too.

And a Hospice supports families and close friends both during a person's illness and in bereavement.

What does it cost?

It costs over £3.5m to fund our services for one year. We receive just less than 21% of this in Government funding, leaving a shortfall of just under £8,000 to be raised every single day.

This money is raised through a variety of income streams including fundraising events, events in the community, collection boxes, regular giving, business support, Hospice Lottery, charity shops, trusts, grants, legacies and profits from NEVRlabs - our gaming and technology centre.

Without the support of our community, we would not be able to offer Hospice care to local patients and families.

Specialist Palliative Care

- provides relief from pain and other distressing symptoms,
- affirms life and regards dying as a normal process,
- integrates the psychological and spiritual aspects of patient care,
- offers a support system to help patients live as actively as possible until the end of their life,
- offers a support system to help the family cope during a patient's illness and in their own bereavement,
- will enhance quality of life and may also positively influence the course of an illness,
- is applicable early in the course of illness, in conjunction with other therapies that are intended to prolong life... to better understand and manage distressing clinical complications.

Source: World Health Organisation

Living with a serious illness such as cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, multiple sclerosis and end stage heart disease, or coping with grief affects every individual in profoundly different ways.

We have a multi disciplinary team of highly trained staff and volunteers at Alice House Hospice who work together with every person and those close to them to tailor a package of care, comfort and support to meet their unique physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual needs.

The package may include use of one or more of the following services:



- Inpatient Care
- 24 Hour Helpline
- Spiritual Support
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Complementary Therapies
- Bereavement Service
- Family & Carer Support



A referral is normally made by a person's own GP or hospital doctor. A district nurse may also make a referral to a community palliative care nurse, a Hospice at Home service or a Marie Curie nurse.

People are usually referred to their nearest hospice or palliative care services, but in special circumstances out of area referrals may be considered.

- People may be referred for hospice care as soon as a diagnosis is made, not just at the very end of life.
- Once a person's palliative care needs have been met, they may be discharged from the service. However, they can be reassessed at any time after this if their condition changes.



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Hartlepool Hospice Ltd is known locally as Alice House Hospice, formerly Hartlepool & District Hospice.

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