

Health and Social Services Committee

HSS(2)-18-06(p.11)

Meeting date: Wednesday 13 December 2006

Venue: Committee Room 1, Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Title: Palliative Care – Baseline Service Review - ?10m Assembly

Government Funding for Palliative Care

Purpose

To inform the Committee of the work being taken forward as part of the palliative care baseline service review and to provide a short report of the progress to date in respect of the Assembly Government's palliative care funding programme.

Summary

At its meeting of 15th November, the Committee discussed progress in respect of its review of cancer services. Part of that discussion highlighted the good work being carried out by the hospice movement and the role which the voluntary sector plays in funding posts within the NHS. This led to a direct question on exactly how many posts this affects throughout Wales. It was the belief that the palliative care baseline service review, currently underway, would provide a response to this question. The purpose of this paper is therefore to set out what this review will cover. In addition it provides an update on the use and progress of the Assembly Government ?10million palliative care funding.

Background

The NHS is responsible for the commissioning, provision and funding of a range of services to meet the needs of patients, which includes palliative care. Palliative care cuts across all specialities, being provided in various settings including a hospital, hospice, private setting and at home and therefore is not a distinct service in its own right. It should form part of the holistic package of care provided to all those patients suffering with incurable diseases. Whilst services across Wales demonstrate good practice, the provision of palliative care varies considerably from area to area and in order to address this it has been decided to carry out a baseline service review.

Progress with the Baseline Service Review

This review will establish the best way forward within existing resources whilst identifying priorities for any future investment to improve service provision. A specification has been established for this piece of work with its terms of reference detailed at annex 1. Following its findings a report will be produced on the NHS, private providers and the voluntary sector for each of the three regional areas

of North, Mid and South Wales, together with a list of recommendations for these regional areas. The review will cover both adult and children's palliative care.

A tender exercise has been undertaken with Pi Associates successfully securing that tender. Pi Associates is a Wales based company and has experience in consulting, direct health management, health planning, public sector finance and in clinical settings throughout Wales. As part of the specification Pi Associates will work with key stakeholders and consider and take account of work already undertaken in this area eg. 'A Strategic Direction for Palliative Care Services in Wales' and the All Wales Needs Assessment produced by Peter Tebbitt. This piece of work is due to be completed by the end of April, which will be too late to feed into the HSSC review of cancer services.

Welsh Assembly Government ?10m Palliative Care Funding Programme – position statement

In 2003 the Assembly Government published A Strategic Direction for Palliative Care Services in Wales. It also made ?10 million available, over four years, to the voluntary sector, in recognition of the valuable role they play in the provision of palliative care. This one off funding was specifically to support and develop palliative care services. Hospices were invited to bid for a share of this money against strict funding criteria, with 21 hospices successfully receiving funding for projects ranging from new builds to the provision of new and additional services. Details of those hospices and the funding received, is attached at annex 2.

The final tranche of funding is now in the process of being distributed, subject to satisfactory progress reports being received via the Regional Cancer Networks. All through the funding programme hospices have been urged to engage with their Local Health Boards through the Cancer Networks to agree what services hospices should provide to meet patient need and to agree sustainable arrangements for the future. Those discussions are now taking place between all hospices included within the funding programme and their respective Local Health Boards, through the Cancer Networks.

An evaluation / audit of this funding programme as a whole is planned. Details of when and how this will be carried out is still to be established as some hospices will not have spent their total allocation for 2006-07, by the end of this financial year. Due to the nature of some of the schemes and their dependence on the recruitment of staff it has been agreed that some projects will slip into 2007/08 but for a meaningful evaluation process all schemes within the programme will need to have utilised their funding in full.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications as a direct result of this paper. The Health and Social Services Resource Directorate has seen and noted the contents of this paper (LMD 2873).

Action for Subject Committee

To note the contents of this paper

Dr Brian Gibbons
Minister for Health and Social Services
Contact Point: John Sweeney, Community, Primary Care and Health Services Division, tel: 3984

Annex 1

Terms of Reference of the baseline service review

To deliver the above aims and objectives the National Assembly for Wales, on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government, requires the successful contractor to:

- investigate and identify the total provision of palliative care in Wales, provided by the NHS, by private providers and by the voluntary sector.
- identify what provision is required to meet patient need, respective gaps in that provision and how best they might be filled by the NHS, private and voluntary sectors.
- identify current and required total spending on palliative care in Wales by the NHS, private and voluntary sectors respectively.
- identify funding streams and whether they need to be better directed to meet patient need.
- identify specific action required and by whom, to deliver an integrated approach between all stakeholders (NHS, private and voluntary sectors) on the planning, organisation and delivery of palliative care to meet patient need.

For the sake of clarity the task includes the need to identify specific Children and Young People's palliative care needs and requirements.

i.e. transition, 'child first' approach, longevity of need, age-appropriate environment, paediatric and palliative care expert staff, equipment etc

Annex 2

Welsh Assembly Government ?10m Palliative Care Funding Programme – breakdown of allocation of funds

Hospice Name	Total Funds Offered
	(£)

Beacon of Hope	73,460
Bracken Trust	135,595
George Thomas Hospice	1,130,857
Gwynedd Hospice at Home	246,000
Holme Tower	498,680
Hope House Children's Hospice	323,375
Hospice of the Good Shepherd	204,862
Hospice of the Valleys	499,586
Nightingale House Hospice	1,188,000
North Wales Cancer Network	184,200
Paul Sartori Foundation	40,000
Paul Sartori/Shalom **	350,000
Severn Hospice	63,360
Shalom House Hospice	61,000
St Anne's Hospice	208,000
St David's Foundation Hospice	1,004,441
St David's Hospice (Llandudno)	779,110

St Kentigern Hospice	823,436
Ty Bryngwyn Hospice	850,000
Ty Croeso (Ystradgynlais)	38,065
Ty Hafan Hospice	673,263
Ty Olwen Hospice	335,000
Tyddan Bach Hospice	130,000
Usk House Day Hospital	108,350

** Paul Sartori Foundation and Shalom House Trust withdrew their joint project from the funding programme, due to irreconcilable differences.