

# Empowering Social Care Practitioners: Enhancing competencies in death, dying and bereavement care

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# Why?

- Death and dying should be part of everyday practice not just for palliative social workers
- Practitioners support vulnerable people and unpaid carers at critical times in their lives
- The number of over-85s is expected to double over the next 20 years
- End of life will be accompanied by lengthier periods of frailty and illness, and levels of dementia will continue to rise

# Aim:

- Training and education for all social work practitioners and other appropriate professions to ensure they understand their role in supporting people in end-of-life care as well as the roles that other professionals play
- To promote and facilitate and record carer conversations with unpaid carers supporting someone with a life limiting condition

# How:

- Top tips – practical suggestions to ensure social work practitioners can fulfil their key role in end-of-life care
- Key issues at each step along the end-of-life care pathway and actions that practitioners and managers can take to help achieve high quality care
- Reflective questions for practitioners and managers to consider as they carry out their role
- Case studies that illustrate how practitioners are contributing to high quality care at the end of life

# Culture:

- Ensuring there is adequate support for practitioners who are working with people, carers and families at the end of life. This includes supervision to address the practitioner's own emotional and developmental needs and ensuring that managers themselves have the skills and capacity to support their staff in dealing with the difficult emotions that can arise when working in end-of-life care.
- Accessing training provided through specialist palliative care services such as hospices is often highly beneficial for social work practitioners in mainstream settings.
- Useful e-learning modules and podcasts will also be available for social work at end of life.

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