

Dear Supporter

March 08

Right Care, Right Place
Your chance to have a say - before 14th April 2008

'End of Life' care is important to us and if it is important to you, now is your chance to have your say. The Berkshire East PCT (Primary Care Trust,) is inviting people to give their views on proposed changes to healthcare services in East Berkshire by the 14th April.

As one of the largest providers of 'end of life' care in East Berkshire, we welcome this opportunity. At present, state funding remains only a little over 25% of our costs. The Hospice movement spends a lot of time lobbying PCTs and Government for increases to the state funding of palliative care.

We value our independence and would not wish to see state funding increase to a level where that would be at risk but we are a very long way from that being a concern at present.

We believe passionately in the right of each person to die with dignity and in the words of Dame Cecily Saunders, founder of the modern hospice movement:

*'You matter because you are you...
and you matter to the end of your life. We will do all we can not only to
help you die peacefully but also to live until you die.'*

However, we are but just one voice. If you believe in our work and believe that 'end of life' care should be an important part of the future plans of your local PCT, we urge you to take this opportunity to add your voice to ours. That way we can help to make sure that 'end of life' care gets its rightful place on the PCT agenda.

If you can help, please act now and ask your family and friends to support you, there is power in numbers.

Details on 'How to help' are set out on the back of this letter.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



Clive Nickolds
Chief Executive

How Can I help?

The deadline for comment is 14th April 2008.

Below are the various ways you can make your views known along with a suggested wording you may wish to use or adapt:

I want the importance of end of life care to be recognised and supported by Berkshire East PCT. We are fortunate to have a centre of excellence in Thames Hospicecare, providing end of life care to local people affected by cancer and other life limiting illness. If Thames Hospicecare is to continue to meet the needs of an ageing population it is vital they receive appropriate funding from the PCT. I want to see 'end of life' care actively supported by my local PCT.

- 1) Visit **Berkshire East PCT website** for more info. - www.rightcarerightplace.nhs.uk

- 2) **Email:** info@rightcarerightplace.nhs.uk with your comments or post them to:
FREEPOST RRRU – RRGH – JUXJ,
NHS East Berkshire,
London,
EC1R 4SR.

- 3) **Attend a public meeting: the last meeting is on:**
Thursday 27th March 7.00 pm
The Board Room
King Edward VII Hospital
Windsor

- 4) Phone **PCT Berkshire East Freefone 0800 2889 807** - request a Right Care, Right Place Questionnaire to complete and return.

- 5) Visit our website www.thameshospicecare.org.uk and click on the link off the Home Page.