

Dying Matters in Leeds

*Let's talk
about it*



Background

National Dying Matters Coalition established in 2009 to promote awareness of Death and Dying.

Five key messages:

- Write a will
- Record your funeral wishes
- Plan your future care and support
- Organ donation – your choice
- Tell a loved one your wishes

<https://www.dyingmatters.org/>

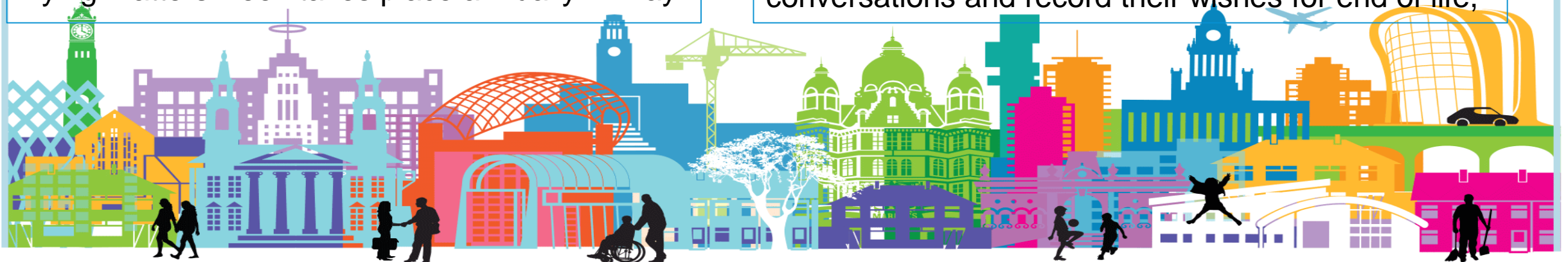
Dying Matters week takes place annually in May

Local and National data indicates that :

- Death and dying are not talked about
- People are not prepared
- People are not dying in their place of choice
- Professionals are not raising the issue

The Health Needs Assessment (HNA) for End of Life Care for Adults in Leeds (2013) highlighted the need for a citywide Dying Matters public education campaign.

Health Needs Review 2018 highlighted that men and people from BAME groups are less likely to engage in conversations and record their wishes for end of life,



Where do we want to be?

People in Leeds will:

- Feel more comfortable talking about death and dying
- Discuss their end of life wishes with family members and/or health and social care professionals
- Focus on what matters and is important to the person at end of life
- Plan for their death including writing their will and communicate their funeral wishes

The communities in which we live will:

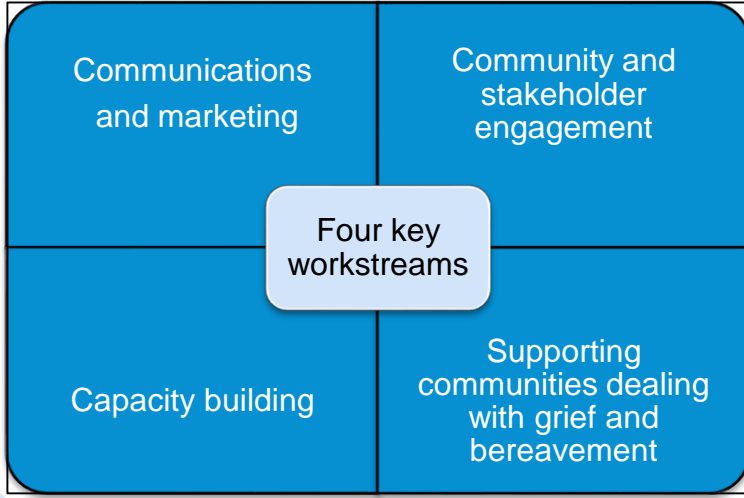
- Be an equal partner in providing quality care at the end of life
- Build capacity to ensure the needs, and wishes of people at end of life are met
- Ensure those at end of life are supported by the people who are closest to them
- Work together with professionals to improve the quality and continuity of the care experience

Frontline staff and volunteers will:

- Feel able to engage their own clients around planning for the last years of life
- Have 'better conversations' with people about end of life



Leeds Dying Matters Partnership



NHS
Clinical Commissioning Group
Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust
Leeds Community Healthcare

Leeds City Council
Public Health
Museums & Galleries
Libraries
Arts & Culture
Communications
Housing

Leeds Bereavement Forum

Gooding Funeral Services

Sue Ryder Wheatfields Hospice

University of Leeds

St Gemma's Hospice

Full Circle Funerals

Coping with Bereavement

Carers Leeds

University of Leeds

Touchstone

Care & Repair

Lippy People

The Grief Series

Leeds Older People's Forum



Communications and Marketing

Key messages

- Write a will
- Record your funeral wishes
- Plan your future care and support
- Tell a loved one your wishes
- Organ donation – your decision if you want to opt out

Website: <http://dyingmattersleeds.org/>

#dyingmattersLDS



Capacity Building

Community grants

Dying Matters Week Community Grants

Dying matters – Focus on men and those from culturally diverse backgrounds – funded MESMAC

Dying Matters – Wider Community Activity Events and activities funds – currently open

Training

Run by Leeds Bereavement Forum

To improve and develop the communication skills of staff and volunteers so that they feel more confident to engage in conversations around end of life choices and bereavement, including signposting to appropriate services

Linking Leeds (social prescribing)
Care and Repair/Green Doctor
Age UK Leeds

Feedback from participants:

“It gave me the confidence to believe in my skillset”

“Very welcoming and understanding, non-judgemental”



Current Work Programmes

- Embedding What Matters to Me? principles across the partnership
- COVID-19 Memorial Garden – launch and legacy development
- Opportunity for LCC libraries to lead death positive libraries (and apply for an arts council grant)
- Ongoing death café delivery
- Training on bereavement support – Neighbourhood Networks and other third sector organisations
- Variety of arts/culture based projects aimed at engaging people (eg spoken word comedy with grief awareness workshops, photography displays in City centre and bereavement volunteer programmes)

