

National End of Life Care Programme End of Life Care Systems Modelling Project (East Midlands)

EoLC Stories that informed the Description of Workforce Needs Using Functional Analysis (2010-11)

Collaboration with Social Care in meeting holistic needs of the individual

An elderly gentleman was referred to social care by his GP at the point where he was becoming increasingly ill with a diagnosis of COPD. He was very clear that he wished to remain at home for the time he had left.

District Nurses were caring for the man, but worked with social care colleagues to ensure his day to day needs were met. It soon became apparent that a key issue was the care of the man's dog. The dog and its care were the focus of the man's life since his wife had died some years previously and there was no other family.

Recognising this fact, those who were providing day-to-day care were able to work with the gentleman and integrate care of the dog into their working practices. The man was therefore enabled to stay at home with his dog as his condition progressed.

It is acknowledged that the personalisation agenda is now more helpful in this type of situation.

The EoLC Functional Analysis work articulated the needs of patients from both a health and social care perspective, and had input from both sectors.

Use of functions is an encompassing way of expressing the needs of an individual receiving care in terms of the clinical and more holistic needs. The following functions have been included in our work which would allow those involved in the care to address such situations:

- *Assess the need for, and provision of environmental and social support* – which allows for the identification of non-clinical needs
- *Contribute to the identification and the risk of danger to individuals and others* - which includes making arrangements for dependents
- *Support individuals in their daily living* – which for this gentleman included ensuring his dog was exercised.

Want to find out more? Further detail on how we worked with health and social care professionals to describe the care needed for individuals in their last year of life in community settings can be found on the NEOFELCP Intelligence Network site (http://www.endoflifecare-intelligence.org.uk/end_of_life_care_models/skills_for_health.aspx).

More detail about the use of functions and competences as a way of reviewing and designing your teams based on patient need can be found at www.skillsforhealth.org.uk, or by contacting pippa.hodgson@skillsforhealth.org.uk.