

## Community Hospitals Association (CHA) Continues Collaboration with End of Life Coalition

Update by Dr Kirsty Protherough, CHA Chair

November 2024

The CHA is pleased to continue its partnership with the Coalition of Frontline Care for People Nearing the End of Life. This coalition, uniting health and social care leaders like Care England, the British Geriatrics Society, and The Gold Standards Framework Centre (GSF), is calling on the government to strengthen end-of-life care training for the UK's three million frontline generalist health and social care workers.

The coalition's 2023 open letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Social Care Minister highlights the need for integrated end-of-life care planning through the new Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and greater focus on end-of-life care by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). CHA fully supports these goals and is committed to sharing examples of best practice in palliative care from community hospitals to illustrate the effectiveness of generalist-led approaches.

One example of such excellence is the recent **GSF (Gold Standards Framework) accreditation awarded to four community hospital wards in Cornwall**. These wards, recognised for providing exemplary end-of-life care, highlight the vital role generalist teams play in supporting patients nearing the end of life in local settings. By integrating GSF principles, these teams have achieved a compassionate, coordinated approach that respects patient choices and prevents unnecessary hospital admissions. More details on this achievement can be found [here](#).

With the UK's ageing population, the CHA and coalition partners see an opportunity to not only improve end-of-life care quality but also ensure that this knowledge becomes core training for all frontline caregivers. By investing in proactive, system-focused end-of-life training, the government can reduce the burden on acute hospitals, improve patient outcomes, and fulfil more patients' wishes to remain at home or in a community setting.

The CHA urges the government to recognise the critical need for enhanced generalist education in end-of-life care as a national priority. Through this continued collaboration, the CHA aims to showcase the profound impact that skilled generalist palliative care in community hospitals can have on patients, families, and healthcare systems.

For further information and to read the coalition's open letter, please visit [www.goldstandardsframework.org.uk/coalition-of-frontline-care](http://www.goldstandardsframework.org.uk/coalition-of-frontline-care).