

The definition of Palliative Care encompasses all progressive illnesses which are not responsive to curative treatment and covers all stages of illness from diagnosis until end of life. The goal of Palliative Care is the achievement of the best possible quality of life for patients and families.

There have been a number of national initiatives over the last few years addressing in particular the prevention, detection and treatment of cancer. There are approximately 350 deaths from cancer per year in South Ayrshire. At an Ayrshire level work is being undertaken to develop a Joint Palliative Care Strategy.

What Has Been Achieved

- ***Day Care Provision at Ayrshire Hospice has increased from 8 – 16 places.***
- ***There are now three Consultants at the Hospice.***
- ***Expansion of Community Nurse training is continuing.***
- ***The appointment of a McMillan G.P. Facilitator in Palliative Care two sessions per week will also encourage the ongoing education of GP's in Palliative Care.***
- ***The overnight District Nursing Service is now equitable throughout Ayrshire.***

What Remains to be Achieved

The establishment of a joint strategy for Palliative Care Services including support for Carers.

The strengthening of links between Primary Health Care Teams, Specialist Services, Social Work and Housing Services.

Improved information on an Ayrshire wide basis.

Action Plan

The development of an integrated approach ensuring that a joint assessment of need is undertaken. This is in line with South Ayrshire Council's Assessment and Care Management Procedures and builds upon the commitment to integrated working between Health and Social Work in South Ayrshire.

Options Being Considered

The development of Home Care Services which would provide support at home for service users who require palliative care. This service should offer support and assistance across a range of needs (both health and social care). It would require to be flexible, responsive and be able to offer support to individuals, families and carers.