

Health Deficits or Health Assets?

Harry Burns 2013

Focuses on problems, needs and deficiencies in a community such as deprivation, illness and health damaging behaviours. It designs services to fill the gaps and fix the problems. As a result, communities can feel disempowered. People become passive recipients of services rather than active agents in their own lives

Any factor or resource which enhances the ability of individuals, communities and populations to maintain their health and sustain wellbeing. The assets can operate...as protective and promoting factors to buffer against life's stresses (Morgan 2009)





Health Promoting Palliative Care & Compassionate Communities

Pioneered by Prof Allan Kellehear

Health Promoting Palliative Care (1999) Compassionate Cities (2005)

- Health is still important when facing death
- •Quality of life is more than the absence of problems
- •Care is done with people rather than to people
- •Social character of living with a life threatening illness
- Importance of Community
- Compassion is central

"It is in communities that the taboo of talking about dying and death needs to be tackled. To be effective we need to work together with everyone who has an interest in raising awareness on end of life issues. (Dying Matters)"





What communities say

At home:

- •Discussing as an extended family
- •Build memory boxes and family trees together

At school:

- •Include in curriculum e.g. personal social development classes
- Reflective essays
- •Invite grandparents to school

Health & Social Care

- Ambassadors in hospitals, GP practices
- Mandatory CPD for staff
- Palliative care communication skills for non-clinical staff e.g. domestics, equipment staff

Communities:

- •Film festival, death cafes,
- Celebrating different cultural perspectives
- Use volunteers to support awareness raising



Funerals

Discuss "Affordable Funerals" as part of Funeral Planning Open days at funeral directors Benefits of early planning

Legal/Financial institutions:

Key trigger points to start discussions e.g. mortgage applications, joint accounts Reduce legal costs through allowing paying up (as per bike or season ticket loans or through credit unions)

Independent sector:

Recognising the contribution of care homes in supporting death, dying and bereavement.

Training in bereavement for care home staff

Private sector/businesses:

Build information on end-of-life care issues into HR standards re sudden death, absence management, medical checks, retirement, bereavement and carers leave





Before I die...



Before I die I want to get a hole in one.

Before I die I want to go to New York.

Before I die I want to climb every munro.

Before I die I want to live a full life.

Before I die I want to watch my kids grow up into confident, happy adults.

Before I die I want to see Hibees win the cup.

Before I die I want to make up with my sister.





To absent friends





