

A whole society approach to end of life care

People and Communities Committee, Belfast City Council
Monday 16 April 2018



The case for a whole society approach

- Impacts everyone
- Demographic factors
- Limitations of clinical services

“Dying, loss and grief are not medical matters but rather social relationship matters with medical dimensions.”

Prof Allan Kellehear

What's involved?

- Role for all of society
- Care is everyone's business

Care is not solely the task of HSC services – it is everyone's responsibility, and the issues associated with death and dying cannot be fully addressed without a whole-community approach.

What are the benefits?

- Engages wider community
- Addresses a greater range of needs
- Reduces social isolation
- Supports carers
- Improves quality of life
- Supports clinical services
- Care in the community

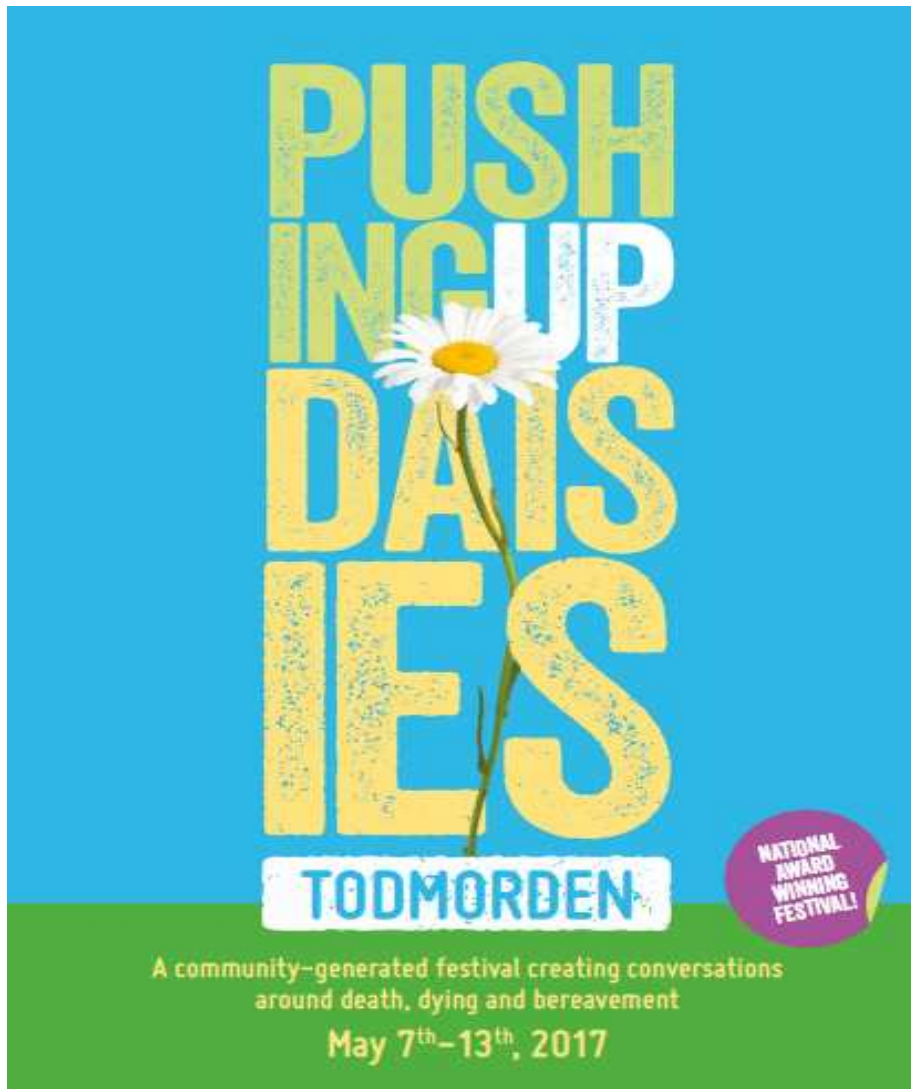
Why Belfast City Council?

Employer

- Carer Passport scheme
- Work-place support
- Council policies

Civic leader

- Death Cafés
- Death and dying event
- Art exhibition



“Taking time, giving space, having knowledge and being willing to sit with the ‘difficult stuff’ can radically improve the experience of end of life – and that that is an incredibly worthwhile thing to do.”

Example – One day event

Potential exhibitors

- Cruse Bereavement Care
- Law Society NI
- Carers NI
- Macmillan Cancer Support
- National Association of Funeral Directors
- Men in Sheds

Example – Two day event

Day One	
Activity	Potential Partners
<p><i>Have you made your will yet?</i> – Information pop-up on wills and estates</p> <p><i>Belfast City Hall</i></p>	Law Society NI
<p><i>Life can be a challenge, especially when it comes to death. Talking about it can sometimes help</i> – Death Café</p> <p><i>The Bobbin</i></p>	Cruse Bereavement Care Marie Curie
<p><i>Death from a different angle</i> – Painting and sculpture exhibition exploring death and dying</p>	The MAC Belfast
<p><i>Bringing death to life</i> – Story telling group on ageing and loss</p> <p><i>Linen Hall Library</i></p>	Libraries NI

Example – Two day event

Day Two	
Activity	Potential Partners
Presentation: balancing education and caring responsibilities	Carers NI Queen's University Belfast
Discussion group on living with terminal illness	Marie Curie Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
<i>Good Grief</i> – Practical and emotional advice session on coping with the loss of a loved one	Cruse Bereavement Care
<i>A life well lived – bucket lists, creating memories and leaving legacies</i> – Death Café <i>Marie Curie Belfast Hospice</i>	Marie Curie

Our ask

- Endorse a whole society approach to end of life care
- Programme of activity
- Action plan
- Approve by full Council



**Marie
Curie**

**Care and support
through terminal illness**