

A message from Prof. the Baroness Finlay of Llandaff



Hospice of the valleys has become the lead provider of palliative care in Blaenau Gwent, and it provides an excellent model of the service. It is developing and moving forward to meet the needs of modern palliative care in the 21st century. To do this, the team, urgently needs better accommodation from which to operate.

As it becomes increasingly multi-professional the current office is proving inadequate. The service must increasingly be linked to the NHS to ensure that there is a seamless transition for patients to access the best of care at all times.

Until recently, palliative care was accessed in large part by those with cancer. However, many patients with other diseases - such as multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, chronic heart failure and advanced obstructive airways disease - were not being referred to benefit from palliative care. This is changing, and the awareness of what can be done to people is increasing. The aim of good palliative care is to help people live well for as long as possible, and to support them and their family as life draws to a close.

This is an important local appeal, for the benefit of people locally. Although the economic climate is hard, this is an appeal to support. Hopefully many will be able to ride out the economic storm and will be able to demonstrate their gratitude with generosity to the local community.

It has been said that the way that we care that those at the end of life is a thermometer of the attitude of our society. For a caring community to develop and survive it must ensure that good care goes to those who are facing the end of life, just as much as people deserve good care at other times.

I congratulate the Trustees of Hospice of the Valleys for their decision to build a new centre for patients and staff. I hope you will add your support to this appeal for funds and help their plans for a new Hospice Centre for Blaenau Gwent become a reality.

With kind regards,
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Prof. the Baroness Finlay of Llandaff