

Emotional support

Your illness also affects your family and those close to you, and people react in many different ways.

It can be difficult to talk about the illness and the strong emotions that accompany it. Sometimes talking to someone outside the family can help. As specialist social workers we have the skills and training that can help families face these difficulties and help them talk about them if appropriate.

Children

You may be worried about what to tell the children in the family and how to find the right words. Children will quickly sense that something is upsetting the adults around them and may worry even more if they think things are being kept from them. They may even think they have done something to cause the problems.

We have a lot of experience of working with families affected by serious illness. We can work with the children to help them express their worries and feelings.

Hospice of the Valleys
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Blaenau Gwent NP22 3ND

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Web Site: www.hospiceofthevalleys.com

Bereavement

We provide bereavement support for adults and children. Our bereavement support groups meet throughout Blaenau Gwent and individual support can be provided to children and adults.

We use books and activities specially designed to help children come to terms with serious illness or a death in their family

Mission Statement

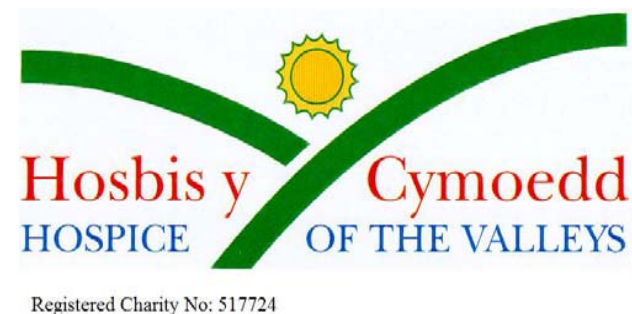
‘Our commitment is to provide free, high quality care in their own homes for patients in our area who are suffering from life threatening illnesses: the care includes comprehensive support for families and extends from diagnosis, through treatment and, if appropriate, into terminal care and bereavement.’

The Hospice Team

The Hospice team comprises of a Doctor, Specialist Palliative Care Nurses and Social Workers, and spiritual counsellors.

Complaints

Hospice of the Valleys will thoroughly investigate any complaints about its staff or services. Please contact the Chief Executive if you have cause for concern. Alternatively you can contact the Care & Social Services Inspectorate for Wales by telephoning 01495 761200



Your guide to using Hospice of the Valleys Social Work Service

Hospice of the Valleys is a registered charity. All our services are completely free of charge to patients, families and carers

Hospice of the Valleys

Social Work Service

Finding out that you or someone close to you has cancer, or another very serious illness, can bring all sorts of problems.

The team at Hospice of the Valleys includes specialist social workers who work for the Hospice rather than local authority social services.



Melanie Evans, Jonathan Pearce, Chris Thompson & Sue Stephens, our Social Work Team

Where can you meet us?

We attend the drop-in clinics in Abertillery, Ebbw Vale, Blaina and Tredegar. We can also meet you and your family at our offices in Tredegar or at your home

How to contact us?

Any patient or carer who needs help and advice with a life threatening disease can visit our Drop-in clinics; they are held weekly and no appointment is necessary.

We can be contacted via the office (please phone: 01495-717277) or through your hospice nurse.

Abertillery: The Lymes Social Club,
Tuesday 9.30am-1.00pm

Blaina: St Peter's Church,
Tuesday 1.30pm-5.00pm

Tredegar: Siloh Baptist Church,
Wednesday 9.30am-1.00pm

Ebbw Vale: Ebbw Vale Choir Building,
Thursday 9.30am-1.00pm

Financial and practical problems

When someone becomes ill with a life threatening disease such as cancer, whatever age they are, whether in or out of work or retired, living suddenly becomes more costly. A change of diet to healthier food, travelling to hospital every day for treatment, extra heating bills, weight loss meaning clothes no longer fit, all add up to extra expense.

People find they have far less money to manage on and more bills to pay. Normal routine bills such as mortgage, rent and catalogue payments, bank loans and credit cards become more difficult to pay.

Benefits and other help

The benefits system is very complicated and many people are put off applying for their entitlement. We can help you and your family apply for any benefits to which you are entitled and identify other grants that may be available to help with the extra expense.

If you meet the criteria for a disabled person's parking badge, we will help you apply for one.

You may need help with care at home. We can advise on who to contact for items of equipment etc. that will help you keep your independence and make life easier.

Housing may be a problem, your accommodation may not be suitable for your needs and we can advise on re-housing.

We can also liaise with your employer to discuss time off from work or reduced hours.