



**St Luke's**  
CHESHIRE HOSPICE

# Homelessness Service





**St. Luke's strongly believes in fair access to care for all. Over the past several years we have been developing a service to support people with a palliative diagnosis who are experiencing an episode of homelessness; this could mean sleeping on the streets, living in a hostel, sofa surfing or somewhere with an insecure tenancy.**

The sad fact is that men and women who are homeless will have a life expectancy which falls far short of the national average for our country. Men and women not experiencing homelessness can expect to live for 79 years and 82 years respectively. For men and women experiencing homelessness the figures fall sharply to 44 and 42 years respectively.

There are many barriers to accessing palliative and end of life care, and St. Luke's Homelessness Team works closely with the service user and other supportive organisations to offer them choice and care.

St. Luke's isn't just a place to die. It's a place to live well, where a person experiencing homelessness with a deteriorating health condition or a palliative diagnosis can be supported to access many different forms of support.

We have a non-judgemental attitude and treat every person who accesses our services with the dignity and care they deserve.



## What do we offer?

St Luke's employs a Homelessness Service lead two days a week and a palliative care Social Worker one day a week. We offer training and education to hostel staff and ongoing support when they are supporting a service user within their care. We also provide case coordination or case management when situations are highly complex and no one service is coordinating.

We advocate for people. One of the barriers faced by those experiencing homelessness is perceived discrimination. We work with the person and advocate for them when appropriate and when they feel their voice is not being heard.

We have close links with other agencies such as social care, housing, health, drugs and alcohol teams, and hepatology teams. Our partner agencies are highly skilled and we work closely with them to ensure the person gets the opportunity to access the right care at the right time. We also provide access to our Hospice services, for example Day Hospice, complementary therapies, the Family Support Unit for counselling and the Inpatient Unit.

## Who can refer to us?

St Luke's accepts referrals from hostels and supported housing accommodations who would not be surprised if their client were to die in the next 12 months. Hospital wards, hepatology teams, hospital social work teams, community social work teams, voluntary organisations and others who may be working with people within this criteria.

## Which areas do we cover?

We cover east and west Cheshire. St. Luke's in Winsford works very closely with East Cheshire Hospice in Macclesfield and the Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Chester to provide this service right across the area.

For further information please ring 01606 555694/5 to speak with either Alison or Linda.



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