

The Rowans Hospice at Home service will aim to support adult patients with advanced incurable illness to be cared for at home and to die at home if that is their preference.

From our experience of caring for people, we know how many carers suffer stress, anxiety and often exhaustion when faced with the practical and emotional components of care giving and how further community support would help reduce these feelings and reduce admission to hospital, which can often be an inevitable outcome.

We know that GP's and District Nurses really want to support people at home, however cannot always give the people the time that they need.

Hospice at Home will endeavour to supplement care offered by our local NHS and social services and offer patients and families the time, skills and expertise they need at this important time in peoples lives.

Hospice at Home will be funded by The Rowans Hospice with an initial £250,000 being released from financial reserves as a demonstration of Trustee support and commitment to this **new service**. The aim is to raise an additional **£1M from the campaign** to commence the service from Spring 2011.

Hospice at Home will aim to work in partnership with the NHS and Social Services to deliver more care at home and offer people real choice in achieving their preferred place of care in those so very important last days of life and give family and friends the opportunity to relinquish the role of carer to become mothers, fathers, friends, partners, wives, husbands, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and grandparents again.

Capital Grant Awarded from the Department of Health

I am delighted to inform you all that The Rowans Hospice has been awarded a **capital grant from the Dept. of Health** to further enhance our environment in supporting patients and carers.

We first heard about this opportunity in the autumn of 2009 and in conjunction with staff, volunteers and patients began to consider a re-design of our main reception area and whether an additional entrance for patients would be of value; recognising how busy and open the main entrance is and in particular for those who may arrive by stretcher.

Following a consultation period for all staff, patients, relatives, visitors and volunteers a number of specifications were compiled. These were duly relayed to architects and plans were submitted for review.

Subsequently the plans submitted by our current architect, Terry Roberts and his associates were chosen and these formed the basis of the grant application.

The plans include a new patient entrance and mezzanine within the current reception. The new entrance will include a reception desk and welcome area for our volunteer 'front of house' team. The current reception will incorporate a quiet area for the bereaved and those coming for therapy sessions. An area will also be considered for fundraising, new

goods, promotions and Portsdown Travel. The area will be enlarged to incorporate a coffee bar, which will be obscured from immediate view by an ornamental screen, which will be designed by Tony Kalus who has created the beautiful stained glass window in the Southwick Suite.

Further office space will be created in both designs to enable the development of patient services for the future, to include staff who will co-ordinate The Rowan's Hospice at Home service.

The plans will be displayed soon in the front reception area for all to see and a working party representing all stakeholders has already had its inaugural meeting. We envisage that **the redevelopment will commence in August 2010**, commencing with the build of the **new patient entrance**. Once this is complete we will be able to use the new entrance whilst the current reception area is developed. Planning permission is being sought, however we do not envisage any problems as the existing building line will remain the same and there will be no further increase in height. The front car park will be re-designed to give access for ambulances to the patient entrance.

The grant received (**£346,000**) will cover all building developments. Soft furnishings we hope will attract donors who want to purchase specific items.

This money from the Department of Health is restricted for capital and sadly cannot be utilised for revenue, which we will need to continually raise from our loyal supporters in the area we serve.

For further information on these initiatives please do not hesitate to call.

With very best wishes

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