

# Improving End of Life Care: An Evaluation in Care Homes

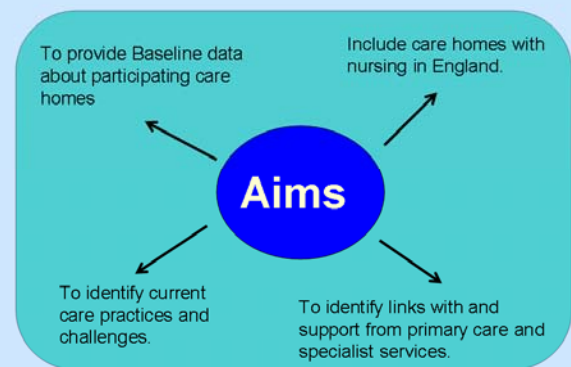
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## Background

- Care Homes are increasingly important as locations of care for older people.
- Approximately 20% of deaths occur in care homes (Seymour et al 2005).
- The Gold Standards Framework in Care Homes (GSFCH) is based upon the GSF in primary care and is designed to support optimal standards of practice in End of Life care (Thomas 2003).
- The Gold Standards Framework identifies 7 Key Tasks: communication, co-ordination, control of symptoms, continuity, continued learning, carer (family) support and care of the dying.
- The Evaluation of GSF in care homes is examining the factors that impact upon the capacity of care homes to deliver optimal End of Life care using GSF in Care Homes.

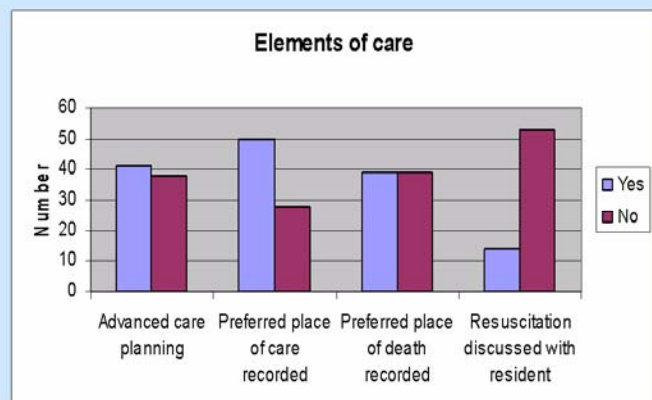
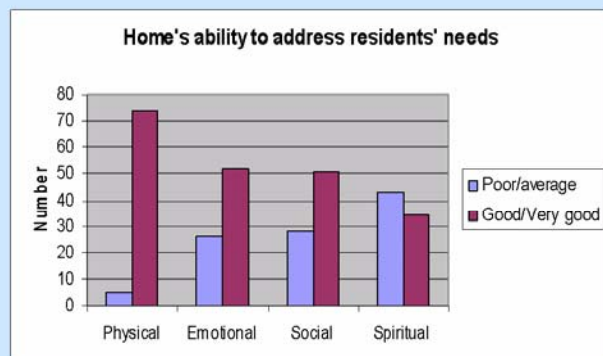


## The Baseline Audit- Method

- 93 homes which joined Phase 2 of the GSF in Care Homes participated.
- Baseline Audits were completed by each home before starting GSF in Care Homes.
- The Audit collected a range of quantitative and qualitative data.
- Follow up Audits at 5 and 11 months will provide an indication of homes' progress with GSF.

## Results and Discussion

- 79 homes returned completed Baseline Audits (85% response). The majority of non-responders did not proceed with GSFCH.
- Homes were located within 18 SHAs and 38 Primary care Trusts.
- Number of beds ranged from 9 to 150 (mean 48; SD 18.1).
- The number of GP practices per home ranged from one to 11 (mean 4; SD 3.3).
- 17% of homes had difficulties accessing daytime GP services and 62% reported difficulties accessing out of hours services.
- Results from the Baseline Audit reveal problematic aspects of End of Life care. Follow up audits will indicate whether GSFCH has helped to address these and improve care for residents.



### References

Thomas K (2003) Caring for the dying at home. Radcliffe: Oxford

Seymour J, Witherspoon R, Mott M et al (2005) End of Life care. Bristol: Policy Press and Help the Aged.