The care of all dying patients must improve to the level of the best.
The report gives several examples of local ownership through meetings to launch the EoLC Programme and involve key stakeholders and local initiatives. Partnership working is now well developed in many areas.

A new national steering group has also been set up to co-ordinate end of life care in care homes. This group will produce an introductory guide for care home managers and staff covering choices available to residents. The guide will be available soon on the EoLC Programme website: www.endoflifecare.nhs.uk

Strong clinical and managerial leadership is paramount to the success of the Programme. Each of the EoLC Programme tools has national and local champions who work to spread good practice and share learning via workshops and presentations.

Les Storey, National Lead for PPC, says the priority is to raise awareness across the country and embed PPC into practice with a range of care groups including older people, Motor Neurone Disease, respiratory disease and heart failure as well as cancer.

Dr Keri Thomas, National Clinical Lead for the GSF, says GSF promotes a teaching programme and is piloting implementation with 105 care homes in 18 SHAs and fosters clinical champions including Macmillan GP facilitators, PCT cancer leads, GPs, district nurses and palliative care managers.

Professor John Ellershaw, National Clinical Lead for the LCP says that LCP supported by the Marie Curie Palliative Care Institute Liverpool will launch a new website to enable better communication and response. The education of generalists continues to be successfully evaluated. Care homes and non-cancer work continues to spread with Phase 2 of the National Cardiac Programme on target.

Many case studies are provided in the report showing improvement in the patient’s journey in fields such as heart failure and COPD, as well as developing training programmes for generalist staff in specialist end of life care.

Sue Ryder Care Centre for Palliative and End of Life Studies at the University of Nottingham has been commissioned to carry out an evaluation of the whole EoLC Programme to assess how it achieves the desired outcomes.

During the next two years the Programme will:
- Build on the current work and continue to link with existing and new partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors
- Expand the spread of end of life care tools in all care settings
- Spread models of training so staff feel able to discuss end of life issues with carers and patients

Download the full version from the EoLC website: www.endoflifecare.nhs.uk
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