

	<u>Agenda Item: 11</u>
Report to:	Birmingham Health & Wellbeing Board
Date:	9th May 2024
TITLE:	COMPASSIONATE CITIES BIRMINGHAM
Organisation	Compassionate Communities UK and Birmingham City Council
Presenting Officer	Dr Emma Hodges

Report Type:	Information
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1. Purpose:
<p>1.1. To promote a wider understanding of its aims and objectives across the wider health and wellbeing system.</p> <p>1.2. To set out the recent and planned activities of Compassionate Cities Birmingham.</p>

2. Implications (tick all that apply):		
Creating a Bolder, Healthier, City (2022-2030) – Strategic Priorities	Closing the Gap (Inequalities)	x
	Theme 1: Healthy and Affordable Food	
	Theme 2: Mental Wellness and Balance	x
	Theme 3: Active at Every Age and Ability	x
	Theme 4: Contributing to a Green and Sustainable Future	
	Theme 5: Protect and Detect	
	Getting the Best Start in Life	
	Living, Working and Learning Well	
	Ageing and Dying Well	x
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment		x

3. Recommendation

3.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board notes the work of Compassionate Cities Birmingham supports the communications and gathering of stories to promote its work and considers what other representative or linked agendas would strengthen its work

4. Report Body

4.1 The Compassionate City Charter was launched in 2015, endorsed by United Nations and was initially developed as a correction to the Healthy Cities programme that was silent on death, dying and loss.

4.2 The Compassionate City Charter promotes 13 areas of action that cities, towns or villages may take to publicly recognise those who are dying, caregiving or grieving and to make their locality a supportive and open place for these processes to take place in. These are set out below:

Charter Domains – Areas of Action and Principles/Enablers

- Schools and Young People
- Places of Worship
- Workplaces and Trade Unions
- Health and Care organisations
- Neighbourhoods
- Museums and Art Galleries
- Homelessness
- Prisons
- Memorials
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- PR / social media
- Stories telling / competitions
- Incentives / Awards

4.3 The two fundamental principles of a Compassionate City/Community are 1) equity and inclusion and 2) the recognition of the 95% rule. Only 5% of the time when someone is terminally ill or grieving is spent with a Healthcare professional, most of the time is spent in their community, at work, with family and friends, on the school playground, walking the dog etc. The Public Health Approach to Palliative Care focuses on the 95% and work with the 5% to help reorientate healthcare.

4.4 The accreditation framework was launched by Compassionate Communities UK in 2020 with Birmingham becoming the first accredited city in February 2021.

4.5 Birmingham's approach

4.5.1 The Compassionate Cities Birmingham network is formed of individuals and organisations working in this space that act to guide the direction of the work. The aim is to have broad representation in order to reach into the many other forums / boards in the city that are relevant to the aspirations of a Compassionate City.

4.5.2 Work has taken place to map these forums and boards alongside the membership of the Compassionate Cities Birmingham Network and to create a governance structure and overall programme plan.

4.5.3 Compassionate Cities Birmingham is a programme of social and system change and transformation. It is not a short-term project, and the aim is for the ethos of compassionate communities, cities, and public health palliative care to become business as usual via education, training, influence, and discussion. In addition, the programme seeks to bridge the space between grass roots compassion and system design. However, building trust and networks at this level takes time.

4.6 What has been happening

4.6.1 Governance

The Compassionate Cities Birmingham Network has been supported by Birmingham City Council's Public Health Team to ensure structure, governance and admin support is in place.

4.6.2 One Day Conference

A one-day conference was held in 2023 which was attended by over 70 delegates. It showcased Compassionate Cities Birmingham work, including art, inequity, neighbourhood networks, street connectors, BrumYODO etc. The event evaluated positively.

4.6.3 Death Literacy Index (DLI)

4.6.3.1 A key aim for 2023 was to better understand death literacy in Birmingham's citizens. An internationally validated survey tool, The Death Literacy Index (DLI), was used to conduct a survey across the city. The first results will form a baseline from which to understand the city's various communities.

4.6.3.2 Birmingham is an early adopter of the DLI, and there are opportunities to lead the way in which this can be combined with other outcome measures, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Using this approach may allow correlation between death literacy and health and care outcomes, such as early identification and reduced hospital deaths.

4.6.3.3 The Birmingham sample consisted of 391 residents, which exceeded the target set by Public Health for statistical significance. The survey was via an online tool and circulated via Compassionate Birmingham Network members. It was acknowledged that this would not be a 'deep dive' into any particular community and would provide a broad initial perspective. As such, there is a desire to use the tool at a more local level, such as Ward/community level. The report has recently been analysed and is in draft form.

4.6.3.4 The key headline from the DLI results is that where people have had prior experience of death, dying and loss there is a level of confidence in talking about these topics with friends, GPs etc. The confidence around hands on care is more varied. However, when it comes to factual knowledge about the system, formal documentation, information around choices and access to community support groups the results shift significantly indicating lower confidence.

4.6.3.5 In addition to the standard questions that form part of the DLI, we collected demographic data and asked participants for their top three priorities with regards to palliative and end of life care. The results indicated the importance of emotional support and the time with family, friends, and their social connections. This provides a

strong argument for Compassionate Cities Birmingham and the need to both understand these figures at community level but also to ensure there is sufficient emotional and social connectedness in society due to their positive health and wellbeing impact.

4.6.3.6 These results will provide part of a roadmap for focused activity in Birmingham around communicating information to the public.

As an early adopter of this tool, Birmingham is facing similar challenges to many areas in seeking appropriate evaluation methods. Compassionate Communities UK are developing and reviewing ideas around evaluation, via the recent launch of a Research Academy with leading academics across several disciplines. Professor Cara Bailey (part of the Birmingham network) is a member of this academy. The use of the Death Literacy Index is a key element of this strategy with the aim of then considering the positive impact on sustainable development goals using the methodology proposed by SDG's that are centred around what matters most to citizens¹. It was this next phase of consideration of evaluation methods that meant the prioritisation question (pie chart above) was added to the DLI survey.

4.6.3.7 Members of the Compassionate Birmingham Network, including Public Health, Birmingham University and Compassionate Communities UK, will be meeting early in 2024 to work through SDG methodology. In addition, there has been a mapping undertaken of the DLI questions and typical palliative and end of life care outcomes, an effort to look at whether increased death literacy correlate to traditional outcomes regarding palliative and end of life care.

4.6.4. Other Actions

Members of the network continue to work in a wide variety of ways that demonstrate Compassionate Cities Birmingham in action, including:-

- Increasing Children & Young Peoples engagement with a local hospice
- Bereavement Awareness Training for schools, colleges, and universities.
- Community Companion and Hospital Companion service - Marie Curie Companions.
- Support & Wellbeing Hub social support groups – Saturday Social, Men's Shed, Daff Caff.
- Life Cafes with range of communities such as , Project Echo – Learning Disabilities and Autism at the end-of-life network (mariecurie.org.uk).
- An End to be Proud of workshops with a LGBTQ+ focus.
- Commemorating people who have died including, World Aids Day and Transgender Day of Remembrance.
- Understanding of gaps in support and raising awareness of less well-known places to access help.
- Bereavement awareness and grief awareness training courses
- Death Cafes across various neighbourhood networks and other forms of initiating discussions.
- Homeless- to raise confidence and competency of support staff in the homeless sector to support those dealing with loss and grief.
- Prisons- to develop understanding and confidence of inmates to support other inmates who are dealing with loss and grief.
- Workplace- to help create compassionate workplaces.
- Community- developing the capacity and resilience of communities to support each in grief and loss. use of creative activities to encourage conversations about death, dying and end of life care planning.
- Annual festival with BrumYODO lots of activities each year across the city

- Focused work with communities often under-served by health and care organisations to build trust.
- Northfield Neighbourhood Network- spearheading a compassionate community approach, building connections, hosting events, and creating spaces for people to talk about grief supported by their community.

4.7 International Links

4.7.1 Birmingham is cited as an example of a Compassionate City globally, in presentations by Allan Kellehear. Additionally, Dr Emma Hodges has presented Birmingham as a Compassionate City in Rotterdam (European Association of Palliative Care conference) and Japan (Sendai conference) as part of a knowledge exchange in Matsuzaki.

4.7.2 Leipzig and Denmark have shown interest in the approach. In November, a delegation from Singapore was hosted by members of Compassionate Birmingham and Dr Julian Abel. Birmingham will be featured in a book (subject to successful publication) of international examples of Compassionate Cities / Communities in Action.

4.8 Costs

Most of the activity related to Compassionate Cities Birmingham is undertaken as part of business as usual of network members. However, some specific funding has been provided by the Birmingham City Council to support this work, including hosting the conference, supporting neighbourhood networks and a death and dying arts project.

4.9 What's Next

The Birmingham Compassionate Cities Network will continue to capture and promote its work and to encourage greater participation in this programme.

We will share the Death Literacy Index results with relevant groups to inform future strategy. An agreed approach to the wider roll out of the Death Literacy Index will be discussed with the Compassionate Birmingham network to 'deep dive' into diverse communities.

The Compassionate Cities Birmingham Network will consider what else it can do to improve the Death Literacy Scores and how it can influence the various forums and Board it participates in.

There is a planned roll out of the approach taken by Northfield NNS and encourage further NNS to adopt a Compassionate Communities approach in Spring 2024.

A public focused report and communications plan will be produced to highlight our achievements and encourage more people to get involved in supporting their communities.

Consideration of Compassion Awards will be discussed as a way of celebrating the wonderful work happening in the city.

An event is being organised to remember those who died in the city with no one to attend their funeral in May 2024. The current planned location is St Martin's Church. This will be a celebratory event of life stories, music, and stalls from appropriate

stakeholders in the city to engage with the public and each other. It will further raise the profile of compassionate Birmingham.

5. Compliance Issues

5.1. HWBB Forum Responsibility and Board Update

The forum has no responsibility. This can be a rotating annual update.

5.2. Management Responsibility

Becky Pollard - Assistant Director of Public Health (Adults and Older People)

Dr Emma Hodges – Specialist Adviser (Compassionate Cities Birmingham)

5.3. Finance Implications

Projects below are funded through the ring-fenced Public Health Grant

- **2023 Compassionate Cities Conference** - £5,000
- **2024 Death Café / Bereavement / Grief Support** - £2,500
- **2024 A Life Lived Celebration (linked with Dying Matters Week and A Matter of Life and Death Festival** – estimated at £4,000 (max grant = £8,000)

Specialist Advisor’s staff time – 2023/24 cost of £28,800 was funded from the Adult Social Care (ASC) budget. The 2024/25 cost are estimated to be £28,800, ASC is funding £20,000 of this with the balance coming from the Public Health Ring Fenced grant.

5.4. Legal Implications

N/A

5.5. Equalities Implications (Public Sector Equality Duty)

As with all Public Health-driven initiatives, Compassionate Cities is an equality-driven piece of work. Much of the work we have done has reached out to the broader community, without focusing on minority communities, specifically. As such, much of what we have done has the tone of equality, but it is not equity. However, the next phase of the DLI will be reaching out to minority groups to better understand their experiences of death. Also, the ‘A Life Lived Celebration’ has intentionally reached out to several minority groups (Birmingham LGBT, Refugee Migrant Centre, LGBT migrant project, LeDeR, Age Concern, Forward Carers, for example) to create a welcoming space.

Further working happening in Bartley Green will also seek to reach all members of that Ward, by using the Ward Profile (from the Birmingham City Observatory) as a guide.

This work will, where possible, use an equity-based approach.

6. Risk Analysis			
Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
Capacity of network members may impact progress	Likely	Significant	Continuing to build the network and establish business as usual change. Developing evaluation measures to demonstrate impact
A failure to weave the opportunities of Compassionate Cities into relevant strategies	Possible	Significant	The network and key members of the team continue to try to create connections with these strategies. Further work following the publication of the DLI report will be undertaken to strengthen this.
Lack of communication of activities that impacts the 'social movement' of improving confidence and experience in the community	Likely	Moderate	A comms group has been set up to review ways to disseminate activities. NNS and Ward Forums are a key target for communications going forward
A lack of communication of the Compassionate Cities work.	Possible	Moderate	A comms plan is being developed to improve visibility of Compassionate Cities Birmingham and to broaden the scope of our communications.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Death Literacy Index presentation slides

Background Papers

The following people have been involved in the preparation of this board paper:

Dr Emma Hughes



Paul Campbell
Edward Roberts
Becky Pollard
