

Service: **Palliative & End of life**

Purple Butterfly Volunteers



The Purple Butterfly Volunteers and their role

The Purple Butterfly Volunteers are a group of specially trained people, with a variety of skills, who support both patients and their families and friends at a difficult time. They offer one-to-one support, compassionate listening, comfort and companionship particularly for those with few or no visitors.

Each visit is unique. The volunteers will work with the patient and visitors present to determine any needs at that particular time.

The volunteers can help by reading aloud or by making a cup of tea and sitting down to chat. Sometimes, silent company or just holding a person's hand is what is needed. The volunteers can liaise with the ward staff if they feel that the patient has additional needs.

On occasions, the volunteers are called upon to support visitors who do not want to leave their loved ones alone. The volunteer will offer respite, so that they can take a short break from the bedside.

The Purple Butterfly Symbol

The purple butterfly symbol is used throughout the hospital to raise awareness of the dying person.



How to recognise a Purple Butterfly Volunteer

All Purple Butterfly Volunteers wear purple shirts with the butterfly badge on them and an NBT ID on a butterfly lanyard.

Where and when are the Purple Butterfly Volunteers available to help?

Purple Butterfly Volunteers are available to visit all gates across the hospital. They will liaise with the staff before visiting a patient.

The volunteers work on a rota system that has three shifts and some weekends:

Morning 10am - 1pm

Afternoon 1pm - 5pm

Evening 5pm - 7pm

To have a Purple Butterfly Volunteer visit a patient, please speak to a member of the nursing team who can make a referral to the Purple Butterfly Co-ordinator, Brenda Dowie.

The Purple Butterfly Service vision is to:

- Ensure no one dies alone in hospital.
- Promote dignity, respect and compassionate care for the patient.
- Support the dying patient and those identified as important to them.
- Reflect the Priorities for Care of the Dying Person “One Chance to get it Right” (2004).
- Raise awareness of the needs of the dying person within the hospital.

**PATIENT
APPROVED** 

How to contact us:

If you would like more information about the
Purple Butterfly Volunteer Service please
contact:



Gate 30 on 0117 414 3707



www.nbt.nhs.uk

If you or the individual you are caring for need support reading
this leaflet please ask a member of staff for advice.

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