

Statement of purpose

Incorporating our
Philosophy of Care

**KEECH
HOSPICE** 

April 2026





Our purpose

Our purpose is to lead the way in providing specialist care, supporting babies, children, young adults and adults with life-limiting conditions, helping them to live well and make every day count. The support extends to their loved ones and is free to all who need it.

Care and support can be provided in the patient's own home, as an outpatient, in our day services, or in our purpose-built in-patient units. We occasionally provide support in hospitals too.

We will provide a programme of care and support, that has each person at the centre, enabling them to live life to the full, free from pain with their life-limiting condition.

We will offer a well-coordinated, multi-professional and 'seamless' service, which integrates hospice specialist palliative care services with primary, secondary and tertiary health care services, other voluntary/ independent agencies, social services and, in the case of children and young people, education services.

Our approach will be non-judgemental and non-discriminatory, ensuring equal access for all. We consider it equally important to give support to those who care for our patients, whether they are professional carers, members of the family, friends or trained volunteers. We work with our communities to develop resilience at end of life and beyond.

We aim to use our expertise to benefit the community we serve. This includes promoting conversations about death, dying and loss within communities, so normalising the process and helping people to communicate their wishes. We also provide training to health and social care professionals, staff, volunteers and the public. We take the lead and work in partnership to spearhead research and innovation within our specialist field.

Responsibility towards patients and family

We will treat patients, families and friends as individuals, with compassion, humility, honesty and respect. We will listen to them and, whenever possible, involve them in decisions about treatment. We will respect their preferences, beliefs and customs, and always assure their complete privacy and dignity. We will always take account of the needs and wishes of patients at the different stages of their condition. We will provide a varied menu to ensure the cultural and dietary needs of our patients are met.

There is no charge to patients or their families for the use of our services.

Other responsibilities

The community generously contributes a great deal of money, time and effort to sustain the work of our hospice charity. We must always act with integrity and demonstrate we are a trustworthy organisation by using these resources wisely, prudently and effectively.

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How we are funded

We raise funds through generous donations from our local community and the sale of donated goods in our charity shops. In addition, a funding contribution is made by the NHS and local authorities.

Registered provider: Keech Hospice, Great Bramingham Lane, Luton, LU3 3NT

Satellite services: Living Well Centre, Gladys Ibbett House, 3 Linden Road, Bedford, MK40 2DD.
Bedfordshire Palliative Coordination Service, Sue Ryder St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger, Bedford, MK44 3RJ.

Registered managers:

Liz Searle, Chief Executive Officer, RN, RNT, MSc, MBA, Cert.Ed.
Elaine Tolliday, Clinical Director, RGN, BSc, PGCE.

Registered regulated activities: Treatment of disease, disorders or injury.

Adult Services

Our services for adults with a life-limiting condition are provided to those who have a GP in Bedfordshire.

Adult in-patient unit (eight beds) provided at our Luton site

The adult in-patient unit is a purpose-built and comprehensively staffed unit with an emphasis on homely surroundings. It opened in 2009 and is fully accessible for wheelchair users and those with disabilities. Trained clinicians, who specialise in palliative care, and palliative care support workers (PCSW) provide care, supported by specialist doctors, social workers, therapists (music, art, talking, complementary, physio and occupational), bereavement care staff and trained volunteer helpers.

The unit's function is to provide care for patients whose distressing symptoms and other complex needs are not readily relieved in the home or other care setting. Its focus is on symptom control, psychological support and end-of-life care. The patient's needs determine the length of stay. Staff use an evidence-based assessment model to plan care that is individually tailored to the needs of the patient and their family.

Accommodation is provided for eight patients in eight single rooms (all ensuite). We designed the environment to look as relaxing and homely as possible, while all the latest medical and nursing equipment is discreetly available and used to provide a high standard of specialist care. All our care staff follow a professional code of conduct, and we offer a high staff to patient ratio. This ensures the best quality treatment and personalised care for the patient, their family and friends.

All patients receive a medical and nursing assessment on admission, during which we will identify and agree with the patient what their treatment aims are. The medical and nursing teams regularly monitor these aims until the patient achieves them.

There is family accommodation within the adult unit that families are welcome to use if they would like to stay overnight.



Wellbeing Centre, Luton

Our Wellbeing Centre works alongside patients with a progressive palliative diagnosis to understand their needs and support them to achieve their goals so they can live well independently. Our specialist multi-disciplinary care team puts patients at the centre of everything we do, with a holistic approach to help patients live life to the full, free from pain. The earlier a patient is referred to us, the better we can support them with their complex condition; while attending, the patient remains under the care of their GP and community nursing team.

The Wellbeing Centre is wheelchair accessible and suitable for people with disabilities and impairments, with facilities for more dependent patients.

Our specialist team comprises specialist doctors and nurses, palliative care support workers (PCSW), supportive care, social workers and trained volunteer helpers.

Patients, and their families, benefit from a personalised package of care and support which is delivered both virtually and within the centre.



Living Well Centre, Bedford

Our fully adapted site in the town centre provides accessible outpatient and day services. Patients, and their families, benefit from a personalised package of care and support which is delivered both virtually and within the centre.

We offer an extensive holistic assessment, considering all aspects of the patient's life and then in discussion with the patient, understand what matters to them, developing a programme of support that meets their needs.

The team at the Bedford site work closely with the other providers of palliative care services in Bedford Borough.

Inclusive Health Service

The Inclusive Health Service is a nurse specialist-led outreach service which helps to support the homeless community living with life-limiting conditions in Luton, Bedford and Central Bedfordshire. This service also provides support and advice to those working with clients experiencing homelessness.

Any patient may be referred to the service who currently does not have a place to live permanently and/or may be living in temporary accommodation and is living with a condition that is no longer curable.

This service provides holistic assessments face to face in the community, advice and support over the telephone, emotional and spiritual support, help with symptom management and advice on how to live well with a life-limiting condition, helps link in with other key professionals and may help signpost to other relevant services designed to help support further.



Compassionate Communities

Our compassionate communities team engage across the areas we serve delivering a series of workshops and activities (or events) openly talking about death, dying and bereavement, supporting our community as compassionate friends, classrooms, workplaces and neighbours.

Bedfordshire Palliative Coordination Service (BPCS)

The Bedfordshire Palliative Care Coordination Service exists to ensure that every adult with a palliative diagnosis in Bedfordshire can access timely, coordinated, and compassionate support. Delivered in partnership by Keech Hospice, Sue Ryder St John's Hospice and the NHS, the service is operated from two sites: Keech Hospice in Luton and Sue Ryder St John's Hospice in Moggerhanger, Bedford. Together, these partners provide a unified approach that removes barriers, simplifies processes, and strengthens continuity of care for patients, families, carers, and professionals.

Our purpose is to offer a single, reliable point of access for advice, guidance, and support at any time of day or night. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and can be reached by calling NHS 111 and selecting option 4. No referral is required - members of the public and healthcare professionals can simply call.

By bringing local palliative care partners together in one place, we ensure that individuals receive the right support at the right time, improving coordination, reducing delays, and helping people remain where they feel most comfortable. Our aim is to make accessing palliative care straightforward, responsive, and supportive for everyone who needs it.



Children's Services

Our children's service provides specialist palliative care for babies, children and young people who have a life-threatening condition and live within Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire or Milton Keynes.

The service is available to them up to their 19th birthday.

A team of specialist doctors and nurses, palliative care support workers, therapists and trained volunteers work together to offer services on our in-patient unit in the child's own home, or hospital setting.

Children's in-patient unit (four beds) provided at our Luton site

The children's in-patient unit is a purpose-built unit which opened in 2000. Children are admitted for end-of-life care, symptom management, step-down from hospital, crisis stays or short breaks. The hospice can be a child's preferred place of care at the end of life, if requested.

There are four single-occupancy bedrooms, plus accommodation for families. It is fully accessible for wheelchair users and those with disabilities.

Facilities at the hospice include a hydrotherapy pool, multisensory room, safe play area, outdoor play area and a range of specialist technology and equipment to support a range of abilities. Relatives, friends and health care professionals can visit the child at all times.

Transition Service

Many children with life-limiting conditions are living into adulthood, as advances in care, medicine, and technology continue to improve overall life expectancy. Young people's eligibility for services may change as they move from children's to adult services. The Transition Team at Keech works with young people and their families to provide support and guidance as they prepare for these changes, ensuring that every young person has a connection with their local adult hospice from the age of 18.

There is provision of a 24/7 on call service to support patients and their families to remain in their place of choice when receiving symptom management and end-of-life care.



Play and activity services

Our play and activity services provide specialised play and educational activities for children of all ages. Specialist play sessions are offered on a short-term, outcome related basis, and are available as sessions or a course. These sessions are offered virtually and at home.

For children with a life-limiting conditions there are a number of support groups and activities available. These include Tots and Toys (pre-school group) a Youth Group for young people aged 11 above, and groups for children and young people with a range of specific conditions e.g. neuromuscular conditions, oncology diagnosis etc. Additional drop in sessions take place twice a week in Luton and a range of events and activities are organised throughout the year at various venues throughout the geographical area covered. These many activities provide support to the patients themselves and wider family members, enabling them to interact with others in similar circumstances

The specialist palliative care provided by the children's in-patient unit and play and activity services includes helping to control the child's symptoms, giving them access to a range of complementary therapies, and providing emotional support for both the child and their family.

Children's Symptom Management Service

The care offered in the community varies according to each family's individual needs and is provided both virtually and in person.

Typically, it will include:

- **symptom management**
- **administering medication or offering another form of treatment or therapy**
- **practical advice and emotional support to the whole family**
- **accompanying the family on hospital appointments**
- **liaising with other agencies involved in the child's care**
- **giving advice and information about the child's condition, their care or social welfare**
- **end-of-life care.**

Medical Team

We employ a team of specialist doctors covering both adult and children's services. The team comprises of full-time and part-time doctors, specialising in adult palliative care, and paediatricians specialising in children's palliative care. The team work closely with the local GPs and hospital consultants. In addition, we have support from palliative care consultants onsite and remotely.

Shared services for adults and children

24-hour advice lines

Keech Hospice has two dedicated 24-hour advice lines: one for adult support and one to support families who have a child with a life-limiting condition. Both advice lines give access to experienced palliative care nurses who can advise on symptom control or provide emotional support. They also offer specialist guidance to health and social care professionals.

Adult support:
Accessed via NHS 111 – Option 4

Children's support:
0800 035 6497

Education, training and research

We offer a range of palliative and end-of-life care training to health and social care professionals, students, and the community in our local area. Training can be offered within the place of work, here at Keech or online.

Students can also come to Keech on placement to develop skills and knowledge in palliative care.

In partnership with University of Bedfordshire as a University Hospice, we're involved in research which will provide vital information to influence service development for us, local health-care providers and commissioners.

A collaboration between



Supportive Care

Working alongside our specialist clinicians, we offer patients and their family supportive care services which can help them physically, emotionally, and psychologically.

All these services are free of charge and therapies are usually offered in short session blocks, then reviewed. This ensures we offer the most appropriate type of therapy and monitor its effect. These services are available to patients, carers, and family members.

Family Support

Our emotional support practitioners and counsellors offer emotional talking support to patients and their families, including children, helping them cope better with their situation and feel more prepared.

Family support can be given at the hospice, at home or - for children and young people - at school and can be accessed either through one-to-one sessions or by attending one of our support groups.

Complementary Therapies

These work alongside medical care to help reduce stress and anxiety; manage symptoms such as pain, breathlessness, nausea, and fatigue; alleviate the side effects of treatments; improve sleep patterns; and relax tensed muscles. We can offer patients and other family members directly involved in their care a range of physical therapies including massage, aromatherapy, reflexology, Indian head massage and reiki. We also offer non-physical support through mindfulness training and relaxation techniques. All support is tailored to individual needs, following an assessment, and is provided by a team of registered therapists, most of whom are volunteers, managed by our complementary therapy co-ordinator.



Music and Art Therapies

Music and art therapy can offer patients and their families psychological and emotional support in a confidential, safe environment, where the use of music or art helps to express feelings.

Working with a fully trained therapist, these therapies can help to:

- communicate issues that may be difficult or confusing, or that you find hard to put into words
- think about loss

- explore experiences and change
- be creative
- make choices or take control
- improve ability to cope
- increase feelings of wellbeing.

Patients and family members don't need to play a musical instrument or be good at art to take part.



Hydrotherapy Pool

The hydrotherapy pool at Keech Hospice Care (at our Luton site) is very different to an ordinary swimming pool. Our 16.5 metre pool is carefully designed to cater for the needs of people of all ages and disabilities. It has hoists, ramps and accessible changing rooms to ensure access for all and features special sensory stimulation equipment including underwater lights and music as well as water fountains. The water is heated up to 35°C, providing a safe, warm environment (most public pools have a temperature of 29°C). The air temperature is also kept warmer than usual, to avoid feeling cold when you get out of the water.

Using the pool can help:

- **relieve anxiety and stress**
- **aid poor circulation as a result of a long-term condition**
- **relieve muscle pain, spasm, and inflammation**
- **create memories for patients and their family.**

The pool is managed by a pool supervisor, with the support of an administrator and volunteer lifeguards.

Bereavement Support

Post-bereavement, we continue to support families, giving them the opportunity to share their feelings and talk about their loss, using the most appropriate supportive care service.

We also hold an annual remembrance events:

- **Adult remembrance service 'Light Up a Life' held on the first Sunday in December.**
- **Children's remembrance service 'Forget me not' held on the last Sunday in September.**

Spiritual Care Team

We have a Chaplain and spiritual care volunteers who can provide you and your family with spiritual support. This may mean you would like time to reflect and pray, are questioning what is happening to you or would like to talk about what or who is important to you.

Social Work

Our social work team support patients, carers and families across our whole service area, offering social, emotional and practical support.

The team offers a wide range of advice and support including sourcing practical help at home, advice around finances, benefits and grants, help with housing, advocacy, working with schools or employers, and offering general psychosocial support. The team work with a wide range of professionals within social services and health services to advocate for our patients.

Alongside our clinical colleagues, the team undertake work around helping people to prepare for the end of their lives through, memory making, advance care planning including creating legal documents such as Lasting Power of Attorney, Will writing and providing practical information regarding funerals and bereavement processes.

Social workers also support patients discharged from our in-patient units to go home, or to an alternative care placement with on-going care and support, liaising with local authorities and care boards to secure the appropriate source of funding.

The team underpins safeguarding within Keech Hospice, as ensuring the health and welfare of those using our services is paramount. If there are concerns, they are addressed via our Safeguarding Policy. Our social work team also supports those patients whom do not have the mental capacity to make certain decisions for themselves, through appropriate legal frameworks.



Across Keech Hospice, the social work team support families and carers via the carer offer which includes facilitating regular family coffee mornings for children and parent carers, a patient and carer social group, adult carers groups including a walking group, and a bereaved carers group. Members of the team can also work one-to-one with carers and complete holistic assessments of carers' needs.

Patient and family charter

If you would like this information in another language, large print, audio tape/ CD or other formats, please contact the hospice on the number below.

You have the right to receive care in a safe environment.

You can expect a clear explanation of your condition and any treatments proposed for you, including the right to be referred for a second opinion.

You have the right to be involved in decisions about your treatment and care. You can ask questions and receive answers in a way you understand.

You have the right to be referred to a health professional who you consider to be acceptable.

You can expect high standards of care and professionalism from our healthcare team.

You have the right to refuse treatment or aspects of treatment. Your decision will be respected and will not compromise the quality of care you receive.

You have the right to have a family member, friend or advocate present during consultations and treatments.

You have a right to see what records we hold about you. If you wish to request access to your records, please see the 'Right to access' section of our Privacy Policy, available on our website.

Your personal and medical information will be kept confidential and safe. Our Confidentiality Policy and Procedure explains under what circumstances we will share this information with others.

You may choose whether to take part in clinical staff training.

You may choose whether to take part in research.

You may be asked to support the hospice with publicity through case studies; you can choose whether you wish to take part in this or not.

You can expect all the staff and volunteers you meet face to face to wear name badges and introduce themselves.

You can expect the hospice to respect your privacy, dignity, and religious, cultural and spiritual beliefs at all times and in all places. For example, meals will suit your dietary and religious needs. Staff will ask you whether you want to be called by your first or last name (with title) and respect your preference.

You can ask to see an up-to-date chart of our organisation management structure by contacting the Associate Director of People on: 01582 492339 feedback@keech.org.uk



User involvement



We encourage feedback from people who use our services to help us ensure we deliver the best possible service

We regularly canvass and consult users for their opinions and suggestions via our patient information leaflets, regular audits of services, questionnaires, comment forms, focus groups and external inspections. When designing new services or reviewing current service delivery, a co-production approach is taken to truly partner with service users.

Keech Hospice works with Healthwatch to understand the thoughts and perceptions of the public, both adult and child. This feedback is key to our service development and promotion of hospice services. There is a comprehensive complaints and suggestions procedure for any user or stakeholder to use to help us improve our service. Our trustee board includes people who represent the views of service users.



Summary of complaints procedure

Complaints may be initiated with frontline staff and will be dealt with sensitively. They may be made verbally or in writing; they may be formal or informal. All complaints will be acknowledged, investigated without prejudice and responded to. If you are not satisfied with the resolution we provide, you can raise your concerns with a relevant adjudicator, such as an ombudsperson or regulator.

We will always follow our Complaints Policy and Procedure. For further information about how you can make a complaint please contact the Associate Director Integrated Governance and Improvement on:

01582 492339

Who regulates our service

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is responsible for regulating and inspecting voluntary and private health care organisations. For a copy of our most recent inspection report, please contact the Chief Executive Officer at the hospice or the Care Quality Commission itself at the address below:

Care Quality Commission,
Citygate, Gallowgate,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4PA.

Tel: 0300 061 6161

Email: enquiries@cqc.org.uk

Website: www.cqc.org.uk



Making the difference when it matters most.

If you would like this information in
another language, please visit
keech.org.uk/translate



01582 707940



If you have any questions or would
like to find out more about getting
involved, email us at:
letmehelp@keech.org.uk



Visit our website
keech.org.uk



KeechHospice

Registered Charity No. 1035089