

Social: support mapping for care teams

People diagnosed with a life-limiting illness are cited as vulnerable to loss of social relationships and networks as their illness progresses. For people on the autism spectrum whose ability to form and sustain social relationships can be challenged by the complexities of their autism, it is important to consider how they will maintain and in some cases redefine the relationships and interactions they have with the significant people within their life.

Carers Trust provides support and advice to staff, families and friends with caring responsibilities

'Thinking Ahead: a planning guide for families' could be helpful

Protocols for communication and sharing of information

How can we support families and important people in the individual's life to get involved in planning for the future?

Protocols for communication and sharing of information

How can we support better relationships with health?

How can we support the person to maintain important family relationships?

To aid effective communication and partnership working, we need to put in place protocols with staff, families and friends establishing what people's expectations are regarding:

- what information is passed on
- by what means
- by whom
- under what circumstances and how often

People are often fearful about communicating issues of end of life care with the person on the autism spectrum they support, their families, friends and peers. What aspects of palliative care would you personally find challenging to discuss and why?

How will you ensure consistency and continuity of staffing support? Why do you think this is important?

What support is required for the care team?

Protocols for communication and sharing of information

Are there supports or strategies required to strengthen relationships?

Health

Family

Social care team

How can we support the person to maintain important relationships with friends and peers?

Protocols for communication and sharing of information

Other figures of trust and support

Friends and peers

Social support networks

Social support involves an understanding of the relationships and connections between the person on the autism spectrum and all those involved in their life and care.

Who are the important people in the life of the person on the autism spectrum that you support?

'When someone you know has died: people with learning disabilities supporting each other' Is there a role for peer advocacy and support?

For example community groups, cultural or religious figures of support, advocacy services, social work, counselling services