**Referral criteria for**

**Homeless Specialist Palliative Care Support Project**

The Rowcroft Community Specialist Palliative Care Multidisciplinary Team includes the in-patient and community services provided by Rowcroft Hospice. Hospice services are delivered by members of a specialist multidisciplinary team and will support those who have advanced, progressive and life limiting illness who are homeless or vulnerably housed. We recognise accessing healthcare for this group of individuals is challenging, therefore we accept referrals from both health and social care professionals, and those who are supporting an individual e.g., hostel staff, support workers. We aim to work collaboratively with existing services, providing a specialist palliative care resource to health care professionals and support workers.

**Criteria specifics:**

1. The patient is 18 years or over and residing in the Rowcroft catchment area.
2. The patient has consented to the referral.
3. The patient has known end stage disease/deteriorating ill health and a limited prognosis.

**Examples of when to refer may include:**

**Support for patients/clients who may have:**

* Nonmalignant (not cancer) conditions such as end stage COPD, end stage heart failure, end stage renal failure, end stage liver failure, and the patient is deteriorating.
* Patients who have a malignancy (cancer) where treatment options have moved to a palliative approach rather than curative and/or the patient is deteriorating.

**How we can help:**

* Support with symptom management, which can include telephone advice to health professionals.
* Support with planning ahead (advance care planning) including ethical issues regarding treatment decisions.
* Support with emotional/psychological needs.
* Support for staff.

**Our service cannot provide support for**

* Those with acute mental health needs
* Those with acute medical conditions who require urgent medical review.
* Those whose needs are unrelated to their end stage disease.

For any queries, please contact Jane Butland, Project Lead on 01803 210811 or janebutland@nhs.net