

SUMMER EDITION 2024

Newsletter



southernareahospiceservices.org



Staff Nurse, Jasmine

2023/24 in Numbers

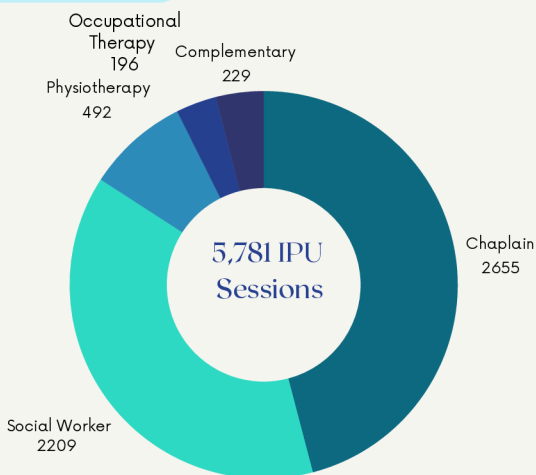
Our Inpatient Unit (IPU)

245

The number of patients the Inpatient Unit cared for

15 days

The average Inpatient Unit stay



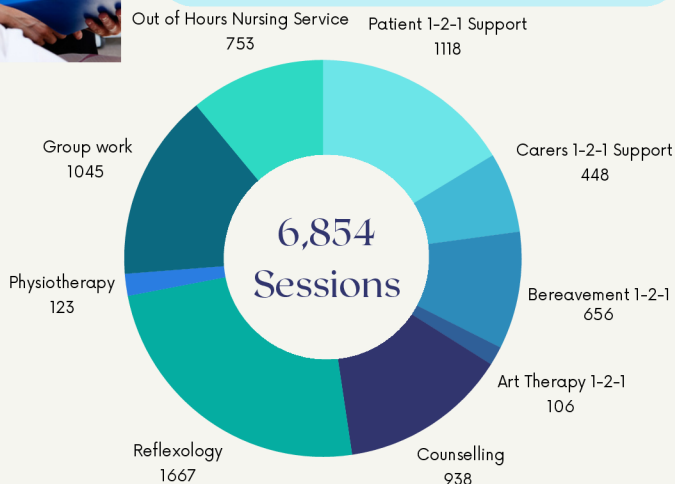
Community Services

614

People used our community services

33

The number of people supported to die at home, in accordance with their wishes



*A session is defined as the clinical or therapeutic delivery of care to patients, carers or bereaved. A session can be delivered individually or in a group setting and can be up to two hours in duration, depending on the type of care given.

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A Relative's Story

Julie Ann Purdy

Julie Ann Purdy from Lurgan talks about her father's experience of the Southern Area Hospice 13 years ago and how she feels a strong connection to it.



My connection to the Hospice started over 13 years ago when my father, William, fell ill. My Dad had been in hospital for several weeks before being diagnosed with cancer.

When Dad arrived at the Hospice, he was in significant pain. Within an hour, the Hospice staff identified his needs and made him comfortable. He was even able to sit up and smile for the first time in a long time. The staff's expertise and specialisation were immediately apparent to us.

The Hospice's strap-line is "Dignity in caring," which reflects the staff approach. They regularly checked on my Dad to ensure he was not in pain, and on his final day, the doctor clearly explained the process we were about to face. The nurses were equally supportive, always available but never intrusive.

Despite the circumstances, there was a sense of calmness, warmth and control that prevented any panic. Dad's condition deteriorated rapidly and he passed away on the fifth day.

No one wishes to need hospice care, but I am profoundly grateful it exists. The compassion and professionalism my family experienced made an incredibly challenging time a bit more bearable.

The Hospice put my family at ease and took the burden of caring for my Dad away. That allowed us to focus on making the most of the time we had left together. I want to give something back to the Hospice so I began volunteering in January 2023. I help run the monthly Family Night for children who have been bereaved. I love working with the children and their parents and would recommend volunteering to everyone.

Sheila's 50 years Working at the Hospice

My name is Sheila McGivern. I started working at the Hospice when I was 14 years old. It was known as the "St. John of God." I worked on the maternity floor and gained a lot of experience at a young age. It was a great place to work for your first job. I believe it made me the person I am today.



Without our invaluable Hospice supporters across the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area we could not continue providing this specialised service. To the public arriving daily at front of house, when they hand me their donation I say, "This is not our Hospice, it is yours".

From my own perspective, Hospice care has changed for the better over the years. We have a lot more services available for patients, carers and family members e.g. counselling, bereavement, reflexology, art, walking groups, to name a few, and each one as important as the other.

More recently, our Community Services has become very specialised. They provide care where the patient does not have to come to us, we can go to them and look after them and their families with the same dedication and expertise. I believe this has been invaluable.

I embrace how the Hospice reaches out to families and loved ones in their time of need. I experienced this first-hand when before the Hospice came into being, my father was admitted to St. John of God Hospital and looked after until his passing. My Mummy, who worked here for over 25 years, and my late brother, were both cared for here until their passing. I saw the exceptional, dedicated and loving care given to each of my family members, and this has stayed with me. I felt I had to give something back as I love and enjoy working with this one BIG FAMILY who work hard every day.

Every cuppa counts!



Could you host a coffee morning and help the Hospice reach its annual fundraising target of £3.6 million?

Hosting a coffee morning, big or small, with family and friends, within your workplace, or at your local sports club, can make a huge difference to our fundraising campaign. It's an opportunity to sit down and catch up over a hot cuppa and some tasty treats - while raising funds for vital Hospice services. This year's annual Hospice Coffee Morning takes place on Thursday September 19, and we

are now inviting people to sign up and get brewing! This date, however, can be changed to suit the host's needs.

Sign up today and our Fundraising Team will be on hand to help you with publicity posters, balloons, collection boxes.

For more information on hosting a Hospice coffee morning, or to sign up, contact Brian in our Fundraising Team at hylandb@southernareahospiceservices.org, telephone (028) 3026 7711.

Midnight Memory Walk

Saturday 28th September 2024

We would like to invite you, your family and friends to join us as we celebrate our Annual Midnight Memory Walk, on Saturday 28th September. The walk commences from St. Colman's College, with the sign-in desk opening from 10.00pm. The walk will then begin at 11pm sharp to allow us to walk together through midnight.

We really hope you will join us for this special event where we can walk and remember together.

*This event is very kindly sponsored by our friends at McKeever's Chemists.



Wedding Favours

Sometimes the finest gift is one that helps others. Did you know the Hospice can provide beautiful and thoughtful wedding favours for your special day and in return, you will be helping to provide vital Hospice services for local patients and their families? Last year, we were very grateful to have 54 couples tying the knot who chose to support their local Hospice on their big day.

If you would like to consider supporting us through our wedding favour range, you can browse our brochure on our website – we have up to 11 different options for you to choose from.



Win a Brand New Kia Picanto



We are excited to launch our Annual Car Raffle. This year we are delighted to team up with our generous supporters Car+Color “Parts and Paint People” to offer our loyal supporters the opportunity to win a brand-new Kia Picanto GT for just £2! Every ticket you purchase or sell helps us provide specialist care to those living with a palliative illness and support their families. If you are able to support us by purchasing our Car Raffle tickets or by donating, please use the QR code above.

Marathons 2024/25

We have participants taking part in Boston, NYC, Chicago, Tokyo and London Marathon in 2024/2025, as well as Great North Run Half Marathon.



If you are interested in finding out about marathon options or running local marathons such as Belfast or Dublin for our Hospice, please contact James on 028 302 67711, or message our Facebook page!

CORPORATE EVENTS 2024

Take part in an event and help employees bond with each other while fundraising for Southern Area Hospice

Corporate Skydive

Grab this unique opportunity to experience the ultimate thrill of jumping out of a plane at 15,000 ft



Corporate Abseil

Enjoy the stunning views while gliding 100 feet down the side of Belfast Castle



Team Building Day

Take your team building to the next level. Enjoy an action packed and exhilarating day out at Todds Leap Activity Centre at discounted rates



The choice is yours!

We are happy to work with your company to organise a fundraising and team building event that suits you. From a coffee morning to a sports day, the possibilities are endless



Get in touch today:

Contact Sean Boyle on 07484 902074 or
boyles@southernareahospiceservices.org

Upcoming Events

We have a variety of upcoming events that we would love you to take part in! [Come along and sign up for the fun.](#)

Event	Date of Event
Midnight Memory Walk	Saturday 28th September 2024
Lights Ceremony Newry	Thursday 12th December 2024
NYC Marathon	Sun 3rd Nov 2024
Great North Run	Sunday 8th September 2024
Chicago Marathon	Sunday 13th October 2024

More details and full event calendar on our website or by scanning the QR code on the right.



Southern Area Hospice



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