



# University of HUDDERSFIELD

## University of Huddersfield Repository

Kirshbaum, Marilyn and Purcell, Brigid

Exploring the Views of Barnsley People on Talking about Dying and Death

### Original Citation

Kirshbaum, Marilyn and Purcell, Brigid (2010) Exploring the Views of Barnsley People on Talking about Dying and Death. In: Trans-Pennine Palliative Care Research Network Meeting, May 20th 2010, Sheffield, UK. (Unpublished)

This version is available at <http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/10510/>

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: [E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk](mailto:E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk).

<http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/>

## Exploring the Views of Barnsley People on Talking About Dying and Death

### Authors and affiliations:

Dr Marilyn Kirshbaum, Reader in Nursing, University of Huddersfield; Ian Carey, Chief Executive, Barnsley Hospice; Brigid Purcell, Senior lecturer, University of Huddersfield; Diana Gibson, Patient Services Manager, Barnsley Hospice.

### Background:

There is a general perception held by hospice and palliative care practitioners that society is reluctant to talk about dying and death, which can be detrimental to dealing with bereavement. A collation supported by the National Council for Palliative Care called *Dying Matters* concurs as does The Yorkshire and The Humber Strategic Health Authority (2008) who stated recently that significant work needs to be undertaken to promote activities which break down taboos around death and dying.

The experience of Barnsley Hospice is that there is fantastic support from local people via the donation of funds, but that most people are reluctant to engage in discussion about dying and death.

### Aims:

Barnsley Hospice has commissioned research to promote a more open discussion about dying and death within its local community.

Specific objectives of the study are:

- To explore the perceptions of dying and death from the perspective of the general public and health care practitioners.
- To identify barriers to a more open discussion of dying and death within the local area.
- To propose methods of increasing participation of talking about dying and death within the local area.

### Methods:

A qualitative, interactive methodology is proposed to produce the data and insights required to address the potentially sensitive nature of the study objectives. The main method of data collection proposed will be through two focus groups to enable exploration of a wide range of views from a variable population from the general community and closely associated professionals.

Abstract for poster and oral presentation: Trans-Pennine Palliative Care  
Research Network Meeting 20th May 2010

---

**Proposed conclusions:**

Systematic and analytical coding of the data will follow with the objective of generating themes and uncovering potentially important issues relevant to improvements in support and care. The researchers will be open and cognizant of the possibility of emergent hypotheses that could result in further research and investigation.

(298 words)