A critical exploration of the questions asked and discussed by palliative care patients


blether

verb, noun

1. (Scot) a variant spelling of blather

Verb: a conversation to while away time
Noun: One who blethers.

What is Blether?

We’ve come up with a way to discuss the spiritual questions that we think are most important. And they’ve called this process “Blether”. Blether is about everyday people in the grassroots of their community listening together and seeking a deeper sense of shared meaning and purpose in their daily lives. We at Arthur Rank Hospice piloted and explored its use in the palliative care setting and have found it to be very helpful to patients who engage in it.

If you’d like to learn more about how to Blether in your own community (or Hospice) then please contact: susanne.jonnes@fire-cloud.org

Research Objectives

The aim of this project was that by the means of the use of an activity called ‘Blether’ I would consider the questions asked by palliative care patients in the day therapy setting of a hospice. Having collected a significant amount of data over 20 months I analysed it and noted the main themes that concerned these patients. Our understanding of the questions that Palliative care patients ask helps us as we seek to support them.

Method

The basis of this project was to look at the “Blether” questions that are asked and discussed as well as those that were profound and not discussed by palliative care patients attending day therapy. The questions from 54 ‘Blether’ sessions were noted over a period of 20 months. In total 387 questions were generated and offered by those present and of them, 54 were discussed. In this project I identified, analysed and discussed the prominent recurring themes and/or hopes and concerns both in the questions asked and in the subsequent discussions.
Any questions?

Let’s Blether!

If you would like to use Blether then please contact Suzanne Bunniss by emailing her at: suzanne.bunniss@fire-cloud.org