

# AN END OF LIFE CHARTER FOR PEOPLE IN BEXLEY AND GREENWICH

## *Respect, Compassion, Dignity*

Our Charter aims to make death and dying everyone's business – people, families, communities, health and social care networks and organisations; and to encourage all aspects of our community to help people at the end of life because it affects us all.

### End of life:

- ✿ May last a **few days, months or years**
- ✿ Affects people with **advanced, progressive, incurable illness** or **frailty** and those around them, as well as people affected by **sudden, unexpected death**
- ✿ Is not just about **dying but also about living well** with serious illness

### Our Aims are to:

- ✿ Treat everyone with **respect, compassion and dignity** and recognise the **contribution people may still wish to make** to their family, friends, work or community
- ✿ Identify inequalities and **improve access to information**, support and services
- ✿ Encourage **openness and discussion around death and dying** so that death is acknowledged as a part of life and people can plan early enough so their **needs and wants are taken into account**
- ✿ Have clear and honest conversations, which **move at your pace**, as much as possible and are shared with those you want to be involved, so that your **individual needs and wants are recognised** and you can be supported to find ways to fulfil them
- ✿ Care for you, **taking into account your physical needs**, including what you eat and drink and your symptoms; as well as **offering support for your emotional, social, cultural and spiritual needs**
- ✿ Make sure that your carers and the people who are important to you **receive practical, emotional and spiritual support** during your illness and after your death
- ✿ Support and develop our **staff to be skilled and knowledgeable** so that they **recognise your situation** and work in **partnership with you and with each other to coordinate and manage your care**