



Department
of Health

Social Work and end-of-life care

Lyn Romeo

Chief Social Worker for Adults

Twitter: @LynRomeo_CSW

chiefsocialworkerforadults@dh.gsi.gov.uk

The vital and important role of social work

Social workers have the *qualifications, knowledge and skills:*

- **Relational** - effective relationships to work with individuals and their families
- **Communication and engagement** - with uncomfortable emotions and conversations
- **Reflective** practice and supervision
- **integrating end-of-life issues** within needs assessments
- with **people in social care** i.e. home care support, care homes, nursing homes
- with **complexity, risk and conflict**
- Operate within a **legal framework**
- **therapeutically** and in the community
- with **capacity** and **mental health** needs
- to shape the **social care market**



The vital and important role of social work

Social workers as the *lead professional* responsible for *personalised, integrated* care and support at end of life



- Enable the individual and the family to say what matters to them now and in the future and plan appropriately
- Accessing practical help and resources
- Coordination and liaison with health and care system – including confidence in dealing with health professionals
- Supporting people through an often confusing pathway
- Smooth transitions
- Advocates and supporting people's choice including preparation for emergencies
- Key link and coordinator for individual and family

The vital and important role of social work

Framework for *reflective practice and supervision*

- Advocacy
- Listening
- Supporting people to adjust to and manage impact of change & loss
- Working with the whole family
- Human rights based practice
- Navigating, facilitating, co-ordinating



Social Workers supporting people to have true choice and control in end-of-life care

