



Somerset Primary Care Trust  
Wynford House  
Luffon Way  
Luffon  
Yeovil  
Somerset  
BA22 8HR

Tel: 01935 384000

Fax: 01935 384079

[Chris.Absolon@somersetpct.nhs.uk](mailto:Chris.Absolon@somersetpct.nhs.uk)

19<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Dear Colleague

**An invitation to join the Somerset Gold Standards Framework for Care Homes Programme  
2010-2011**

Somerset Primary Care Trust and WyvernHealth.Com are delighted to invite you to take advantage of this tremendous opportunity.

33 Care Homes in Somerset have already taken part in the first phase of this project, and found it stimulating and helpful, and we are now able to offer it to a further 30 Care Homes with Nursing.

Comments from participating Care Homes include:-

“I am really pleased we have signed up for the Gold Standards framework and feel that it is a real breakthrough for everyone working in palliative care, residents and their families”

“We signed up to the Gold Standards Framework in 2009. As a result every expected death we have had at the Nursing Home has been a good death”

The GSF for Care Homes programme is designed to enable all people to live well until the end of their lives. This includes all those in your Care Home, rather than just those that are dying; this is about residents ‘living well’ until they die. This programme promotes a structured approach to ensure that all residents receive optimal care which is of a ‘gold standard’. This enhances the work done by staff in Care Homes, giving increased job satisfaction and fulfilment, and pride in the work that they give. It has been developed and grown from within the Care Homes environment, tried and tested by over 600 Care Homes, and is the biggest national quality assured programme in supportive/ end of life care in Care Homes. The accreditation stage takes you through the process of embedding the GSF standards in your Care Home, and leads to a nationally recognised Quality Assured Hallmark with GSF and Help the Aged. Please see the enclosed information sheet for more details of the programme.

Somerset Primary Care Trust is committed to providing the highest standard of palliative care for patients, wherever they live, and has commissioned the National GSF Team to provide this high quality training in Somerset for you. The PCT will pay for nearly all the cost of the training, (in the region of £1600 per care home), but we will require a payment of just £250 per home for you to take part in the programme.



In brief, the programme consists of a 3 month preparation phase, then a series of 4 whole day workshops, with work to be done in the home in between workshops, and then an accreditation phase.

We require all homes to be able to confirm that they are in agreement and committed to provide the following:

1. Senior support and commitment from managers and owners, to continue to sustain improvements from the programme.
2. Two nominated leads from your Care Home to:
  - Attend local coordinators meetings run by GSFCH Facilitator
  - Attend all of the 4 interactive workshops in Somerset
  - Share examples of good practice with others
  - Take part in evaluation, e.g. After Death Analysis
  - Lead and be responsible for the implementation of the programme in the home – to cascade the learning from the workshops to others in the home.

To confirm that you are able to provide this commitment, and to register with the programme, please complete the enclosed registration form and return by **6<sup>th</sup> April** at the latest. We have an allocated number of places on this programme; upon receiving all expressions of interest we will be able to confirm your place. Should we receive a number of expressions of interest that exceeds our allocation, we will undertake a selection process based on certain criteria.

Please contact Chris or Jenny if you would like to discuss this. We are looking forward to working with you and supporting you to achieve the very best – a Gold Standard of care.

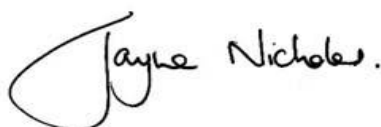
Yours sincerely



**Chris Absolon**  
GP Palliative Care Lead  
Somerset Primary Care Trust  
[Chris.Absolon@somerset.nhs.uk](mailto:Chris.Absolon@somerset.nhs.uk)



**Jenny Coles**  
GSF Care Homes Facilitator  
Somerset Primary Care Trust  
[Jenny.Coles@somerset.nhs.uk](mailto:Jenny.Coles@somerset.nhs.uk)



**Jayne Nicholas**  
Wyvern Health.com  
[Jayne.nicholas@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:Jayne.nicholas@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk)