

Many people associate the word 'hospice' with death and dying, and as a result can be very anxious about contacting the Hospice and using our services.

However, the Hospice has lots to offer to those living with life limiting illnesses and conditions. This includes those affected by dementia and their carers, who often feel alone and isolated from their community.

For more information or to make a referral please contact Service Co-Ordinator Claire Halsey by phone on 01625 666990 or by post at:

**Claire Halsey, Service Co-Ordinator
Community Dementia Companion Service
East Cheshire Hospice
Millbank Drive
Macclesfield
SK10 3DR**



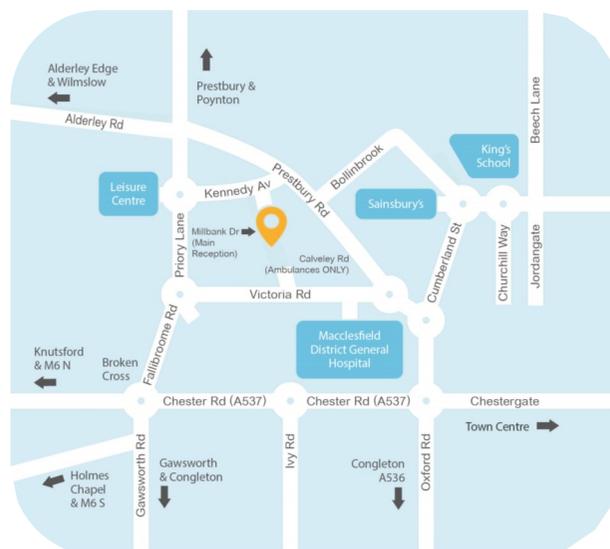
East Cheshire Hospice

Where people come to live



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East Cheshire Hospice
Millbank Drive
Macclesfield
Cheshire SK10 3DR

Main reception: 01625 610364
Sunflower Centre: 01625 665685
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www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk

Community Dementia Companion Service

Supporting people with dementia & their carers in our local community



Living with dementia

A diagnosis of dementia can be a huge shock to the person affected, as well as to their families and carers. Without support, you may feel anxious and isolated.

Our community based companion service is here to offer support to people with dementia, and their loved ones. The service can offer carers some time for respite, as well as helping the affected person to maintain social contacts, activities and skills. This can help people to keep their skills longer, feel less isolated, to stay part of their local community and maintain a sense of well-being.

The service is provided by East Cheshire Hospice, in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society, Age UK and the Methodist Homes Association.

Who is the service for?

The service is available to anyone in the East Cheshire area who is living with dementia, lives with their main carer and would benefit from support to maintain social contact, activities and well-being.



How do I access the service?

You can refer yourself or a loved one to the service, or you can be referred by your GP or another healthcare professional.

What can I expect?

Once you have been referred to the service, our service co-ordinator will contact you and arrange a home visit to discuss the next steps.

The co-ordinator will find you a suitable companion, and you will be able to visit one another to make sure you're both happy to work together. From then on, you will have regular and ongoing visits from this companion, at a time that suits you both.

Your companion will support you with activities of your choice, which may include accessing other local services that may be able to help you.

You will also have regular contact with the co-ordinator and with East Cheshire Hospice, as well as access to any hospice services appropriate to your needs.



How much do I have to pay?

This service is free, however donations to the Hospice are always gratefully received. If your companion accompanies you on an activity which includes payment or light refreshments, you are expected to pay for the companion.

How long can I have my companion for?

There is no time limit. Your companion will remain a constant source of support as long as you all feel necessary and are happy.

Is there anything the companion will not do?

Your companion will not be able to provide any personal care in the absence of carers. They also won't be able to repair appliances, move furniture, undertake housework, heavy garden work or similar activities.

