

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.

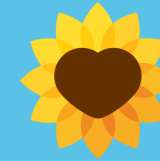
For more information please contact the Dementia Team by phone on 01625 666990 or by post at:

**Dementia Team
Community Dementia Companion Service
East Cheshire Hospice
Millbank Drive
Macclesfield
SK10 3DR**

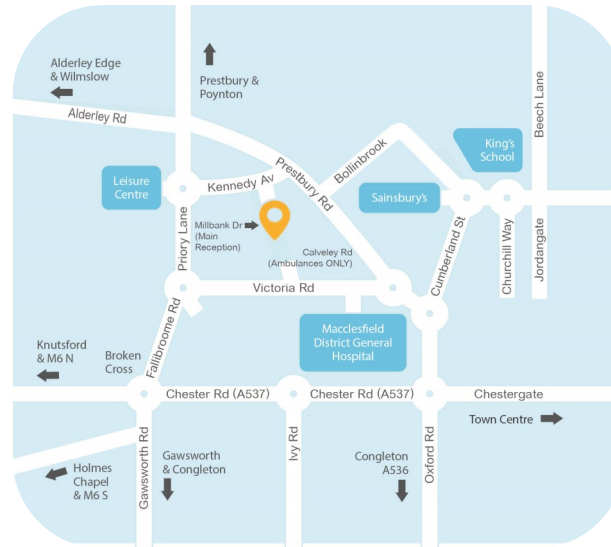
The referral form is available on our website



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
Fax: 01625 666995

www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk

Community Dementia Companion Service

Supporting people experiencing 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 early stage 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 and is free of charge

Who is the service for?

The service is available to anyone with an East Cheshire GP 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 professional.

What can I expect?

Once you have been referred to the service, our dementia team will send you a letter with the next steps.

The team will be working on finding 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 weekly 2hr visits 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 access to additional support from the dementia team if you need it, 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.