

Principles & Practices in EoLC (Registered Practitioners)

Diversity

in End of Life Care

*Sophie Van Walwyk
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“As a healthcare professional I treat everyone the same”



Context of diversity within health and social care

One of the core principles underpinning the UK health and social care system is that access to, and appropriate delivery of, the best quality care and services is available to everyone, irrespective of race, age, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, income, disability or religion.



And yet.....

.....health consistently remains one of the great focal points of inequality.

What is diversity?

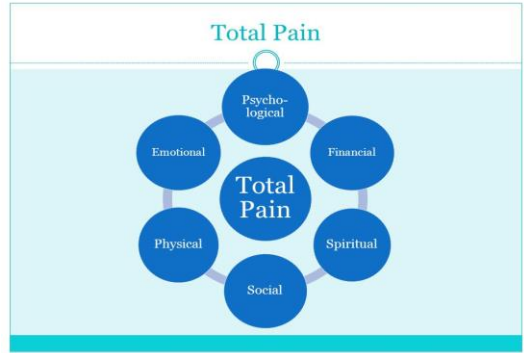
Diversity is about recognising, valuing and taking account of people's different backgrounds, knowledge, skills and experiences.

It refers to the recognition and value of an individual's uniqueness along dimensions of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, race, religious belief or faith, sexual orientation or socio-economic status.



Marginalised Groups

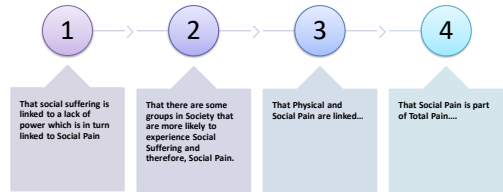
- Age
- Disability
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Sex
- Religion or belief
- Different Cultures eg gypsy/travellers
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT)
- Homeless
- Lifestyle choices
- Learning disability
- Mental health
- Socio-economic disadvantaged



Social Pain

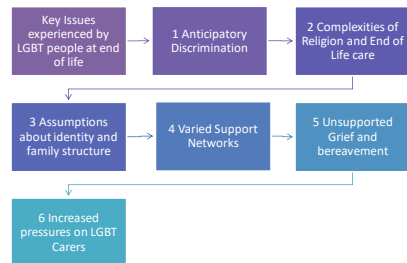
The experience of pain as a result of interpersonal rejection or loss, such as rejection from a social group, bullying, or the loss of a loved one.

Physical and Social pain are linked...



LGBT at EoL

- Three times more likely to be single
- Less likely to have children
- More likely to be estranged from their birth families
- More likely to experience damaging mental health problems
- These factors are likely to lower the chances of stable, ongoing informal care for some LGBT people.
- Informal care, particularly from a partner, plays a vital role in ensuring someone gets access to palliative care
- (Taken from; *Hiding Who I am - the reality of end of life care for LGBT people.*)



Barriers to inclusivity

- Lack of awareness
- Attitudes of individual practitioners
- Stereotyping
- Personal values and belief system
- Ineffective communication
- Non-holistic assessment
- Fear (patient - of rejection / professional of getting it wrong)



“As a healthcare professional I treat everyone the same”



Final thought

“Sometimes for everyone to be equal, differences need to be acknowledged and given space to be celebrated”

Sandy Toksvig OBE

