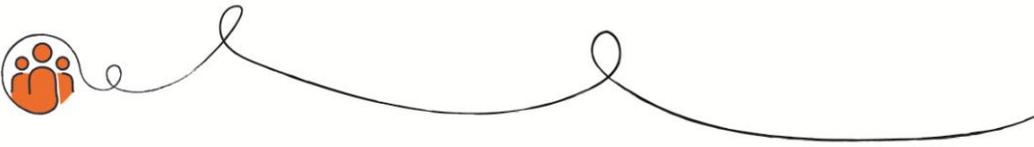


Welfare Service



Content

How our welfare service may be able to help you



We recognise that great comfort and peace of mind can be found for our patients and their families by addressing the practical and financial issues that arise when coping with advanced illness.

Jackie Blackman, our Welfare Advisor, can offer advice, help and support at any stage of your care and is also able to help bereaved families with practical issues following a death.

If you have a life-limiting illness, or you are a carer, there are a number of state benefits you may be entitled to. We can help you or a family member identify which benefits might be appropriate. We can also help you with applying for those benefits.

Advice can be offered about:

- Disabled parking badges
- Claiming any charitable grants you may be entitled to
- Completing sickness insurance claim forms or pension application forms
- Housing applications
- Re-homing of pets
- Basic advice around any debt issues
- Lasting Power of Attorney
- Welfare and Finance.





Wills

If you are thinking about making a will, our Welfare Advisor can offer advice on how you might go about this. If you are a patient on our Inpatient Unit, a solicitor can visit to take your instructions. If you are at home, there are various free or reduced cost options of making a will.

You may choose to use one of the many will-writing companies who advertise in local papers or magazines. It might be a good idea to see if they are registered with a regulatory body like the Institute of Professional Will Writers (www.ipw.org.uk) or The Society of Will Writers (www.willwriters.com). You can also use a DIY kit available from stationers such as WH Smith.

Confidentiality

Any advice given is confidential within certain limits, however there may be times when it is appropriate to share information with the multi-disciplinary team within the hospice. Please let the Welfare Advisor know if you have any concerns about this.

If you would like to speak to the Welfare Advisor, just ask any member of the hospice team.

Alternatively, you can call **Jackie Blackman** Monday to Friday between 8am and 2pm, on her direct number: **01293 447345** or email jackieblackman@stch.org.uk

If it would be helpful to have this leaflet in another format or language please call the main hospice switchboard on 01293 447333.



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