



In January 2020 Saint Francis Hospice held a Schwartz Rounds titled 'Dementia, how it has touched my World'

Over the past 12 months Saint Francis Hospice focused on how we can improve our care services to people who are at the end of their life and have Dementia. 144 members of staff were able to attend a virtual tour and walk in the shoes of someone with Dementia. The experience was staggering and promoted a lot of emotion amongst us. We also knew that people with dementia liked to have soft and cuddly items to distract them in their World of confusion. With this in mind we raised enough money to buy specially made items which are permanently on our inpatient ward and have been used many times by our patients.

Some of our staff expressed the wish to tell their stories and their experiences of managing dementia during a Schwartz Round. We had a panel of 5 people who all told their personal and professional life experiences when they were faced with dementia, either with their patients or family loved ones. Whilst the round was taking place we were able to pass around the room the items so enjoyed by our patients so they too could feel the comfort this would bring. One of the dolls ended up being with one of our panellists as she was telling her account of a lady 'Margaret' who had loved this particular doll right up until the day she died. By holding and loving this doll the nurses found they could care for Margaret much more easily as she was distracted when 'holding her baby', as normally Margaret would become anxious and fretful whenever the nurses tried to wash or treat her. It was a very emotional and thought provoking round, particularly at the end when we captured one of the nurses loving this doll just as Margaret did. Her body language tells the story. Just magical.