



**Ambitions for  
Palliative and  
End of Life Care:**  
A national framework for local action 2015-2020



**NHS**  
*Health Education England*

# Civic Compassion for Healthcare Today

TV End of Life Strategic Clinical Network

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# Ambitions...

## Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care:

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01 Each person is seen as an individual

02 Each person gets fair access to care

03 Maximising comfort and wellbeing

04 Care is coordinated

05 All staff are prepared to care

06 Each community is prepared to help

**‘We must be constantly restless until we can demonstrate that the ambitions are secure.’ (p.10)**

**– Prof Bee Wee et al.**



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# Introduction

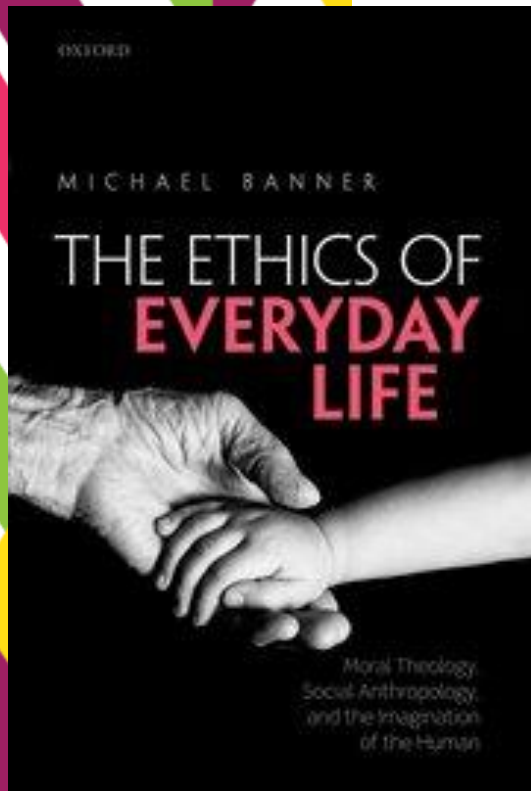
- Longer lives...chronic diseases
- ‘the long dying’ (Michael Banner)
- ‘sudden, unpredictable or very gradual dying’ (*Ambitions* p.10)
- Suffering and dying’s meaning to patients
- ‘a personal experience of life that is as good as possible’ (*Ambitions* p.9)
- Staffing and funding



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# 'dying before death'?



**'we have created an old age which for very many is bleak and lonely and during which their social deaths precede their bodily deaths by a number of years. For very many and not just for those suffering from dementia, their experience of aging (which will include debility, dependence, poverty, and marginalization), will itself amount to a death before death, since even without dementia they may well suffer a severe loss of social connections and bonds, and thus a virtual exile from society.' (p.122)**



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# 'dying before death'?

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'dying people often feel disconnected or isolated from their communities and networks of support.' (p.33)

'social isolation' (p.24)



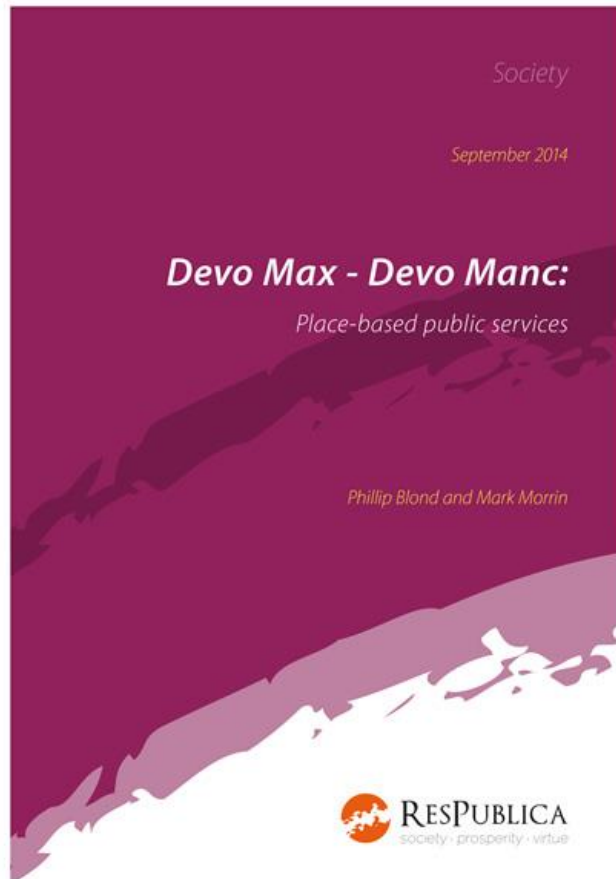
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# Civic Compassion

The 'civic' as...

...that good quality of our social experience which concerns more than friendship or family connection, less than the global family of people and, in its central cases, that which is more local than the nation-state.



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# Civic Compassion

What gives the local its 'heart'...

Compassion as

...an affection (emotion) whereby we understand and participate in the suffering of others in order to alleviate that suffering in some way

...the heart's understanding



Political Affections

*Civic Participation and Moral Theology*

JOSHUA HORDERN

OXFORD STUDIES IN THEOLOGICAL ETHICS



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# Community Organising

Getting the heart's compassion organised....

**CITIZENS** UK



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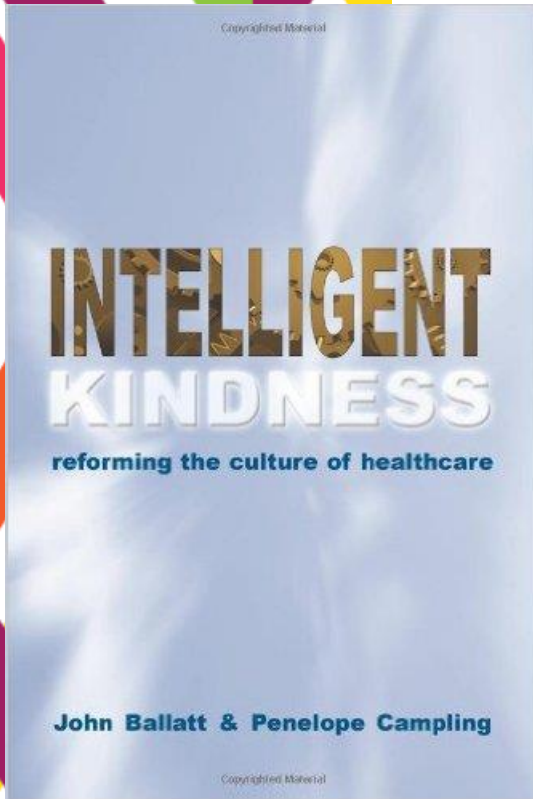
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# Civic Compassion...

**‘A failure to restore confidence, to re-engage the public in the politics of kinship and communality, is likely to have far-reaching consequences for the health of the nation.’ (p.27)**

- **compassionate understanding should be informed by the plural wisdom of our society about kindness**
- **taking seriously our deepest fears, loves, beliefs and reasons for compassion**
- **‘renewable energy’ of volunteers, carers, patients (NHS Five Year Forward View, p.9)**




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# ...in practice

**‘Dying, death and bereavement are not primarily health and social care events.’  
(*Ambitions*, p.33)**

- **Dying and death are everyone’s calling**
- **‘Local plans should include partnerships between different faith groups and cultural communities’ (p.23)**
- **‘lack of knowledge about the way that different communities may approach the challenges of dying, death and bereavement is not acceptable.’ (30)**
- **Religious/non-religious communities**



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# ...in practice

**‘Staff can only provide compassionate care when they are cared for themselves’  
(*Ambitions*, p.30)**

## **Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care:**

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- seeking the welfare of healthcare workers...risk of burnout
- at the heart of a compassionate community will be healthcare staff and voluntary workers who are themselves being well cared for
- compassion is everyone’s calling



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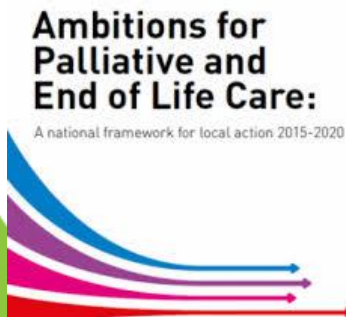
# Thank you

Questions...

Conversation...

To find out more please visit:

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