

Butterfly Children's Hospice Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Butterfly Children's Hospices – Developing Children's Palliative Care in China (2017)

2017 has proved to be a remarkable year for Butterfly Children's Hospices (BCH) beginning with the news of co-founder and Chief Executive, Lyn Gould, being awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year's honours list. The year has seen a series of key developments reflecting China's growing commitment to children's palliative care, a strategy that we believe BCH has been critically influential in bringing about.

Key Developments of 2017

Some of the key developments of 2017 included our Chief Executive, Lyn Gould, being appointed as an honorary member of the board of China Care for Life Association, the national body for palliative care in China. BCH was encouraged by the signing of agreements with two hospitals, namely Xiangya Number 1 and Hunan Provincial Children's Hospital to deliver children's palliative care training to key staff members.

Our organisation was proud to host the third children's palliative care conference in China, themed 'Spreading the Hope' with the aim of widening discussions about reaching and supporting families caring for children with palliative care needs. HRH The Princess Royal was an honoured guest at this conference and delivered the keynote speech.

This year saw the growth of the BCH team with the appointment of two new staff members. The Director of Services and Developments will spread the work of BCH and deliver training and education for health care professionals in China. A positive development was the appointment of a Chinese doctor who will oversee the welfare of the children cared for by BCH.

On the education front, we are working closely with the International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN) to develop online courses and training materials on children's palliative care in Mandarin.

Future plans for BCH

Future plans include developing support structures in the community for families with life limited children, such as bereavement support groups, and to support other orphanages to open Butterfly Homes.

We are committed to strengthening, embedding and demonstrating the concept of children's palliative care to a wider audience as well as consolidating opportunities for delivering customised and appropriate training and education in the field.

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