

# Speaker Biography

## Erika Lipscombe

*Director of Clinical Services, Rowans Hospice*

Erika has worked in palliative care since 1994 when Rowans Hospice opened; joining the team as a nurse on the IPU. Over time she has carried out a number of roles and is now working as Director of Clinical Services and is the Deputy CEO. During her time at the hospice, she has developed her leadership skills; the completion of an MA in Management (Health and Social Care) allowed her to research the influences affecting where people choose to die and what factors influence and potentially alter choice as disease progresses – she is now taking this work further through a PhD.

She has a real interest in research and is working with Rowans to move into a place where they are ‘research active and ready’; working alongside Southampton University and is now chairing the Wessex Research Active Hospice Development Group in partnership with the University.

Over the years she has seen and been part of a lot of change with the delivery of palliative care services; supporting the development of services in the community through Hospice at Home and a bespoke service to support those people living with dementia and their carers from diagnosis to end of life – the hospice focus being on supporting complex dementia and end of life care – a service that demonstrates the effective partnership working by social and health care services. The move to develop a Living Well Centre that now provides all therapeutic day support for patients and carers including a bespoke service for Veterans and support for those who are bereaved has seen the reach for the hospice widen; the hospice being able to meet carers and patients much earlier and providing support through the Centre into bereavement.

She is committed to the ethos of palliative care and as Director of Clinical Services, oversees all clinical aspects of the Hospice supporting the strategic direction of services, leading on change, empowering and developing the future leaders of clinical services and most importantly ensuring the delivery of high quality ‘outstanding’ care to those patients/families requiring hospice care and support.

She is also committed to working with other executive clinical leads regionally and nationally sharing and developing best practice through the work of the Executive Clinical Leads in Hospice Palliative care group (ECLiHP)

