

# Research in Hospices - From Naive to Knowledgeable



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## BACKGROUND

"Research in palliative care: can hospices afford not to be involved"<sup>1</sup>, was presented at the 2013 Hospice UK (then Help the Hospices) Conference. Staff from the hospice who attended the conference returned inspired and determined to achieve the status 'research active hospice'. The journey from there to here has been a positive experience of learning and conquering the challenges encountered.

1. Research in palliative care: can hospices afford not to be involved. A report for the Commission into the Future of Hospice Care. S. Payne et al. Help the Hospices, 2013

## OUR VISION

Our vision is of a future where palliative care is shaped by research and health and social care professionals are empowered to provide services informed by the latest evidence.

## HOW ARE WE ACHIEVING OUR VISION

- We have established a multi-professional research group
- The organisation is engaged in research awareness
- We are evolving research policy and procedures to address research governance
- We are developing relationships with other palliative care researchers
- Recruiting to NIHR portfolio studies
- We undertook research specific training for members of the research team
- We have recruited a Clinical Research Nurse
- We are generating ideas for independent research based on identified priorities.

## WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AND HOW?

WHAT	HOW
Established multi-professional research group.	Identifying staff with relevant skills and interest and inviting them to join the group.
Engaged organisation in research awareness.	Research framework proposal presented to SMT and research discussed with trustees during their regular review. Informal training for non-clinical staff who want to know about research.
Developing relationships with palliative care researchers.	Recruiting to non-portfolio studies. Participating in local speciality research group meetings (within KSS).
Recruiting to national portfolio study.	Building on previous collaboration on non-portfolio studies.
Recruitment of clinical research nurse.	Successful application to NIHR for funding.
Research specific training for staff.	GCP and valid informed consent training expected for members of research group. Competencies for receiving informed consent developed for nurses involved in recruitment. Study specific training for clinical staff.
Research policy and procedures are evolving to address research governance.	Utilising available guidance e.g. NHS policy and research governance framework. In parallel with the organisation's Quality Management System.

## OBJECTIVES

- To embed a culture of research awareness within the organisation
- To produce robust research policy and standard operating procedures
- To form collaborative relationships with other palliative care researchers
- To participate in local and national research studies relevant to palliative care
- To undertake independent research to address gaps in the provision of hospice care both locally and nationally
- To share and use outcomes of research for the benefit of service users and the local community
- To inform service users, health and social care professionals and commissioning groups on the need to invest in research.

## NEXT STEPS

We have presented our research strategy for the next four years to the Senior Management Team and Board of Trustees who are committed to helping us realise our vision.

The strategy details plans for undertaking independent research, developing collaborative partnerships and evaluating the benefit of research to patients, carers and the local community using hospice services.

## KEY LEARNING

- Our achievements have been made possible through gaining the support of the whole organisation and the development of the research nurse role.
- Participating in clinical research has enhanced multi-professional working and promotes innovation in clinical practice.