

Spotlight on

Homelessness and Palliative Care

ECHO Network



“Hearing case studies and examples of good practice and creative approaches to complex issues has broadened my understanding and has given me a lot of ideas how I can contribute to the project I'm currently embarking on”

– network participant



Background

Researchers from Marie Curie, UCL, Pathway and the University of York were awarded a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Partnership grant to bring professionals together to improve access to, and the quality of, palliative care for people experiencing homelessness.

This ECHO network was established to complement the work in this space, creating a platform where professionals across different backgrounds can collaborate and share learnings.

Our community

Multidisciplinary backgrounds including registered general and inclusion health nurses, mental health professionals, hostel staff, housing providers, academic researchers, social workers.



Topics covered

- Medications management for people with active addictions
- Addressing stigma around drug and alcohol use
- Dealing with inflexibility in systems
- Connecting and engaging with people experiencing homelessness
- Practical issues around supporting someone towards the end of life in temporary accommodation (if that is their wish)
- Safe hospital discharges for people experiencing homelessness with advanced ill health

Network aims



More awareness of complexity, challenges of supporting people experiencing homelessness with palliative care needs



Foster collaboration between people of different professional backgrounds



To identify research priorities for this area

Echo Sessions

10

Total registered participants

268

Average participants per session

52

Education and Case Presentations

18



Successes and highlights

- Creating a space for a diverse group of professionals to come together, share current work and challenges and learn from each other
- 85% of respondents agreed that they feel more connected with others who are interested/working in this field
- 81% of respondents agreed that the network has facilitated increased collaborations with people of different professional backgrounds
- 89% of respondents said they would re-register to a continuation of the network

What was most useful?



Listening to people's projects and what is going on elsewhere in the country as there are similarities and themes but also differences depending on area



Shared experiences. Support of other in the same field. Not feeling that you are so professionally isolated.



Understanding more about lived experience and impact of trauma