

Spotlight on Scotland Scottish Prison Service ECHO Network

Palliative/End of Life Care is such a new thing to us in the custodial setting with limited knowledge of cancer treatments and specialist care. It has been a good opportunity for us to share the limitations that we face trying to deliver the best possible standard of care to our patients.

– network participant



Background

The Scottish Government's Strategic Framework for Action on Palliative and End of Life Care shared the vision that by 2021 everyone who can benefit from palliative care in Scotland will receive it, no matter their circumstances.

This network was established in recognition of the increasing numbers facing end of life in prison, and so to increase knowledge and confidence in providing palliative care to prisoners who require it.

Our community

Palliative and healthcare care professionals, including GPs, community nurses and occupational therapists across 9 Scottish Prisons and/or who regularly work in prison settings.



Topics covered

- Recognising the deteriorating patient and Anticipatory Care Planning in palliative care patients
- Assessing and managing delirium, pain, breathlessness, nausea and vomiting in palliative care patients in the prison setting
- Difficult conversations around death and dying
- Bereavement, grief and looking after ourselves when caring for dying patients

Network aims



To enable more people to die with dignity and comfort within the Scottish prison service



To improve the knowledge and confidence of those staff who are caring for prisoners as they approach the end of life and provide support for their families and loved ones



To create a community of practice within the Scottish Prison Service

Echo Sessions

7

Total registered participants

35

Average participants per session

13

Education and Case Presentations

6



Successes and highlights

- Building relationships across health care staff across Scottish prisons
- Insight and understanding of the limitations and barriers faced by healthcare staff in prisons. Sharing resources and ways to overcome barriers.
- 86% of network participants 'completely agreed' that the presentations were useful, relevant and interesting

What was most useful?

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The ECHO project provided a safe space which allowed me to reflect and share my feelings and I felt supported and encouraged to do so.

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Extremely helpful, engaging and highly motivated speakers covering important and relevant topics to palliative care in prison settings.

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It was extremely well organised and it was really good knowing the topic in advance. The sessions/speakers were knowledgeable and presented in a clear and understandable way.

