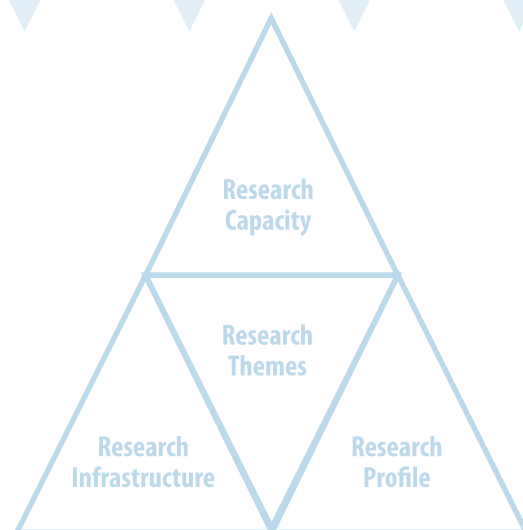


Research Matters

St Columba's Hospice Research Strategy

2015-2020



"Research is something of an investment for the future; without research we cannot sustain high quality hospice care into the future" - Fliss Murtagh

Introduction

St Columba's Hospice recognises the important role of the Hospice, as a centre for excellence, in participating, in driving and initiating research to ensure provision of high quality palliative and end-of-life care for patients and for their families.

This research strategy, developed in partnership with Queen Margaret University, is integral to the Hospice's five year strategy, Care and Compassion Matters, and is firmly grounded in the Hospice's priorities related to ensuring high quality care for patients with progressive life-limiting illnesses and for their families.

Our Vision

St Columba's Hospice aims to develop a strong research culture within the Hospice, reflected in a variety of research activities that will ensure evidence-based practice and further development of palliative and end-of-life care.

Research Matters, St Columba's Hospice's research strategy, sets out how we will ensure that research underpins and informs our day to day practice as well as new and innovative service delivery models. Systems and processes will be outlined which support research, providing a framework for a consistent approach to research activities and research capacity building.

Research Matters strives to optimise the way the Hospice employs research - both in relation to using the current evidence base, and in contributing to the existing evidence base related to palliative and end-of-life care.

Research Matters sets out to support St Columba's Hospice in becoming a Research Active Hospice as recommended by the report commissioned by Hospice UK: "Research in Palliative Care: can Hospices afford not to be involved?"

Key Aims of Our Research

All our research activities have the central focus of enhancing quality of life for people with a progressive life-limiting illness and for their families, more specifically to:

- **Ensure that we identify all patients who would benefit from palliative care in our catchment area, and that they and their families receive the best evidence-based care and treatment**
- **Be able to demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of our new service developments**
- **Encourage a culture of enquiry within the Hospice amongst staff and attract and retain high quality staff**
- **Offer more patients, families and staff the opportunity to participate in research**
- **Contribute to the advancement of palliative and end-of-life care locally, nationally and internationally.**



Key Objectives

Build and establish clear infrastructure for research

We will develop and build infrastructure for research through:

- Establishing St Columba's Hospice Research Strategy Steering Group with dual remits of development and governance, ensuring all research activities are coordinated, rigorous, ethically sound, appropriate and relevant for practice
- Holding an annual research ideas consultation workshop and meeting whereby research ideas are discussed and put forward, ensuring research ideas generated from practice are supported and taken forward as appropriate
- Publishing a Research Newsletter twice a year
- Establishing a writing group for those who are currently writing, either for publications of findings, or a proposal for research.

Increased Research Capacity

We will develop and strengthen research capacity within the Hospice through:

- Identifying staff with dedicated research time who will form the core research team at the Hospice
- Dedicated administration support for research
- Developing clinical staff confidence and skills in utilising and participating in research
- Recruiting a research fellow to support the implementation of the research strategy
- Generating research income through funding applications
- Forming strong collaborations with existing research teams locally, nationally and internationally
- Developing strong relationships with the two Palliative Care Research Teams led by Professor Scott Murray and Professor Marie Fallon
- Partnership with Queen Margaret University.

High Local, National and International Research Profile

We will increase and make more visible our research outputs and findings through:

- Presentations at conferences
- Publications in journals
- National and international collaborations
- Research section on our website
- Research newsletter
- International week held every year in collaboration with Professor Scott Murray and Professor Marie Fallon.

Research Themes

All our research activities will be organised, in order to reflect key priorities of the Hospice, local, national and international drivers and funding opportunities, through the following themes:

- Clinical interventions in palliative and end-of-life care
- Innovation in palliative care services
- Psychosocial and emotional care
- Art and humanities
- Engagement with the community.



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**St Columba's
Hospice**
CARE AND COMPASSION



Queen Margaret University
EDINBURGH

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