

# Knowledge exchange to disseminate palliative care research in Scotland

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Care and support through terminal illness

## Background

- Research is futile unless it reaches policy-makers and practitioners<sup>[1]</sup>.
- We had undertaken a scoping review of Scottish palliative care research to map research activity in Scotland and inform knowledge exchange activities<sup>[2]</sup>.

## Aims

To conduct a knowledge exchange initiative and evaluate its perceived usefulness and effect on research uptake.

## Methods

- Five **evidence review groups** were formed to examine research relevant to a Scottish Government palliative care policy commitment.
- Each group consisted of academics, health and social care professionals, service managers, educators and policy-makers.
- A research user from each group synthesized and presented findings at a **knowledge exchange event**.
- Questionnaires captured views of participants in the evidence review groups and the knowledge exchange event.

## Results

### Evidence review group meetings:

- **Perceived as useful and relevant:** 23 people participated. Fifteen completed an online questionnaire; all described the meetings as 'useful' and 'relevant'.
- **Created an opportunity to reflect on research evidence:** *"In the review meetings it was helpful to speak to people with similar research, practice and policy interests and critique the current research base."*
- **Attendees valued the mix of participants and perspectives:** *"I found it fascinating to listen to and learn from colleagues from such a range of backgrounds and to consider how the same evidence can be interpreted and utilised differently depending on perspective."*

### Knowledge exchange event:

- **Well attended and highly valued:** 100 stakeholders attended (full capacity) (*Image 1*). A good mix of research users, producers and brokers were present (*Figure 1*). 46 attendees completed a questionnaire. 78% rated the event "very useful".
- **Attendees valued the variety of content and expertise:** *"Range of speakers presenting, not just research academics."*
- **Opportunities for future networking and collaboration:** *"Bringing all the evidence (and people) together to examine it strategically and discuss 'What now? What next?'."*
- **Actions proposed included disseminating evidence to colleagues and adopting specific tools:** *"Invite palliative care researchers to speak at network/specialty groups", "Feedback to manager", "Training for team."*



Image 1: Knowledge exchange event.

## Collaboration and Research

### Impact one year on:

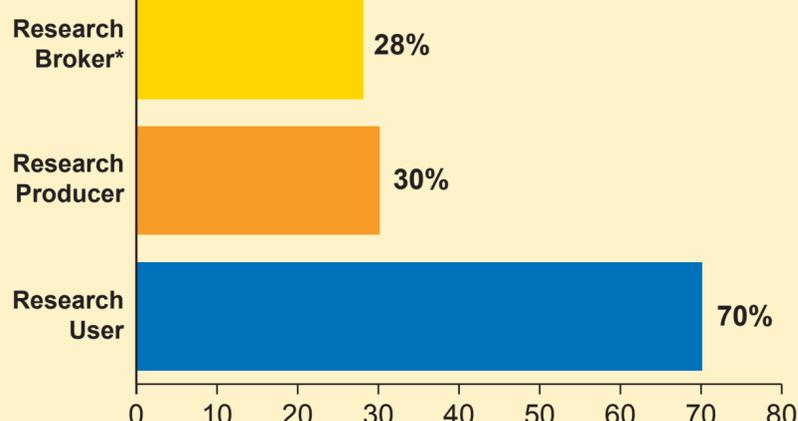
- Research informed the development of Scottish Government Commissioning Guidance
- Policy-makers and educationalists considered the concept of illness trajectories useful as a teaching aid, so researchers created resources including videos to be used by NHS Education for Scotland.
- Evidence on tools to improve identification of people for early palliative care was incorporated into training materials by Healthcare Improvement Scotland.
- A group consisting of academics and service managers was formed to apply for a grant.

## Conclusion

The process was popular and collegial. It resulted in the most relevant research being identified and subsequently used to shape palliative care education for staff; service innovation; and practice in Scotland.

### REFERENCES

- [1] Morton, S. (2015). Progressing research impact assessment: A 'contributions' approach. *Research Evaluation*, 24(4), 405-419. doi:10.1093/reseval/rvv016 <http://rev.oxfordjournals.org/content/24/4/405>
- [2] Finucane AM, Carduff E, Lugton J, Fenning S, Johnson B, Fallon M, Clark D, Spiller J & Murray SA. (2018) Palliative and end-of-life care research in Scotland 2006- 2015: A scoping review. *BMC Palliative Care*. DOI 10.1186/s12904-017-0266-0.



\*Research broker plays a role in connecting research producers (academics) and users. Participants could describe themselves as having more than one role.

Figure 1: Role of participants at the knowledge exchange event.