

underpinned the narratives. Nurses struggled with not being able to care for patients and their families in a way that they were used to and that felt intuitive and many described personal as well as professional affront.

**Conclusions** Restrictions had a considerable impact on palliative care nurses at a professional and personal level in their ability to communicate with and provide care for patients and their families which led to moral distress and injury. How they managed this and made sense of what happened affected their capacity to cope, with those unable to reconcile their experiences being profoundly impacted and losing hope for the future.

### P-206 LONG TERM IMPACT OF A SHORT COURSE IN ESSENTIALS OF PALLIATIVE CARE

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**Background** The importance for healthcare professionals (HCPs) to be trained in palliative and end-of-life care (PEoLC) was highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic (Porter, Zile, Peryer, et al., 2021. Soc Sci Med. 287:114397). With the Health and Care Bill (UK Parliament, 2022) making PEoLC a core specialty, there will be an emphasis on training HCPs to deliver generalist palliative care. The European Certificate of Essential Palliative Care (ECEPC) (Sadler, Watson & Gannon, 2021; Reed, Todd, Lawton, et al., 2018. Palliat Med. 32: 571) is a widely recognised certificate programme which has trained over 8000 HCPs since 2001.

**Aim** To understand candidates' motivation for undertaking the ECEPC and if the course, despite its short duration, has changed candidates' clinical practice.

**Methods** Candidates are invited to participate in an online survey six months after starting the course. An initial thematic analysis of responses from the summer 2021 cohort was performed.

**Results** 17 responses were received from HCPs working in acute trusts, community settings and hospices. Candidates were unanimous in undertaking the course to improve clinical practice and build skills, knowledge and confidence in PEoLC. Nine (53%) respondents undertook the course to aid career progression. Course topics identified as most beneficial were symptom recognition and management, holistic care and disease-specific information. The true-to-life clinical scenarios in written resources and the course handbook for ongoing reference were stated as useful. Application of new knowledge in communication skills, recognition of spinal cord compression and other medical emergencies and ongoing confidence in performing holistic assessments was evident. Candidates reported supporting colleagues and sharing knowledge.

**Discussion** An initial survey of ECEPC candidates demonstrates that their PEoLC knowledge and skills improved and they felt confident to share new knowledge with colleagues. Since PEoLC knowledge has been identified as a priority for HCPs (National Palliative and End of Life Care Partnership, 2021), demonstration of the benefits of this established 8-week home-study programme and its value as a stepping stone to career progression is encouraging. Results from the following cohort will be included in the upcoming complete analysis.

### P-207 SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER, SO COME AND JOIN MOUNTBATTEN'S SUMMER SCHOOL

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**Background** Mountbatten strategy provides an opportunity to challenge perceptions about death, dying and hospice care and has been used to form a summer school training programme. Additionally, this programme enables young people to learn about and experience a wide range of careers available at our hospice, thus building our workforce of the future.

**Aim** To engage young people in a summer school programme, providing an opportunity to meet various Mountbatten professionals and receive information on many of the 250 career opportunities available across the NHS and Social Care sector and to demystify and engage young people in conversations about hospice care.

#### Method

- Engagement with all local six form schools, training enterprises and colleges for those aged 16 years and above.
- Participation in a 3-day interactive programme including a mix of practical workshops and information sessions that was rewarded with a detailed certificate of attendance.
- Further opportunities presented for volunteering or work experience.
- Provided an insight to both clinical services and supportive services, for example, Human Resources, communication, and fundraising.

**Results** Students noted how their perceptions of hospice care and the hospice building were positively challenged during their summer school experience. Furthermore, students reported increased knowledge of a range of career opportunities and confidence in embracing work opportunities and pursuing career choices. Students also valued the opportunity to submit a formal application and develop a CV for future use. Qualitative and quantitative data from the two programmes run in summer 2021 and from a further programme in 2022 will be presented.

**Conclusion** Students took away valuable information to guide and support them with future career choices. Many expressed an interest to volunteer as they gained an insight into hospice care, providing the opportunity to challenge pre-existing preconceptions about the hospice building and hospice care. The programme ended with a more engaged and confident group of students who took away a unique experience.

### P-208 DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMME 'THE TULIP STANDARD ESSENTIALS OF CARE', SECURING THE FUTURE OF OUR WORKFORCE

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**Background** Our hospice vision is to meet the needs of more people. Our unregistered staff are key in helping us to provide more care and we are expanding this workforce. It is essential that these staff are equipped to meet the changing demands of their roles and especially for those new to a caring role, in order to promote job satisfaction, improved staff retention and create career progression opportunities.