The Marie Curie Research Conference 2023
Monday 6 February – Friday 10 February 2023
Financial insecurity at the end of life

1. UNDERSTANDING AIMS, SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES OF PALLIATIVE CARE AND HOMELESSNESS PROJECTS ACROSS THE UK
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Introduction
Across the UK there are a growing number of projects, aiming to improve care for people experiencing homelessness (PEH) with advanced ill health. There has been no centralised place for professionals to share experiences, learn from each other and collaborate.

Aims
To understand the current landscape within the field of palliative care and homelessness in the UK, by exploring existing project aims, successes and challenges.

Methods
An Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) network was established as a virtual community of practice to bring together a range of professionals with an interest or project in palliative care and homelessness. An online survey was distributed to the network to explore the aims, successes and challenges of palliative care and homelessness projects. Responses were summarised using descriptive statistics and free text responses were analysed using thematic analysis.

Results
To date the ECHO sessions have been well attended, each averaging 72 professionals. 153 responses to the survey were completed. Projects focused on service delivery (56%), training (20%) and research (19%). Themes for success included: improved service engagement; relationship formation; housing provision; honouring EOL wishes; upskilling staff and enabling safe hospital discharge. Main challenges included: stigma around substance misuse; securing funding; staff capacity; equipment and facilities; and engaging communities.

Conclusions
This survey mapped projects aiming to improve care and support for PEH with advanced ill health and identified successes and challenges. The ECHO network provides a forum for knowledge exchange, pooling expertise and resources.

Impact
This project has facilitated valuable connections between people working to improve support for PEH with advanced ill health. It has also enabled UK-wide mapping of projects and the development of partnerships to strengthen research, understanding and improvements.

2. A CONVERSATION WITH…..PPI
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Introduction
Involving and engaging the patient and public in research as collaborative partners is essential, from the initial concept through to publication

Aims
We will host a conversation with two members of the public about their recent experience of working with researchers to develop a research project and apply for research funding.

Methods
We recently worked with two patient and public involvement (PPI) members on two research proposals focused on financial insecurity for people living with terminal illness. Neither have previously been involved in the development of a research project, but both were able to provide invaluable insight through their own experiences. One co-applicant is living with a terminal cancer and has experienced ongoing issues with the Department for Work and Pensions related to her application for the financial benefits she is entitled to. The other co-applicant is a carer of her mother-in-law who has dementia. During the pandemic, her mother-in-law was moved to a care home. It was up to the co-applicant to find and understand possible funding options, as many sources of support (such as the citizens advice bureau) were not open.

Results
During this conversation, we will cover topics such as: (1) their experiences (2) why they agreed to get involved in the research proposals (3) how they felt about the process (4) their expectations of being a PPI research partner. We will use the NIHR framework to structure this conversation, to discuss PPI involvement throughout the research cycle from the identification of priorities through to monitoring and evaluating.

Conclusions
This conversation will enable us to understand why, how, and when members of the public decide to get involved in research.

Impact
This conversation will offer a reflection moment for all conference attendees to consider their own use of PPI and how they could better support them in the future.

REFERENCE

3. ABSTRACT WITHDRAWN

Support to family, friends, and carers

4. CAREGIVER VIEWS AND EXPECTATIONS ABOUT THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL HYDRATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF DYING PEOPLE WITH ADVANCED CANCER: A QUESTIONNAIRE STUDY
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Introduction
Evidence for the use of artificial hydration (AH) in people dying with cancer is inconclusive, which creates challenges for healthcare professionals. These situations can be distressing for family caregivers, who may have unmet