DEVELOPING A WARD BASED RESEARCH HUB IN A HOSPICE; IMPROVING RESEARCHER ENGAGEMENT WITH STAFF IN THE HOSPICE ENVIRONMENT TO PROMOTE RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVITY

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Abstracts

Activities
We chose to discuss at our weekly Journal Club the article, ‘Tidying rooms/tending hearts’, which explored the important role of the housekeeping staff. Five members of the housekeeping team attended, along with healthcare professionals from a range of hospice services. Our Journal Club is held in a hybrid format. The meeting was recorded with consent and subsequently other members of staff have listened to the recording.

Outcomes
Attendees were engaged with the topic and the housekeeping team reported that:
- They took an overwhelming sense of pride in their role and of the high standards they strive for, which are evident in their excellent infection control audit results.
- Being with patients is an important and fulfilling part of their role.
- Conversations with patients often revolved around casual topics, but patients also discussed their illness and, occasionally, thoughts regarding death with them.
- The housekeeping team sometimes felt uncomfortable and helpless and did not feel they knew what to say or do when patients talked about death.
- Often, they would not know what to expect when they entered a patient’s room.

Implications for practice
After the Journal Club meeting we met with the Senior leadership Team to discuss the outcomes and learning opportunities. This resulted in changes to practice aimed at providing palliative and end of life care training and improving pastoral support for the housekeeping team.

Conclusion
Widening participation in the Journal Club had several unexpected benefits: for the participants, who felt more included in the hospice team; and, for patient care, as hospice clinicians were able to further recognise the important daily contact and support the housekeeping team provide to patients.

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A DESCRIPTIVE CASE STUDY OF WIDENING PARTICIPATION IN A HOSPICE JOURNAL CLUB

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Background
We found that members of the non-clinical hospital team did not routinely access Journal Club meetings.

Aim
To ensure our Journal Club is relevant and inclusive to all staff working at our hospice.

Methods
The hospice advertised for PCIE group members and reached out to local community organisations. Best practice was identified through guidance from the NIHR and national Patient and Public Involvement groups.

Results
Founding members of the hospice PCIE group collaborated on developing member roles, research activities, terms of engagement, grant applications and participating in journal club.

Aims
To create a research space in the clinical environment of a UK hospice, to enable researchers to be more visible and accessible to patients, caregivers and staff.

Methods
Short term development works at the hospice has created the opportunity to re-purpose some clinical space in a clinical environment for researchers to work in the clinical environment and engage with staff. The research hub was used for a number of activities such as displaying research work, carrying out interviews and providing a creative space for the development of the 12 month ‘designer in residence’ programme. Plans to evaluate the research hub are in progress.

Results
Increased visibility of researchers has helped to promote a research culture in our hospice. The project has led to increased engagement from patients, caregivers, clinical and non-clinical staff. Hospice staff have increased participation in research activities such as abstract writing, conference attendance, grant applications and participation in journal club.

Conclusions
Creating a research space in a clinical environment can provide opportunities for better engagement between researchers, patients, caregivers and staff. We are exploring opportunities to make the research hub a permanent feature in the hospice. Evaluation of the research hub is in progress to determine its success to explore potential for translation to other hospices.