

The 'Hospice in Your Care Home' Project: A Responsive Evaluation

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Background

There is limited evidence of the impact of multi-faceted approaches used to support the delivery of palliative care in care homes.

In 2015 Wigan & Leigh hospice established a 'Hospice in Your Care Home' team using: role modelling, working alongside staff, responses to urgent referrals, advance care planning and training courses.

Aim

- To evaluate the process and outcomes of the initiative;
- To ascertain the costs of delivering the project;
- To identify facilitators and barriers to implementation.

Methods

A responsive evaluation was undertaken in 10 participating care homes (Figure 1).

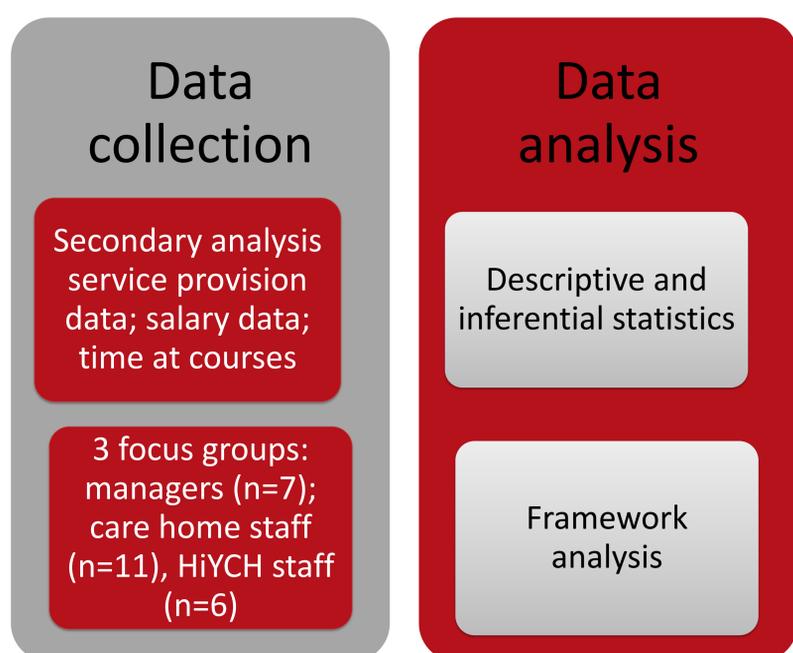


Figure 1: Evaluation methods

Key Findings

- Hospital admissions significantly reduced by 25% (p=0.01), 2015 -2016.
- Resident status meetings conducted in each facility: 4479 residents discussed at 217 meetings.
- Education delivery cost high in terms of care home staff time: equated to about £30,000 in total.
- Staff reported increased confidence in ability to care for residents with palliative care needs
- Project implementation comprised 3 stages: initiation, assimilation & 'everyday' running.
- Barriers and facilitators of the implementation were identified (Figure 2).

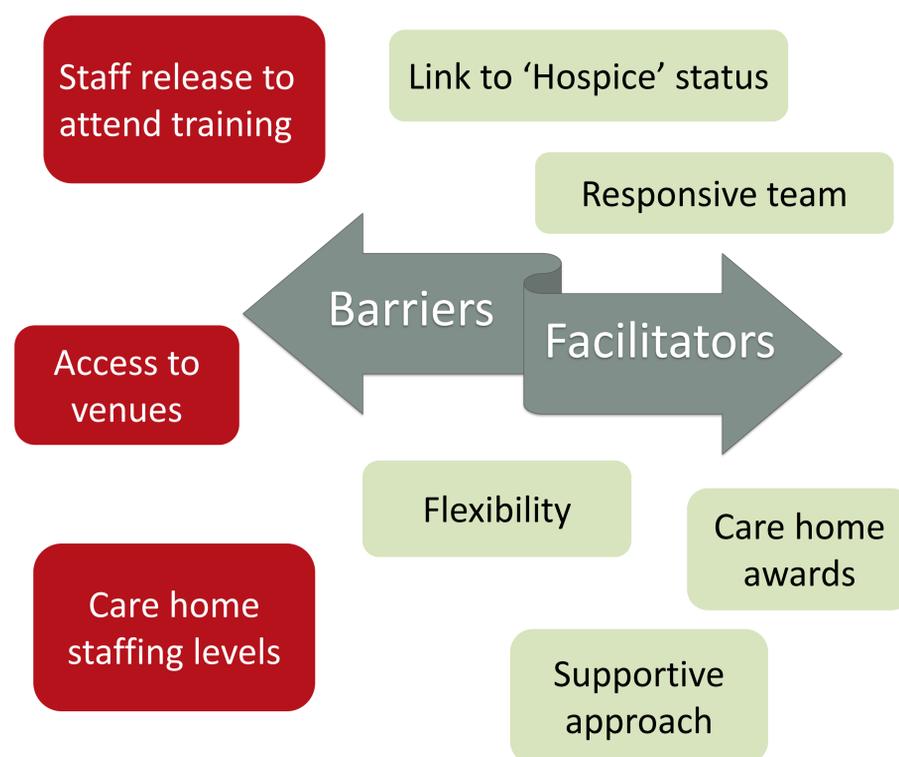


Figure 2: Facilitators and barriers of implementation

Conclusions

This model to support palliative care delivery in care homes has shown a significant reductions in hospital admissions and increased confidence of care home staff in end of life practices. There is potential to use this in other localities.



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This project was funded by Wigan Borough CCG and Wigan Council, Wigan UK.