Special Interest Group
Compassionate Communities

Purpose
This Special Interest Group (SIG) aims to facilitate collaboration across disciplines and across countries to enhance our understanding, adoption and evaluation of compassionate communities as a key component of people centred integrated care.

Background
Compassionate Communities is a global movement that recognises that caring for one another at times of health crisis and personal loss is not solely the responsibility for health and social services, but is everyone’s business. The approach aims to enable all of us to live well within our communities to the very end of our lives. The concept has evolved from the work of Professor Allan Kellehear, an Australian Public Health academic (Compassionate Cities: Public health and end of life care 2005). There is now a vibrant global movement around Compassionate Communities. Some examples focus on palliative and end of life care or on older people while others have embraced an assets based and community development approach to participation, wellbeing and healthy neighbourhoods.

Members
Practitioners, managers, researchers, students, and policy makers engaged in planning, designing, delivering or evaluating compassionate communities in different systems.

Activities
Members will shape the scope of SIG activities and outputs. These may include:
- Webinars and online peer support
- Good practice case studies, guidance and tools
- Study visits
- Blogs
- Evidence reviews and consensus documents
- Collaborative action research and benchmarking

Get Involved
If you have an interest in compassionate communities, practical experience or resources to share, a question or challenge for SIG members, or suggestions for future SIG activities please contact Marie Curran, SIG facilitator IFICscotland@integratedcarefoundation.org

Please send Marie your name; organisation; email contact; and role

Sign up to access resources:
https://integratedcarefoundation.org/ific-members-network/special-interest-groups
SIG Lead

Alison Bunce, Programme Lead, Compassionate Inverclyde, Ardgowan Hospice, Scotland.

Alison started work in Ardgowan Hospice when it originally opened in December 1989 as a staff nurse on night duty. Since that time Alison has worked in all aspects of Palliative Care including In Patient Unit, Day Hospice, Community and Acute services. Alison currently leads Compassionate Inverclyde - an award winning and inspirational social movement that is helping to transform attitudes and everyday practices around loneliness, social isolation, death and bereavement across Inverclyde.

Co-lead

Anne Mills

Director, Scholl Academic Centre, Isle of Man

As Director of the Scholl Academic Centre Anne is fast establishing the centre as a Centre of Excellence in Integrated Care and is developing the centre’s reputation as such. Anne leads the SIG for Palliative and End of Life Care and also Co-leads the SIG for Integrated Care in Small Island systems. Previously holding Honorary positions in Cardiff University and Queens University Belfast Anne has a track record of connecting Academics and Clinicians to ensure research and scholarly activity focuses on what can be improved for people, patients and families in other words keeping it real. Anne is tirelessly committed to people centred values and believes that populations fair better in a dynamic and active research culture that focuses on translational research explicitly linked with systems improvement and integration.

Moderators

Alison and Anne will be supported by moderators drawn from the SIG membership to enrich the knowledge base, facilitate sharing of experience, mobilise participation and extend the reach of the global community of practice. Moderators are knowledgeable and passionate about compassionate communities and will be expected to:

- Support the SIG lead to update the annual workplan
- Identify specific topic areas to lead on
- Mobilise their networks to source and share resources, updates, and learning opportunities that can be uploaded
- Encourage members to use the SIG as a discussion forum
- Contribute a blog about their work or local developments
- Participate in SIG virtual meetings and ICIC workshops
- Contribute to Integrated Care Matters Webinars
Cristina studied social work. She was always interested in community empowerment, working with street children in India, homeless people in Spain and Ireland, and young people who lost their homes and families after Nepal’s earthquake in 2015. It was this last experience that brought her close to death and she discovered one of her passions: to promote the power of community to help one another in the most difficult situations. She is master in coaching for motivation and social change, social worker and specialized in prevention and intervention for homeless people, addiction and mental health. She is currently a community promoter for people who face advanced illness and end of life. Since February 2016, she leads the development of Seville, Compassionate City, facilitating the implication of the community on end of life care.

Ari Cowan, Director General of the International Center for Compassionate Organizations (ICCO)

The ICCO focuses on fostering cultures of compassion in government, business, healthcare systems, service agencies, colleges and universities, schools, faith groups, and other organizations worldwide. For his work to end violence, Mr. Cowan received the (Broad Street Pump) National Public Health Award from the United States affiliate of the international physician organization that received the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize. Mr. Cowan's award recognized his work on behalf of children and families and his “outstanding activism, steadfast commitment, and passion for a better world.” He also received the Professionals in Human Resources Association’s Award for Excellence in Human Resources, the highest award granted by that organization. He was cited — along with Nobel Prize recipient and former President Jimmy Carter and 1980 Nobel Prize recipient Adolfo Pérez Esquivel (among others) — for his assistance in bringing the first public edition of The International Bill of Human Rights to publication.

Under a grant from the Fetzer Institute, Mr. Cowan established and served as the Consulting Director of the International Institute for Compassionate Cities for the Compassionate Action Network International (now the Charter for Compassion). He made presentations at the United Nations (compassionate governance), the University of Pennsylvania Positive Psychology Center, the international Empathy and Compassion in Society Conference (London, UK), and the International Summit Conference on Compassionate Organizations.
Victoria Bowden
Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist

Cheryl Bradas,
Geriatric Clinical Nurse Specialist

The MetroHealth System, U.S.A

Victoria and Cheryl are both certified hospice and palliative care nurses, (CHPN). They developed and work with the Dept of Volunteer Services in coordinating the No One Dies Alone (NODA) program in which 90% of NODA volunteers are non-clinical people providing compassionate companionship to hospitalized patients at end-of-life. They also provide ongoing End of Life communication to hospital nursing staff, correctional nursing staff, and several community organizations focusing on ways to improve End of Life care, including decreasing loneliness and social isolation, while creating compassionate communities.

Carly Attridge, Head of Volunteering,
St Joseph's Hospice, Mare Street, London. UK

Currently Head of Volunteering and Senior Programme Lead for the award winning Compassionate Neighbours at St Joseph’s Hospice, Hackney, Carly has spent the last 2.5 years scaling up Compassionate Neighbours with seven other hospices in London and the surrounding area with financial and in kind support of NESTA. She brings a wealth of expertise in the setting up, management and development of community-led programmes throughout East London. Prior to St. Joseph’s she set up a community day programme for adults with learning disabilities, and a local befriending service with Outward, a support and care charity, as well as the first Hackney Food Cycle Hub, a community meal rescuing food that was edible but would normally go to waste.

Naomi Hasson, Compassionate Getxo lead, Getxo Zurekin, Basque Country, Spain.

Naomi came first contact with palliative care was in Guatemala in the 1990´s as a newly qualified nurse. Since then she has worked in different areas, both employed and voluntary, including in St Joseph’s Hospice as a staff nurse, with Macmillan as a volunteer, and creating and implementing a hospice at home project in an area of Northern Spain. She currently lives in the Basque Country where she leads Compassionate Getxo, Getxo Zurekin.
Holly Rankin-Smith National Lead, Compassionate Communities, Groundswell Project, Australia

Holly is the Compassionate Communities National lead for The GroundSwell Project in Australia and manages the National Compassionate Communities Forum across 8 community sites. Holly brings over 10 years’ experience of community development work and has worked across Australia on projects addressing a range of social issues including; at-risk rural teenagers, isolation in elderly maritime communities and campaigning for justice for indigenous communities. Holly believes the arts are a key driver in generating sustainable social change and this forms the underlying approach to her work. She is excited to contribute to growing community capacity around end of life care in Australia. Holly has a background in digital comms, a Master’s degree in Development Studies and is also an authorised civil celebrant.

Niki Read, Compassionate Communities Local Lead, GroundSwell Project

Niki works for The GroundSwell Project as the Compassionate Communities Local Lead where she works at a grassroots level with people, groups, organisations, businesses and health professionals in the community of the Blue Mountains and in Liverpool Hospitals' Acute Palliative Care 'Ward without walls' project to build an active and engaged citizenship that gives it’s heartfelt, informed best to all who happen upon the end of a life. Niki has been a part of The GroundSwell project since it’s conception, with a background as a multi-disciplinary artist; in community and in health. Niki was research assistant on both the 'Bringing our dying home' and ‘Co-creating an ecology of care’ research projects for 5 years with the Caring at end of life Research Team at Western Sydney University. She manages a Creative Legacy project, has taught writing skills to people living with life-limiting illness and their and hosted intimate community festival experiences in which to remember our dead.