



## Celebrating Kind, Caring, Connected Communities

### Virtual Café April 24th

43 people joined from across Scotland, Ireland, N Ireland, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands and Belgium.

**Dr Laura Turney, Head of Public Service Reform Unit, Scottish Government** welcomed all participants and spoke about the Scottish Government's interest in creating the conditions to nurture Compassionate Communities, not least as we recover from the pandemic. She reflected on the important contribution to prevention and improving outcomes for people and place, in line with the messages of the [Christie Commission](#)

**Caroline Gibb, Programme Lead, [The Truacanta Project](#)** outlined the recently concluded community development project to support Scottish communities to improve local experiences of death, dying and bereavement. Five of the 11 communities shortlisted were selected to participate in the project from 2020-2023. 4 communities completed the project: Truacanta Highland; Say Something Dundee; North Berwick Compassionate Community; and Truacanta Perthshire. The project report is expected at the end of May. Meantime more information can be found [here](#).

**Alison Bunce, Programme Lead [Compassionate Inverclyde](#)** described how their local programme evolved as the community identified other 'big ticket' issues such as loneliness and isolation as well as death and loss. Alison used a strength based community development approach, empowering people to work alongside professionals and to support their fellow citizens in many different settings and through many community led initiatives focused around kindness, helpfulness, neighbourliness and support for bereavement.

**Vicki Cloney, Partnership Facilitator, CVS Inverclyde** spoke about establishing a local network to build resilience, foster hope and improve support for people experiencing multiple inequalities. This work was inspired by the [hard-edges-scotland](#) report and has prompted a more holistic and cross sector approach to challenging stigma, including more careful use of language. You can read more about this work in the reflection on [challenging-stigma](#)

**Hugh Nelson, Compassionate Communities, Northern Ireland**, spoke of their focus on loneliness and wellbeing as well as end of life care and loss. <https://compassionatecommunitiesni.com/resources/>

**Dr Anna Sangren, Director of the Center for Collaborative Palliative Care, Linnaeus University** shared early work and research on Compassionate Communities in Sweden. **Dr Ana Carriazo** reminded us of the excellent work by Todos Contigo, Compassionate Seville, and of the strategic approach to palliative care in Andalucia.

**Dr Wilma van der Vlegel** from the Netherlands reflected on the challenge and importance of engaging with municipalities and having conversations with citizens about what help they need to have a good life.

Another example highlighted was [Solva care](#) in Wales.


<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/how-most-caring-community-wales-26754322>

Colm McBriarty, Age Scotland Community Development Officer outlined the About Dementia team and network of Dementia Friendly Communities – These include formal groups, social clubs, Meeting Centres, day centres, community networks, support services, and Resource Centres that support people with dementia and their carers to be connected and live a good life.

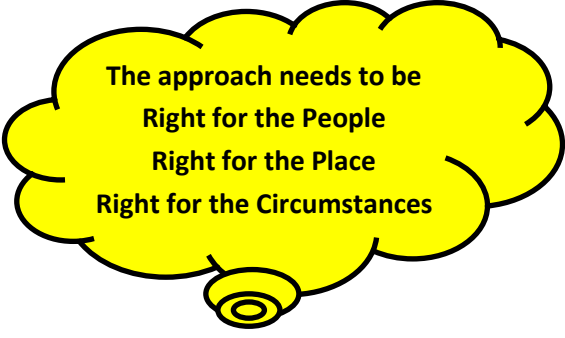
Emer Coveney, National Programme Manager, Age Friendly Ireland described the well-established national programme, embedded in local authorities, towns and neighbourhoods. Training and accessibility / walkability audits by older people feature prominently as do intergenerational creative and cultural initiatives.

Anuj spoke of the Care Inspectorate's Care About Physical Activity programme in Care Homes; finding meaning and purpose pre-retirement; and intergenerational projects that span all life stages.

### Take Home Messages



People live in homes  
and communities,  
not in services.



The approach needs to be  
Right for the People  
Right for the Place  
Right for the Circumstances

- ⇒ Compassionate Inverclyde has been inspiration to how we have evolved in N Ireland.
- ⇒ Compassionate Communities allows for ALL groupings to engage and seems to embrace life and living from cradle to grave.
- ⇒ This is not a linear process – it involves a lot of Coddiwomple - travelling in a purposeful manner to a vague destination
- ⇒ Bad things happen but we need to change the narrative and celebrate kindness at every age and stage.
- ⇒ Community problems need community solutions – we all need to be in this together.
- ⇒ Sometimes our work is not branded as Compassionate Communities but the principles are the same - inclusive and connected communities that help people live their best lives
- ⇒ Small steps, small numbers are ok—Just start somewhere and the momentum grows.

You will find the webinar recording [here](#) and Presentation slides [here](#)

Register for our next Webinar: [Personalising Population Health](#)

June 14th @ 4.00 - 5.30 pm BST

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