

**NIHR & Charities Consortium for
Hospice and Community Care Research**

First National Conference

**Supportive and Palliative Care Research in the Hospice and Community
Setting**

Thursday 19 April 2018

Venue: BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LP

In Suffolk, where I live, only 1% of people would like to die in hospital, but only some 40% do. Nationally the experience of dying is much the same. This conference on supportive and palliative care in the hospice and community setting was the first opportunity for a national research collaborative to come together and discuss its work.

The NIHR Cancer and Nutrition Collaboration was asked to present its research scope and achievement - connecting its research purpose to hospice and community research. And in particular, to do so from the perspective of the impact for good that public involvement has brought to the cancer and nutrition research collaborative. As a carer involved in the collaborative's public involvement workstream, I presented to the conference.

Nutrition implicates our resilience to cancer from pre-conception through our entire lives – where at any point we are vulnerable to cancer – prevention being the best strategy so what is the role of nutrition in prevention – we may have a genetic pre-disposition so how does nutrition act then – there may be identification of pre-malignancy in screening : how will nutrition support us then - nutrition's hugely important role in cancer treatment – what's its part in prevention of recurrence post treatment – how does nutrition contribute to our resilience and healthy living with and beyond cancer – and how does it support good palliative and end of life experience.

I was unexpectedly emotional – though in hindsight perhaps it was predictable – as my own memories of end of life arose as I was about to show the first slide. Authenticity has its limits!

There are some 200 plus hospices and some 40 plus engage in palliative and end of life research. The ambition is to have every hospice engaged by 2022 be it as research aware and then ready through to research active. Hospice UK <https://www.hospiceuk.org/> has just produced guidance to hospices in developing a research strategy and Marie Curie's Research Impact Report has just also been published <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/research>

Just a few days later, at a public meeting, The Elisabeth Hospice in Suffolk launched its campaign to improve end of life experiences locally. I asked about its research strategy.

Paul Charlton