



4TH International  
PUBLIC HEALTH &  
PALLIATIVE CARE  
CONFERENCE  
2015

Community  
Resilience in  
Practice

11th – 16th May 2015  
Bristol Marriott Hotel  
City Centre  
BRISTOL, ENGLAND

## The 4th International Public Health & Palliative Care Conference

11<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Bristol Marriot City Conference Centre, Bristol, UK

### Abstract Submission Form

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<b>Presentation type (poster / oral presentation / workshop)</b>	Presentation (we would also be open to doing a workshop if the conference organisers thought it appropriate)
<b>Conference theme area</b>	Community Engagement
<b>Title</b>	We can't do it alone: hospices and schools working together to educate and support children around death, dying and bereavement.

**Abstract (maximum 250 words)**

**Background:** Educating and supporting children around death, dying and bereavement, in schools, frequently relies on the individual interest and expertise of staff (Rowland 2003). Moves to develop such work often results in one off projects led by external agencies. Support and education is therefore adhoc and unequitable. A research study was undertaken between a hospice and school to develop practice in this area from a health promotion perspective. This presentation discusses the design and implementation of two practice innovations arising from this process.

**Aim:** The innovations aimed to introduce and educate children on issues related to loss and change, whilst simultaneously ensure that school staff have the skills and confidence to support individual experiences within the school setting. This was from a harm reduction and early intervention standpoint.

**Method:** Collaborative inquiry, within an action research methodology, was used to advance the innovations. This involved school and hospice staff working together to design and facilitate the activities.

**Results:** A programme of activities for children aged 5 to 11 (the resilience project) was designed and integrated throughout the curriculum. This is currently being piloted. A bereavement training programme was designed and facilitated to all school staff. Evaluations reported an increase in confidence around supporting bereavement issues.

**Conclusion:** The process highlighted that combining the skills and expertise of hospice and school staff was essential in developing sustainable activities, appropriate to the setting. The role of the hospice in engaging with communities to collaboratively develop education and support around death, dying and bereavement was emphasised.

**Timings:** The closing date for Abstract submissions is 5:00 PM GMT on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Decisions will be communicated to applicants by email in the first week of January 2015.

**Abstract Submission Information:** Please submit your Abstract to: Marie Reynolds, Eventpro UK.  
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