CASE STUDY SITE NEWSLETTER – December 2018

Thank you to all our case study site teams for your continued hard work in helping us make the study a success. We cannot complete this important study without your contributions.

RECRUITMENT .... SO FAR

199 patient/carer pairs are now enrolled in the study (to 30 November 2018)! Please keep up the good work!

Congratulations to services in the yellow quadrant below who have now reached and exceeded the recruitment lower target, well done!

We are here and happy to support sites in any way we can during the recruitment period in person or over the phone so don’t hesitate to contact us if you need anything.

Tips for successful recruitment

The PI at one of our highest recruiting case study sites has been kind enough to send us some tips for successful recruitment:

‘don’t be afraid to ask, I’ve been quite surprised by the response even when you think there’s no chance’

‘I’ve also said about it helping others in a similar situation and sometimes that has helped …’

‘I think it helps knowing its national, managed by a university’

New sites joining the study.

Our two new sites in quadrant 1 (orange box above) are now off the ground with recruitment, well done to the teams recruiting. We will have 3 new sites in Quadrant 2 (grey box above) in the New Year. We welcome them to the study and we are very excited to be working with these new sites.
We mentioned in our last newsletter that we would be displaying our poster on the public and patient involvement work we have undertaken on the project at the National Association for Hospice at Home conference in Harrogate in October.

The researchers had an inspiring, thought provoking day. They appreciated the interest in the poster from delegates and having the opportunity to talk and discuss the poster and the project with them.

### PRIMARY OUTCOME DATA – update.

As of 31st October we have collected 36 Quality of Death and Dying questionnaires (or QODD for short) with carers post-bereavement across all sites. This is an uptake of 48% of those carers recruited into the study. Of those QODDs we have not been able to collect, just under a fifth (17%) had declined to complete the interview and a third of carers being uncontactable by telephone.

### DON’T FORGET TO CONTACT US WITH ANY QUESTIONS ... BIG or SMALL

Each site has a dedicated researcher to answer all questions big or small. Our research team members who will be running the study and collecting data from our carer recruits are:

Dr Ferhana Hashem  
Researcher  
f.hashem@kent.ac.uk  
01227 824887

Dr Brooke Swash  
Researcher  
bes25@medschl.cam.ac.uk  
01223 769276

Dr Rasa Mikelyte  
Researcher  
r.mikelyte@kent.ac.uk  
01227 823666

Dr Vanessa Abrahamson  
Researcher  
w.j.abrahamson@kent.ac.uk  
01227 826506

Dr Melanie Rees-Roberts  
Project Manager  
m.rees-roberts@kent.ac.uk  
01227 816433

Please note that the Universities will be closed over the Christmas/New Year period between the dates below. Please do inform new recruited carers that they may not be contacted by a researcher until the New Year where possible:

**21st December until 2nd January (University of Kent)**
**17th December until 7th January (University of Cambridge)**

Emergency contacts are:
Prof Claire Butler, Chief Investigator  
C.Butler-779@kent.ac.uk  
07815 901838 (21st-26th Dec)

Dr Mel Rees-Roberts, Project Manager  
M.Rees-Roberts@kent.ac.uk  
07795 523131 (27th Dec-2nd Jan)

The OPEL project team would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas.

We extend warm wishes to all patients, carers and staff across our sites for the upcoming year.