



UNIVERSITY  
*of York*

**RESEARCH**



The  
**Martin House**  
RESEARCH CENTRE

A background image showing a network of interconnected nodes and lines, representing collaboration and connectivity. The nodes are small black spheres, and the lines are colored in shades of orange, pink, and purple. The network is set against a light grey background.

**WORKING  
TOGETHER  
TO DELIVER  
CHILDREN'S  
PALLIATIVE CARE  
ACROSS A REGION**

# MARTIN HOUSE RESEARCH CENTRE

## The issue

The development of children's palliative care services in the UK has happened inconsistently across the country, and the various caregiving organisations don't always work together. This means that even children with similar needs may receive different services at different times depending on where they live. Managed clinical networks - formalised groups of health staff and organisations who work together - have been recommended as a solution. These networks have been introduced successfully for other patient groups, but there is little evidence about how they work in children's palliative care.

## The research

This study aimed to understand what can help managed clinical networks for children's palliative care work well, and what can hinder this. The study interviewed 45 staff involved in one regional established network in England to explore their perceptions and experiences of the network. Staff either had a role in developing the network or worked for an organisation that was part of the network.

## The outcome

Having a paid member of staff who coordinates the network, enthusiastic individuals who lead the network, and clear ways for staff to get involved, were all factors that helped the network to become established and share best practices. However, key barriers made it difficult for the network to assess and improve children's palliative care across the region. These included limited funding, difficulty sharing information, and the lack of standards and evidence for children's palliative care. These barriers are likely to impact other managed clinical networks for children's palliative care and limit their ability to ensure all children have access to the care they need.

## Centre Director

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## Published paper

[https://bmcpcalliatcare.  
biomedcentral.com/  
articles/10.1186/s12904-  
021-00712-7](https://bmcpcalliatcare.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12904-021-00712-7)

## Our research themes:

CREATIVITY | CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION | ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE | JUSTICE AND EQUALITY  
HEALTH AND WELLBEING | RISK, EVIDENCE AND DECISION MAKING | TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE FUTURE