

The Martin House Research Centre (MHRC) – Strategy

1. The Martin House Research Centre is a partnership between Martin House Children’s Hospice, the University of York ([Department of Health Sciences](#) and the [Social Policy Research Unit](#)) and the University of Leeds. It will undertake research concerning the care and support of children and young people with life-limiting conditions or medical complexity, their families and staff who care for and support this population. It is a multi-disciplinary centre, with expertise in a range of research designs and methods. The Centre is holistic in its scope, recognising that the care and support needs of children and families span clinical/medical, social, emotional, parenting/caring, spiritual, financial and practical domains.

2. Vision

The Martin House Research Centre will be a resource that, via a model of collaboration with families, professionals and academics in other institutions, undertakes and enables high quality applied research of national and international significance.

3. Strategic Aims

- a. to undertake and effectively disseminate world leading research into the care and support of children and young people with life-limiting conditions or medical complexity, their families and staff who care for them
- b. to build research capacity within the topic area and within the context, and active support, of two of the UK’s prestigious Russell Group of universities.
- c. to act as ‘hub’ and facilitator for research in the UK and internationally.
- d. to offer a ‘responsive research facility’ to Martin House to support evidence-informed decision-making by Martin House.
- e. to support Martin House to continue being a research-active organisation
- f. where appropriate, to stimulate and support the involvement of Martin House staff and the families who use Martin House in the Centre’s research.
- g. to represent Martin House at regional, national and international children’s palliative care research forums.

4. Strategic Plan

In order to achieve its aims, the MHRC will:

- a. Recruit, train, retain and mentor high calibre researchers.
- b. develop a strong national and international reputation by collaborating with key individuals and research groups on grant applications.
- c. engage with key stakeholders including parents, young people, service providers (statutory and voluntary sector), clinicians and policy makers to ensure the work of the Centre reflects the concerns and issues being faced by the different stakeholder groups.
- d. build research capacity within the sector via provision of opportunities for masters students, PhD students and professionals working in this field to develop their research skills.
- e. ensure that all research has policy/practice implications or develops the research methodology in this field.