**Status of The Royal Liverpool’s Research September 2020**

The original pilot of the service and  aim of the study was to explore the process and outcomes of the service which include a focus on the  family/ carers .

The project was structured within the framework of a Medical Research Council Complex Intervention Phase 1 study, and involved:

•             The recruitment of a cohort of volunteers who could demonstrate the appropriate life skills, attitudes and sensitivity for a volunteering role supporting dying patients and their families.

•             The development and facilitation of a bespoke volunteer education and training programme which would adequately prepare the participants for their ongoing role. This involved a delicate interplay between the development of their awareness of end of life care, honing their communication skills and exploring their sense of resilience and ability to cope with the demands of the volunteering role, without professionalising their role, and compromising their value as lay, community representatives.

•             A 6 month pilot implementation period to explore whether the volunteer service could enhance and complement the clinical expertise of the ward team. Feedback from our colleagues in Germany, Italy and the Netherlands suggested that there may be some initial tension and resistance from the ward team who may challenge the involvement of non-professionals. The pilot implementation would also provide the opportunity to explore the patient and family response to the service and whether there was a demand for a service of this kind within the hospital setting.

•             A Mixed methods exploration of the process and outcomes of the pilot phase to explore the tripartite perspective- family member, healthcare professional and Volunteer.  It would also provide the opportunity to explore the patient and family response to the service and whether there was a demand for a service of this kind within the hospital setting**.**

The first paper published in BMC Palliative Care focussed on the reflective diaries used in the Volunteer Training Programme and the final paper; ["A qualitative exploration of experiences from a newly developed Care of the Dying Volunteer (CODV) service, from the perspectives of relatives/friends, volunteers and health professionals."](https://hfcommunity-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/mmb_helpforce_community/EVCX53nf-jxBkOxm5pNlh-oB5IxrGWMS1X2dx1GPkoB6vg?e=q8whDP) has been successfully submitted online and is presently being given full consideration for publication in Qualitative Health Research- I will keep you updated on this.