

East Anglia Children's Palliative Care Managed Clinical Network Practitioner Operational Group

Terms of Reference

Vision for the Managed Clinical Network (MCN)

A reliable and respected network of specialists in palliative care who are available, when required, to support the wide range of clinicians who are involved in the care of children and young people with palliative care needs.

To promote effective collaboration across organisational boundaries to ensure the best use of resources, facilities, knowledge and experience to improve the quality of palliative care and outcomes for children, young people and families, reduce costs and facilitate more effective commissioning of children's palliative care services.

Scope of MCN

The focus for the MCN is children and young people determined as having one of the four categories of life limiting and life threatening conditions (ACT RCPCH 1997). The MCN pilot extends across the EACH catchment area including the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, North / West Essex Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

Structure of the MCN

A Clinical Steering Group supported by part time MCN staff (Project Lead and Administrator until April 2013) and a Practitioner Operational Group.

Functions / Activities of the MCN Practitioner Operational Group

The functions and activities of the Practitioner Operational Group (POG) are to:

- Work with the Clinical Steering Group to develop, disseminate and audit well defined care and information sharing protocols
- Actively participate in developing expertise in paediatric palliative care in the children's workforce
- Provide two-way feedback between the groups of people / professionals they represent and the Practitioner Operational Group
- Actively promote the concept of the Network to provide peer support, shared learning and development of consistent services not limited by organisational or geographical boundaries
- Deliver greater consistency in practice by strengthening timely planning and co-ordination of care during normal working hours
- Work to agreed priorities in an annual work plan

How Success / Failure will be judged

- Benchmark current position in a number of agreed core areas (linked to the annual POG work plan)
- Audit

Key Relationships

- Clinical Steering Group
- Specific professional regional groups
- Local teams and workplaces

Membership

Nursing staff from across the region with a special interest and expertise to develop consistent high quality services for children's palliative care.

Chair – a rotational post for 18 months. New chair to be appointed June 2013.

Responsibilities

Each member to:

- Actively participate in the development of MCN products including the education programme
- Take responsibility to disseminate information to their constituent networks and groups and report back to the Practitioner Group any relevant issues and information from these groups.
- Act as champions for CYP palliative care in local geographical areas / networks promoting the MCN agreed areas of work

Authority

The Practitioner Operational Group is actively supporting the MCN Clinical Steering Group to delivery its targets. The MCN has been commissioned by NHS Cambridgeshire to explore the practical implications of operationalising a MCN in the East Anglia. The SHA has endorsed this commission.

Frequency of Meeting

Termly - maximum 4 times per year. Meeting up to half a day.

Review

Terms of Reference to be reviewed June 2013

Jan 2013