

participate as champions. We were looking for anyone with experience, expertise or enthusiasm in end of life care. We did not ask for a long term commitment, just that people would attend one event.

We held four events with the champions. Each event had a mixed audience (social care, health, carers, voluntary and private sector) as we wanted people to find out about each other's work and experiences. At the events, participants were asked to share experiences of working together in end of life care. People talked about what had worked and what had not. The groups then looked at these experiences to identify the most important messages about working together.

Once all of the events were finished we used the materials to produce a set of six key messages for people working at the front line, to help them in their everyday practice. The key messages were also developed into an interactive tool. Those messages were used to underpin a learning and development session that was developed to deliver to front line workers.

The stories that people told were used to create a single story that was made into a film called 'it helps to talk'. The film illustrates the key messages. As the materials were developed, champions and the strategic group were consulted to ensure that what we produced reflected what people said. All of the champions agreed to share their contact information with each other, and that formed the basis for the development of the network.

We then used all of our contacts to invite people to attend a free learning and development event. We told people we wanted mixed groups, but said we were happy to run sessions in a workplace so long as other people could attend. To maximise people's ability to attend we offered the programme at different times of the day, and kept it short (1½ hours).

A project report, giving more detail about what we did and people's experiences has also been produced.

Additional funding enabled a second phase of the project to be run in the 14-15 financial year. This second phase of the project covered the remaining 3 LA areas – Barnet, Enfield and Haringey. Sessions for champions and further learning and development sessions were delivered and the learning from these was fed back to the London social care EoLC network. In addition accredited training opportunities were offered, the project resources were widely disseminated and the networks developed in phase 1 were built on and expanded.

All of the materials mentioned here are available online at

www.skillsforcare.org.uk/endoflifecare

www.skillsforhealth.org.uk and www.ncpc.org.uk

For further information please contact Ali Rusbridge at

Ali.Rusbridge@skillsforcare.org.uk

