

Compassionate Communities Community of Practice (COP) Northern Ireland



This document has been drafted as an introduction and as a suggested guideline to establishing a Community of Practice. The purpose of this Community of Practice is to improve the experiences of those people who are dying, those people closest to them and those they leave behind.

August 2022

What is Compassionate Communities?

Compassionate Communities is a public health approach to palliative and end of life care. The places in which people live, work and play are communities that can help us to live well and to die well.

Based on the principles of a whole population approach, of community engagement and development, prevention, harm reduction and early intervention; the Compassionate City Charter promotes that everyone has a responsibility to support others at a time of crisis.

“A compassionate city is a community that recognises that care for one another at times of crisis and loss is not simply a task solely for health and social services but is everyone’s responsibility.”

Allan Kellehear

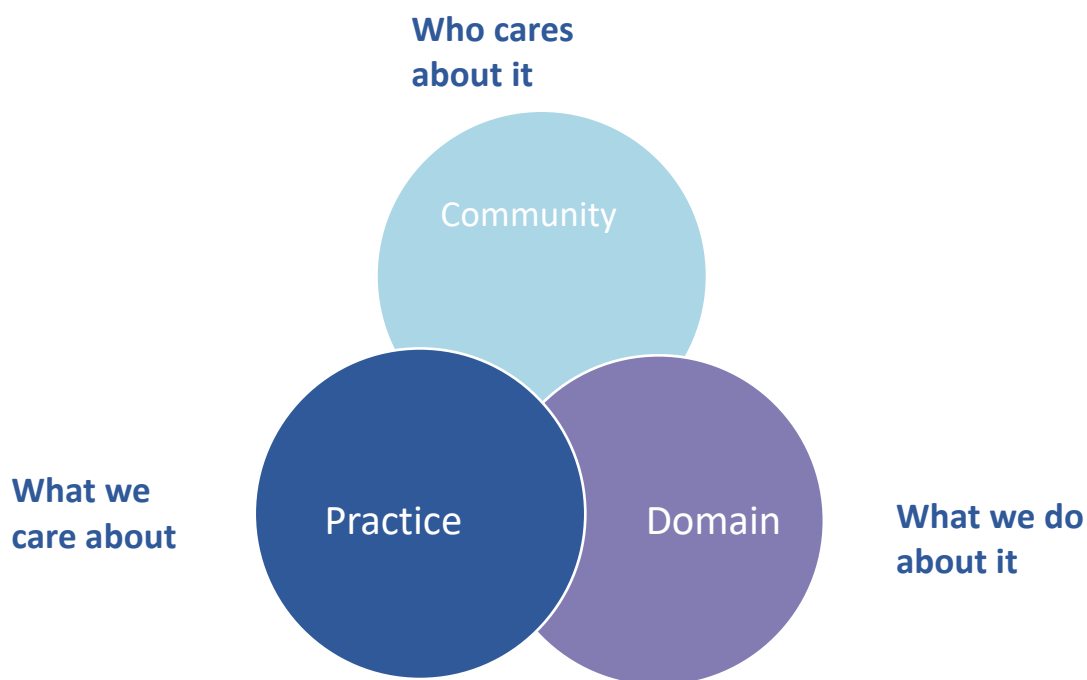
What is a Community of Practice?

The Compassionate Communities Community of Practice is, at its core, a forum for shared learning that will facilitate improved practices. It is defined as:

‘A committed group of people who share an interest in an aspect of work, aimed at developing capacity within communities, to support those people impacted by dying, death and bereavement.

This group is passionate about engaging on a regular basis to think together, problem solve and learn from each other. They use emergent knowledge and insights to improve practice and grow as people’.

What does a Community of Practice look like?



A COP has 3 distinguishing features:

1. Community

This is formed by people who engage with each other on a regular basis to share learning and in doing so, build supportive working relationships.

2. Domain of interest

This is the focus of a particular area of practice that members care about, for example advance care planning or building capacity within communities.

3. Practice

This is what the members do together i.e. the process of creating meaning, coherence and sharing learning. Practice is the application of knowledge and in this case all members are developing their shared approach.

When people with an interest in the domain come together to engage in conversation and share experiences, learning occurs. Application of the shared learning results in improvement in practice.

Draft Compassionate Communities Community of Practice Charter

The draft (page 4) is a conversation starter, it outlines suggestions for cross-sectoral organisations and citizens as members. Also included are key topic areas of interest, ways of working and so forth.

Compassionate Communities Community of Practice

A collaborative multiagency approach to connecting communities to support people who are dying, those closest to them and those they leave behind.

Domain of interest: A collaborative multiagency partnership approach to developing integrated community care for people with advanced illness, and frailty to help them live life as fully as they can. To improve death and bereavement experiences, stakeholders will come together to share their insights, ideas and experiences in order to learn from each other. This will create a culture of collaboration and partnership.

Membership	Roles	Behaviours	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C&V sector • NHSCT, SHSCT, BHSCT, WHSCT, SET • People living with advanced illness and frailty • Unpaid carers • People impacted by bereavement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary and community care LCGs • Councils • Education • Faith Houses • Workplace • Marginalised communities, e.g. the homeless, those imprisoned, the LGBTQ+ community... • Health improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members • Facilitator • Sponsors • Core planning group • Funders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset- based Community Development Approach
Key topics	Measures	Ways of working	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a shared vision • Needs of people impacted by death, dying ad bereavement • Identification and development of resources available to people living with advanced illness and frailty 	<p><i>Based on the added value:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate value of event • Potential value • Applied value • Realised value • Reframing value • Multiagency contribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet 4 times per year • Half day gatherings • Connecting outside events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems thinking

Next Steps

Regional Event

A regional event to bring interested parties together is scheduled during **Palliative Care Week 14 September 2022, 10.30 - 12.30, Seamus Heaney HomePlace.**

Speak to people in your organisation

It might be an idea to speak to other people in your organisation who might be interested in registering their interest or would support you to engage with this group.

Further reading

[Compassionate City Charter](#)

[Compassionate Communities NI](#)

Register your Interest

To register your interest in becoming a member of the Compassionate Communities Community of Practice, or find out more, please contact:

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