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Research Article

Meeting social welfare legal needs in end-of-life care: co-creation of a system-wide research partnership

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Plain language summary

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Social welfare legal issues, such as unsuitable housing, job difficulties and money concerns, are common in the last 12 months of a person's life and they affect carers too. Getting the right help can be difficult as it is hard to know where to go. Organisations and services often work separately from each other. Healthcare professionals are often the first contact for social welfare legal needs, but they may not be able to provide the required support.

Interprofessional learning brings professionals together to learn from each other and connect services better. We think this will make it easier for people to get the help they need when the same is required.

We set up a group of professionals and four people with personal experience. This partnership group started with people and organisations we knew already but more joined during the project.

By the end, 37 different services, representing a range of health, advice and community services, had joined the research group. All services had experience of social welfare legal issues in the last 12 months of life. The group discussed running research together and how interprofessional learning could be tested in our next research project.

Research activities were:

- two online meetings to discuss key questions
- a workbook which gave time to think about the questions we were asking
- a survey which asked participants their views about measuring success of interprofessional learning.

Group members brought a variety of experiences and opinions. Some had difficulty taking part, mainly because of time. We learnt that professional and personal experiences are as important as each other and that it is important to avoid jargon.

Testing if interprofessional learning makes a difference needs to look at people using services, professionals and organisations.

We have written a funding application, based on what we have learnt in this project.