



## Research Article

# Building research capacity and capability to enhance the quality of living and dying addressing advancing frailty through integrated care: the ALLIANCE partnership

Sarah Combes,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Rowan H Harwood,<sup>3</sup> Louise Bramley,<sup>3</sup> Nadia Brookes,<sup>4</sup> Adam L Gordon,<sup>3</sup> Diane Laverty,<sup>5</sup> Julie MacInnes,<sup>4</sup> Emily McKean,<sup>4</sup> Shannon Milne,<sup>6</sup> Heather Richardson,<sup>2</sup> Joy Ross,<sup>2</sup> Emily Sills<sup>6</sup> and Caroline J Nicholson<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Surrey, Guildford, UK

<sup>2</sup>St Christopher's Hospice, London, UK

<sup>3</sup>The University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK

<sup>4</sup>University of Kent, Canterbury, UK

<sup>5</sup>London Ambulance Service NHS Trust, London, UK

<sup>6</sup>Princess Alice Hospice, Esher, UK

\*Corresponding author [sarah.combes@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.combes@surrey.ac.uk)

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## Plain language summary

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Older people living with frailty are at risk of ill health, disability, admission to hospital or long-term care, and of dying. Living with frailty means having multiple care needs that require the support of multiple providers and sectors. Care can be patchy, leaving families to provide and coordinate care, and quality of life for older people in their final years can be poor.

Little research has studied how best to support older people with frailty as they near end of life, particularly as they move between care providers and sectors. Our Partnership brought together experts, by profession or experience, who were interested in improving this care in three English regions, the East Midlands, the South East and South West London.

We identified 76 key contacts from service providers, voluntary care and unpaid carer representatives who had knowledge, interest and access to other interested individuals in their region. We conducted a survey to understand current services and research expertise. Forty-six key contacts completed the survey. Survey findings were used to develop a service framework for older people living and dying with frailty and create a short list of potential research questions which were then refined and prioritised. The research question chosen for bid development focuses on ensuring what matters most to older people with frailty informs service development.

The Partnership highlighted that despite accepting the importance of care coordination, there remain serious challenges in improving services, and promoting research capacity. These challenges included few services engaging older people to support service development, services rarely working together across sectors, lack of a common language throughout sectors, a rapidly changing workforce and the need for funding to support collaborators across all sectors. Nevertheless, the Partnership developed a service framework for older people living and dying with advancing frailty and is coproducing a research proposal.