



## PROJECT ECHO: CREATING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE IN CHILDREN'S PALLIATIVE CARE

Dr Sharon McCloskey: Ulster University [s.mccloskey@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:s.mccloskey@ulster.ac.uk)

Dr Max Watson: Hospice UK [m.watson@hospiceuk.org](mailto:m.watson@hospiceuk.org)

[www.nihospice.org](http://www.nihospice.org)

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# Dying children face ‘postcode lottery’ with inconsistent quality of end-of-life care, MPs warn

Report criticises ‘patchy’ palliative care and calls for government action to meet commitments to provide personalised treatment

**Sam Lister**, **Conrad Duncan** | 18 hours ago | 0 comments     Click to follow The Independent



# Background



- The ECHO<sup>®</sup> model (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) established in New Mexico (2002)
  - A low cost, high impact model for sharing knowledge and expanding capacity to enable more people to get high quality care in or near the communities where they live.
  - MOVING KNOWLEDGE, NOT PEOPLE
  - Model
    - Use technology to leverage scarce resources
    - Share best practices to reduce disparities
    - Apply case based learning to master complexity
    - Evaluate and monitor outcomes
- (Project ECHO, 2018)



# Components

- Videoconferencing technology
- Hub and spokes model
- Short, monthly sessions
- Case based learning
  - Education element
  - Case presentation
  - Group discussion
- Process
  - Collaborative planning
  - Agreed etiquette to protect confidentiality
  - Standardised structure



# Children's palliative care ECHO network



- Established February 2018
- Target practitioners: Anyone contributing to children's palliative care

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- 1 Practitioners working in a general setting with occasional input into children's palliative care
  - 2 Practitioners who are frequently involved in children's palliative care, but where this is not the core focus of their role.
  - 3 Practitioners where children's palliative care is the core focus of their role.
  - 4 Adult practitioners who have occasional involvement in children's palliative care.

- Key activities:
  - Curriculum planning meeting
  - Monthly sessions

# Programme



## Palliative Care Paediatrics



### Case Presentation Schedule Tuesday & Thursdays 2018 / 2019

Emailed to ECHO Office	Presentation Date	Time	Case Presenters	Curriculum/Education Topic	Educator
25/02/18	07/03/18	2.00pm to 3.30pm	Dr. Seamus Truoh	The Essentials of Children's Palliative Care	Dr. Susie Stewart
08/11/18	14/04/18	2.00pm – 3.30pm	Laura Lynn team, TBC	If Carlsberg did Children's Palliative Care: What Good Children's Palliative Care Looks Like.	Katrina McNamee, Rachel Cooke, GOSH
21/04/18	01/05/18	2.00pm – 3.30pm	Praby Chender, Belfast HSC Trust	Enabling a good death: Advance care planning in children's palliative care	Angela Mulholland NICH
04/12/18	14/04/18	2.00pm – 3.30pm	Maria McKeown, RBHSC	Difficult Conversations: Strategies for Effective Communication at Times of Stress	Dr. Nicola Doherty, Western HSC Trust
29/05/18	07/08/18	2.00pm – 3.30pm	Katherine McMullan, RBHSC	Symptom Management at End of Life: Session 1: Pain Management	Sat Jassal, Rainbows Hospice
24/08/18	03/07/18	2.00pm – 3.30pm	Heather McCluggage, Western HSC Trust	Neonatal palliative care	Dr Suzie Lapwood, Helen House
10/01/19	28/08/18	2.00pm – 3.30pm	Heather McCluggage, Western HSC Trust	Self-care: promoting practitioner resilience when working in children's palliative care	Dr Aiveen Higgins, Northern HSC Trust
05/02/19	14/04/18	2.00pm – 3.30pm	TBC	Maintaining communication channels in times of conflict	Janine McVeigh, Belfast HSC Trust
25/11/18	04/12/18	2.00pm – 3.30pm	Deirdre Grant, Southern HSC Trust	Promoting parent and family resilience when a child has palliative health needs	Dr Nicola Doherty, Western HSC Trust
01/01/19	10/01/19	2.00pm – 3.30pm	SE Trust (to be confirmed)	Blended diets	Dr Susie Lapwood, Helen and Douglas House
25/01/19	05/02/19	2.00pm – 3.30pm	Holly Shirlow, Northern HSC Trust	Airway clearance	Janine McVeigh, Belfast HSC Trust

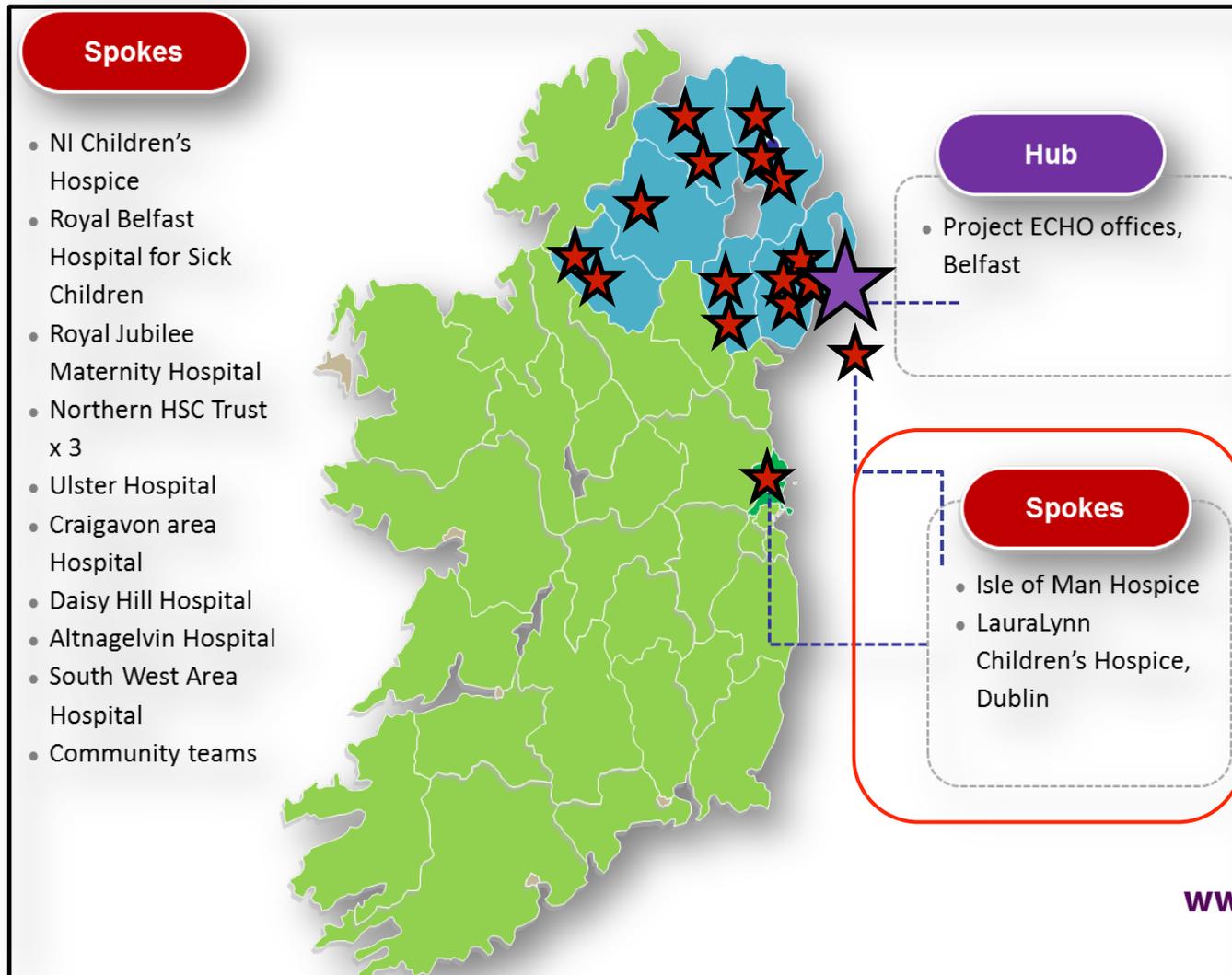
HSCB 2017/18

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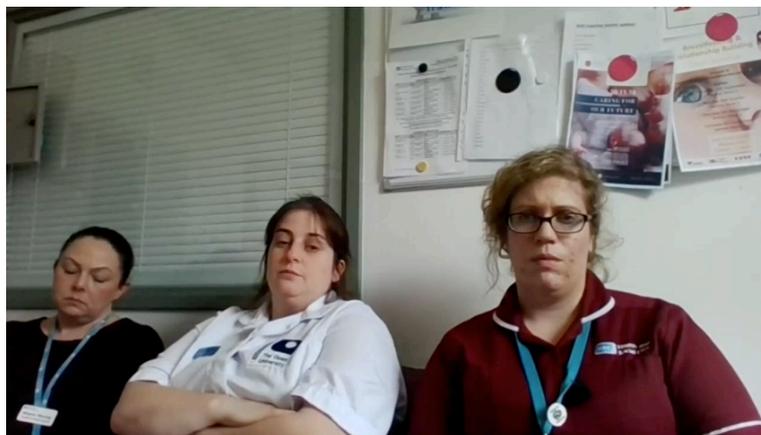
# The Network



Northern  
Ireland  
Hospice



# ECHO in action



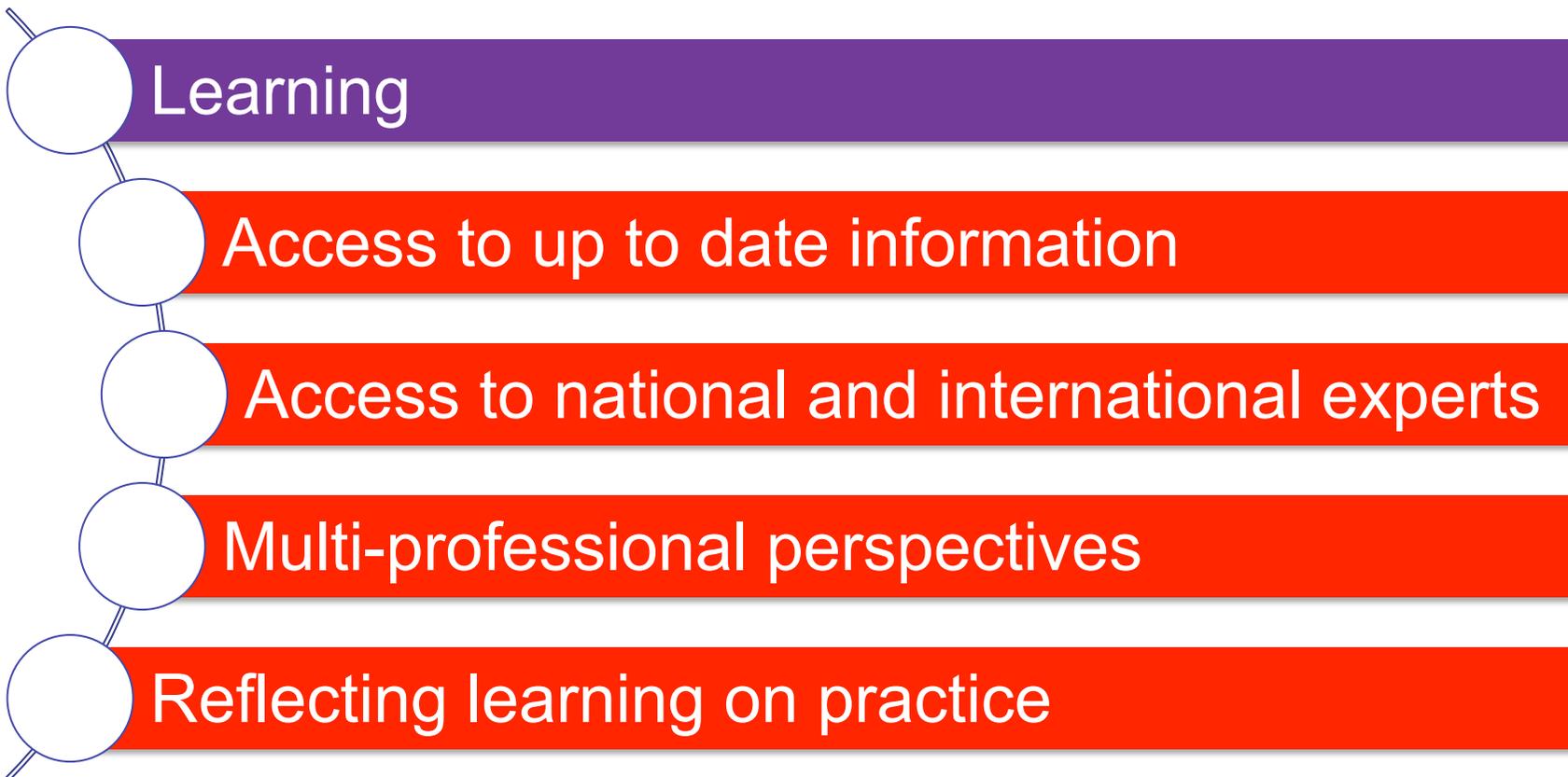
# How are we doing so far?



- 82 professionals formally registered for the network
- Uptake: consistently 40-60+ participants per session
- Network is reaching target audience, with 71% surveyed participants not working in specialist children's palliative care services.
- Ongoing multi-professional involvement
- Participants like:

▼ I can participate from my office or home.	77.78%	21
▼ The sessions are short.	55.56%	15
▼ I like to learn from the education presentations and the specialists delivering them.	70.37%	19
▼ I like the case presentation.	62.96%	17
▼ I like the time for discussion.	55.56%	15
▼ I like the opportunity to network with other practitioners contributing to children's palliative care.	88.89%	24
▼ I like that I can access the material from sessions and additional resources through the Moodle site.	48.15%	13

# How are we doing so far?



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## Final thoughts



“ The key to getting things done is connecting people. Often I find that the right people are already in place, they just need to focus on the greater good to be energized, utilized and encouraged to work together.”

– Miles Atkins

- For more information search Hospice UK Project ECHO
- <https://www.hospiceuk.org/what-we-offer/clinical-and-care-support/project-echo>