

Accord Hospice

Palliative Care Training for Social Work Home Carers in Renfrewshire

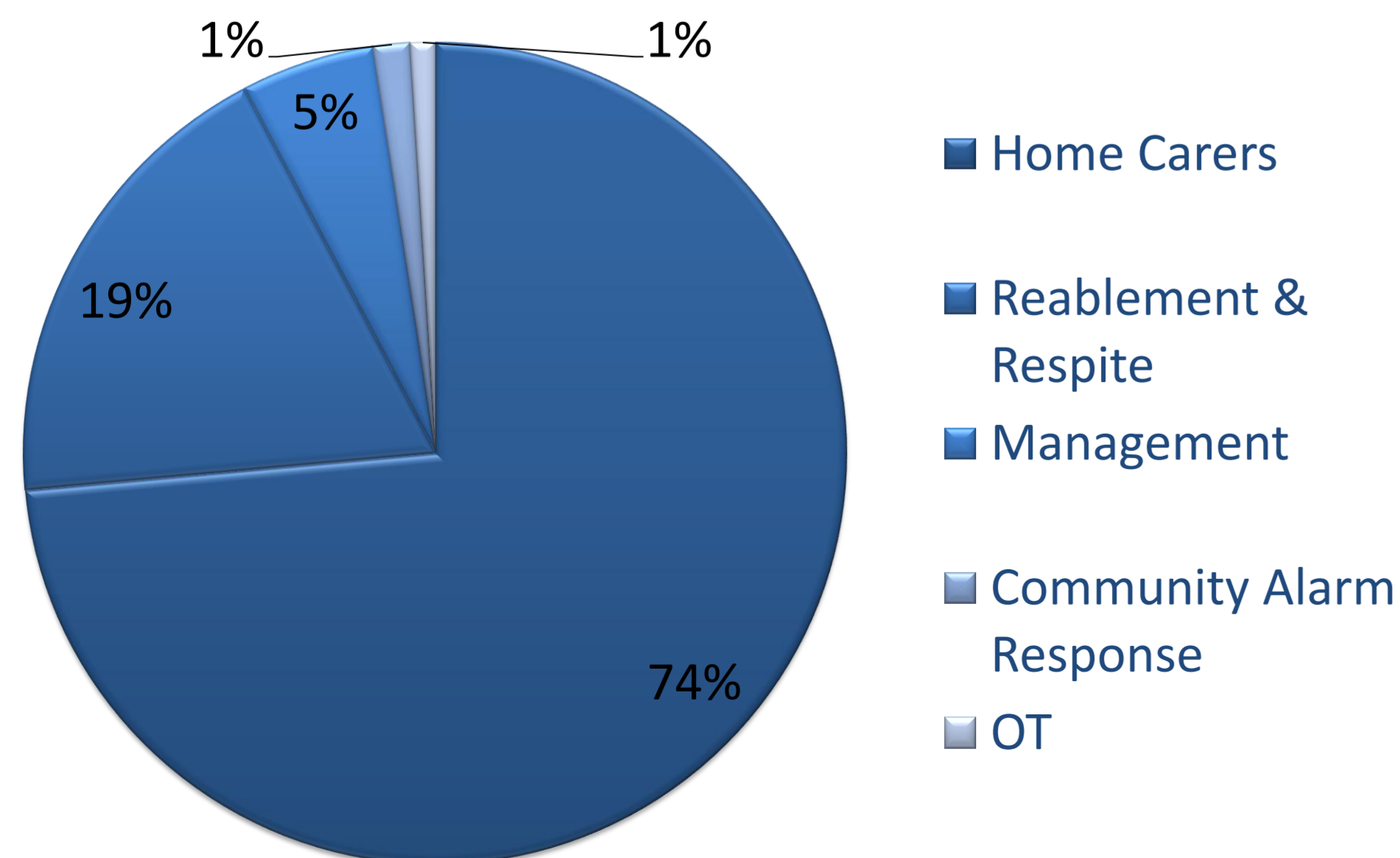


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WHERE DID THIS START?

Many people are living with the effects of one or more chronic or life limiting illnesses (Audit Scotland 2008) with much of their care being delivered in the home. Palliative care is a core component of the care package for this population and as such should be routine practice for health care professionals. Nevertheless social care home carers are increasingly facing clients with palliative care needs and are often unprepared for the situations they encounter. To address this within Renfrewshire, **Accord Hospice** designed and delivered a series of specific education sessions for this group of staff and afterwards, found that participants expressed increased confidence in their knowledge of palliative care. As a result discussions took place with **Renfrewshire Community Health Partnership (CHP)** and **Renfrewshire Council** to consider a collaborative approach to delivering a palliative care training programme for the social care home care service. A successful application to the Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland (QNIS) for a Partnership in Practice award supported the delivery of the project.

WHO TOOK PART?



WHAT AND HOW WAS DELIVERED?

The content of the training had to reflect the needs of the home care service and the home carers themselves. Evaluations from a pilot training day, focus groups with home care staff and discussions with CHP and Home Care Service colleagues informed the content.



Practical care – mouth care and nutrition, skin care and safe patient handling..



Comfort measures at the end of life.



Communicating with people who are distressed utilising the **Sage & Thyme®** model.

The teaching team consisted of:

- ◆ Hospice educator and Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)
- ◆ CHP Macmillan CNS
- ◆ Two community nurses

Interactive and practical teaching methods were employed throughout the programme to engage the participants and maximise their learning.

WHAT WAS LEARNED?



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The initial project is now complete with **205** members of staff from Renfrewshire Council Home Care Service attending a palliative care training day at Accord Hospice over a 12 month period. An evaluation of the project is currently being undertaken however early findings show that this collaborative and practical approach has been an effective model of training delivery for this group of staff. Home Carers now have more knowledge of practical palliative care issues and have had the chance to enhance their communication skills by taking part in an evidenced based and interactive workshop.

