

**GROWING  
COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES**

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**EVERYDAY COMPASSION - 25 APRIL 2018**

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# COMPASSIONATE NEIGHBOURS



# THE STORY SO FAR

223

**COMPASSIONATE NEIGHBOURS  
TRAINED**

96

**SUCCESSFUL MATCHES  
(AND COUNTING)**

OVER  
300

**REFERRALS RECEIVED FROM  
GPs, HOSPICE STAFF,  
COMMUNITY TEAMS AND MORE**

4,044

**INDIVIDUAL  
INSTANCES OF  
POSITIVE  
COMMUNITY  
CONTACT**

63

**ACTIVE MATCHES  
TODAY**

31

**LANGUAGES  
SPOKEN**

2

**PROJECT DELIVERY  
STAFF**



## AIM OF STUDY

To understand how a compassionate communities project can be initiated, the processes and tensions, how it is experienced and the impacts that can follow.

## METHODS

- Mixed methods, exploratory study [QUAL/quant]
- Flexible, emergent, inductive
- Modified grounded theory
- Participant researcher perspective
- Ethics approval Univ. Edinburgh

# DATA COLLECTION

| Method                  | Sample   | Participants |
|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| 21 interviews           | 7 compassionate neighbours<br>4 community members<br>4 hospice staff<br>3 external staff | 19           |
| 2 focus groups          | FG1 – 15<br>FG2 - 16   | 31           |
| Participant observation | 19 events: Training, selection events,<br>supervision, public events, home visits        | 450          |
| Documentary analysis    | Training, marketing materials, meeting minutes,<br>evaluation forms                      | 11 documents |

| Method                          | Sample                   | Participants |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Observational longitudinal data | Compassionate neighbours | 180          |
|                                 | Community members        | 80           |

## RESULTS

- I. Evidence regarding how compassionate communities are created and their impacts
- I. This evidence critiques and reframes existing understanding
- I. Leads to a new concept: **Collective Social Capital**

# I. EVIDENCE REGARDING HOW COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES ARE CREATED AND THEIR IMPACTS

**People  
engage as  
peers through  
a universal  
issue**

**New space  
created  
for reciprocal  
relationships**

**Power  
differentials  
challenged**

**New  
networks  
built across  
community**

## **Impacts**

Wellbeing

Loneliness

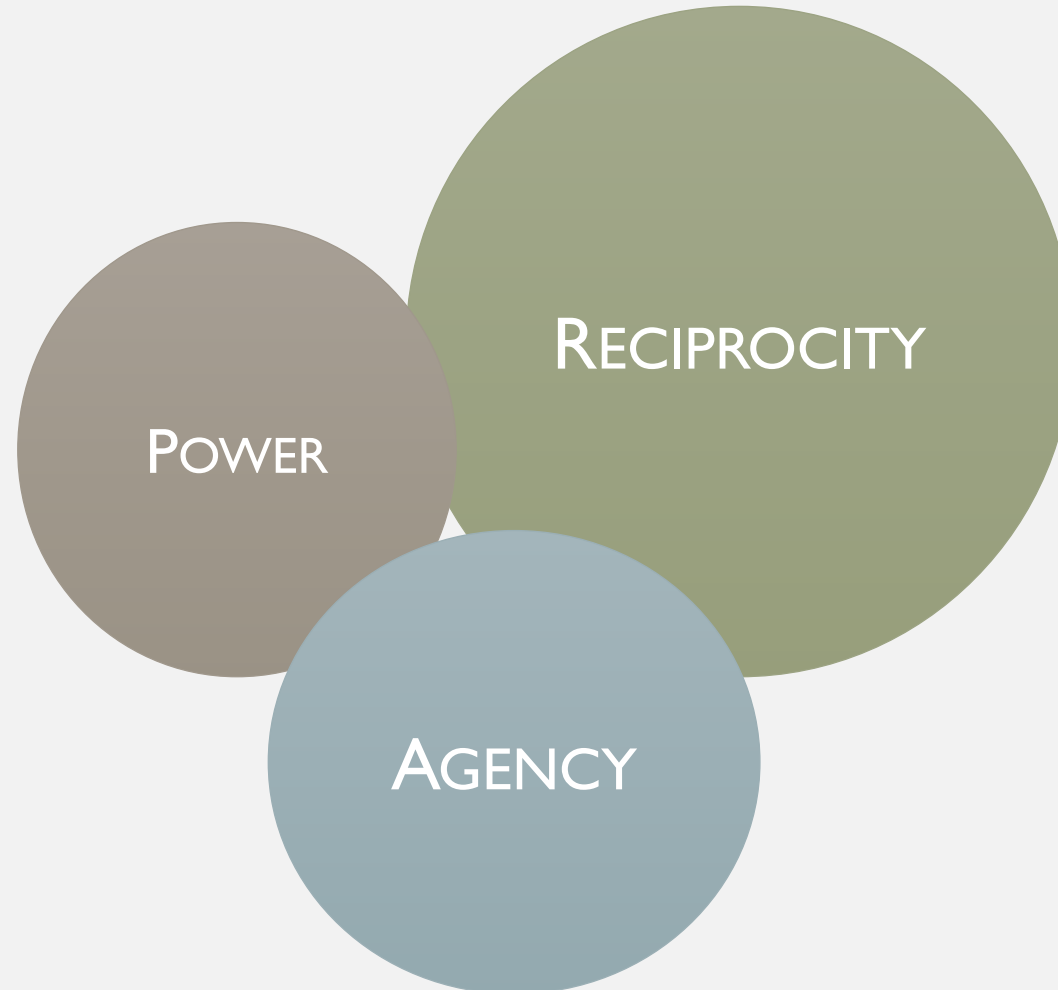
Changed  
access to  
services

Altered  
hospice  
practice

Compassion  
and tolerance  
in wider  
community



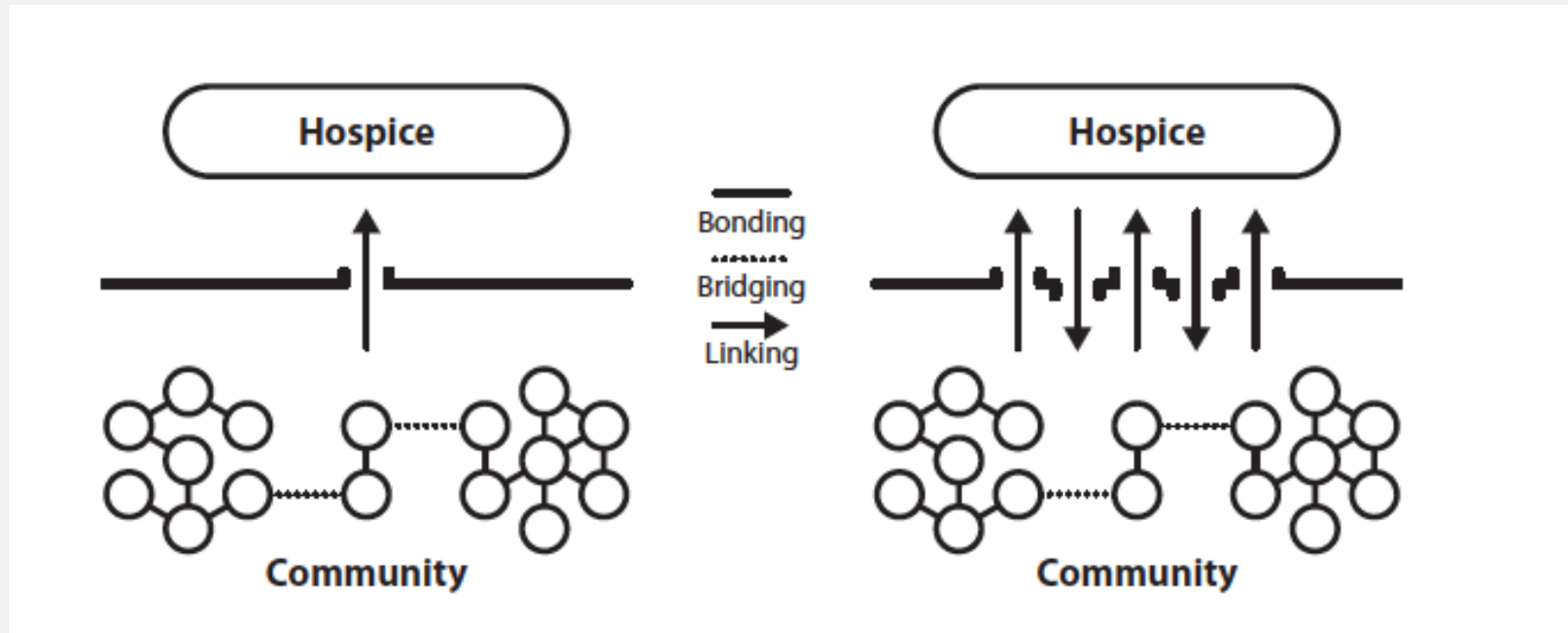
I. EVIDENCE REGARDING HOW  
COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES ARE  
CREATED AND THEIR IMPACTS



# LEARNING FOR OUR FIELD

- Agency not company
- Assumptions on the availability of social networks
- Central role of reciprocity
- Organisations can participate in reciprocal relationships

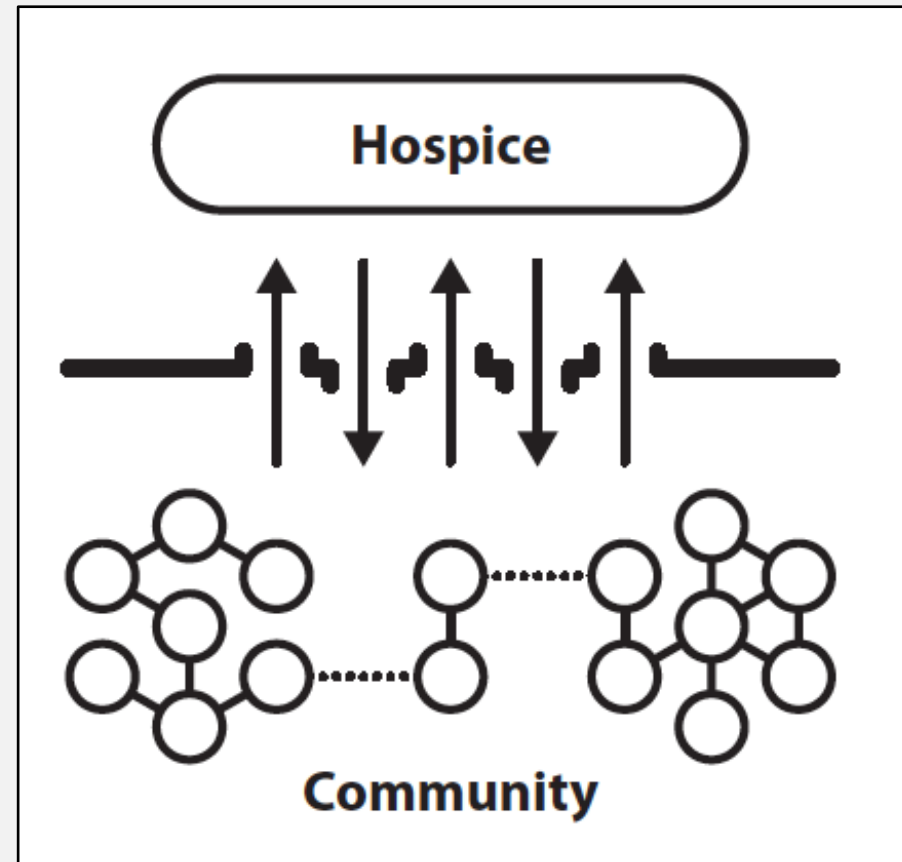
# COLLECTIVE SOCIAL CAPITAL

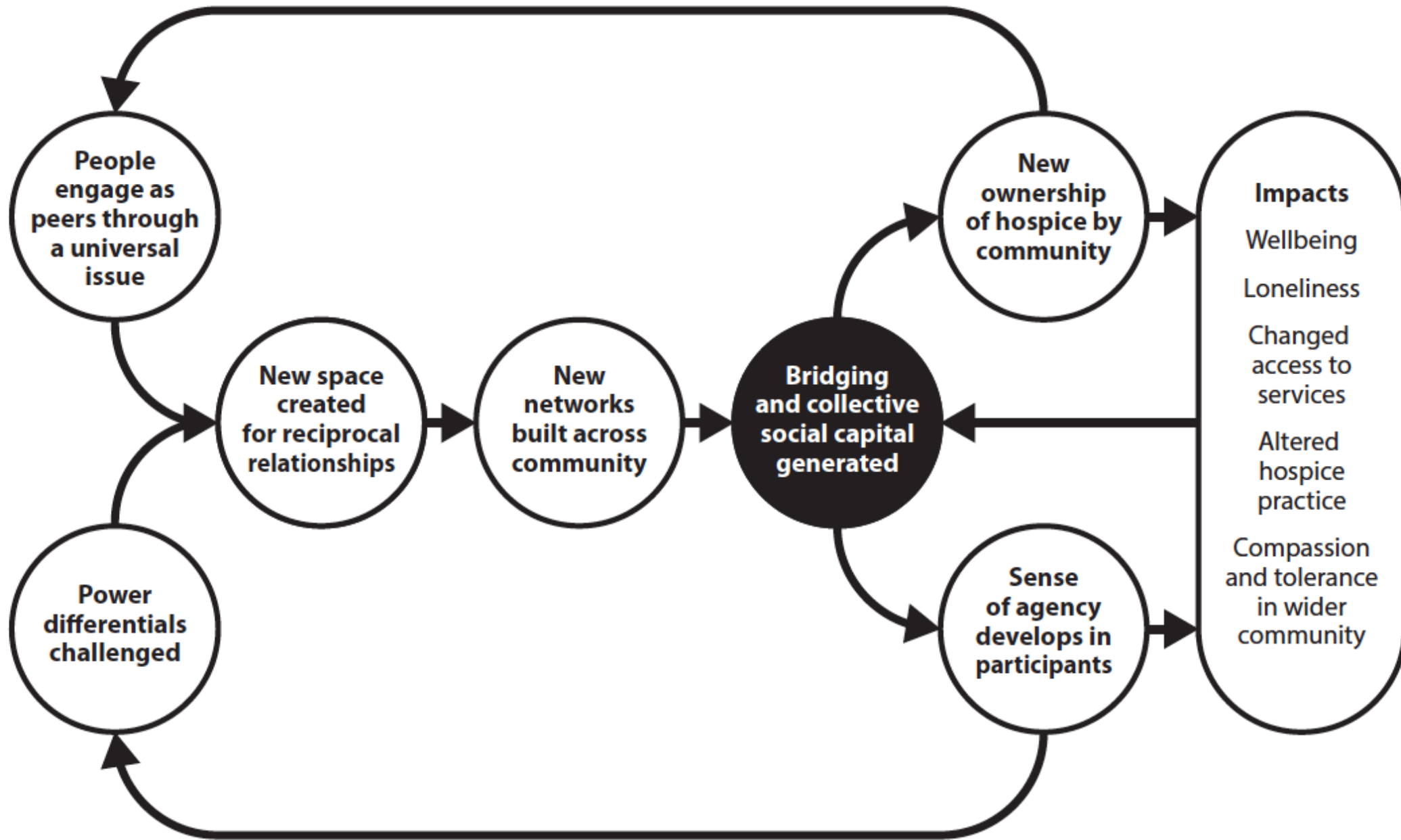


Sallnow, L (2017) The emergence of collective social capital

# COLLECTIVE SOCIAL CAPITAL

A set of reciprocal and interdependent relationships that can exist between members of a community and an organisation when power dynamics are addressed and a reflexive process of learning and capacity development is embarked upon.





# IMPLICATIONS

- Compassionate communities can be created
  - Acknowledging variations in social capital
- Evidence of upstream changes in a community
- **Collective social capital:** capacity of communities and organisations
- Conceptual model to be explored and redrawn through future research