



Contract Opportunity: Evaluation of the Truacanta Project

Introduction

An opportunity has arisen to play a key role in the evaluation of a new community development project – the [Truacanta Project](#). Launching officially in April 2020, the Truacanta Project will support five different communities to undertake local work aimed at improving people's experiences of death, dying, loss and care. The communities will be supported with community development expertise and advice from the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care. We are currently looking to commission support to help us to evaluate the project over a period of 25 months (March 2020-May 2022).

More information about this opportunity, including how to apply, is available below.

Project outline

We are looking to commission support to help us evaluate the impact of the Truacanta Project, **from March 2020 – May 2022**. We are keen to work with someone who has a flexible approach, and who can shape the evaluation approach alongside SPPC staff and community members. This opportunity is likely to suit someone with an interest in or experience of community development. Though some experience/knowledge of project evaluation is important, a willingness to learn new skills and work alongside community members will be essential.

Background: The Truacanta Project

The [Truacanta Project](#) is an initiative being run the [Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care](#) (SPPC), and funded by Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Truacanta Project will support five local communities from different parts of Scotland who are interested in taking community action to improve people's experiences of death, dying, loss and care.

Following on from preliminary work undertaken from March – December 2019, five communities will officially begin their local projects in April 2020. The project is being led by a Project Manager, who will be supporting the projects and providing them with dedicated community development advice and support for a period of two years.

Truacanta is a Scottish Gaelic word with meanings relating to 'compassion', 'merciful' and 'humane'. The name reflects the fact that while the project is grounded in Scotland's unique communities and culture, it builds on learning from the international [Compassionate Communities movement](#).



Evaluation of The Truacanta Project

The Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care is keen to undertake a robust evaluation of the Truacanta Project to help us:

- Understand the impact of the five local projects.
- Learn about the effectiveness of the overall model (one community development practitioner supporting five local communities).
- Share the learning gained from the project with other communities and stakeholders in Scotland.
- Inform how future 'compassionate communities' work in Scotland is undertaken.
- Contribute to international literature relating to public health palliative care.

We are looking to commission an individual with relevant interest/experience/expertise, to support us in evaluation of the Truacanta Project.

Approach

The Truacanta Project is grounded in a community development approach, so local projects are led by local communities. Many of the participants are likely to be volunteers with limited time and energy for evaluation. However, it is important to SPPC and Macmillan Cancer Support that there is formal evaluation of the project that is robust and useful. We are therefore keen to find ways of evaluating the project which:

- Enable communities to shape local evaluation into something that is useful for them.
- Aren't overly burdensome on communities /volunteers
- Capture changes that have taken place, though these might sometimes seem intangible.
- Relate meaningfully to the predefined outcomes (see below).

We are keen to draw on learning from relevant work that has been done by others, for example by considering community development, participatory and asset-based approaches; and with a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods. Ideas so far include considering the use of social network analysis, and the Most Significant Change approach.

We have strong links with others working to develop methods for evaluating compassionate communities, including the End-of-Life Care Research Group of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Ghent University. The Scottish Community Development Centre can also provide advice.

Project brief

We are looking to commission support to help us evaluate the impact of the Truacanta Project from March 2020 – May 2022.

This will involve:

- Working with SPPC staff and community members to develop a flexible plan for the evaluation of the project over two years.
- Researching, preparing and disseminating quantitative and qualitative evaluation resources such as questionnaires.
- Collecting qualitative data, for example by conducting interviews and focus groups.



- Collating and interpreting data.
- Sharing findings with the communities, SPPC and other relevant stakeholders through written reports and verbal presentations.
- Supporting local communities to learn evaluation techniques so they can undertake their own evaluation.

This will require:

- a flexible approach, and a willingness to explore different methods to suit the needs of different projects.
- enthusiasm for working and collaborating with a wide variety of people.
- some experience of project evaluation and an understanding of community development as an approach.
- an ability to manage workload and balance competing priorities.
- strong interpersonal skills.
- a willingness to learn new skills to meet the needs of the project as they emerge.

Outcomes

Participating communities will set out their own desired outcomes for their local projects. However, at an overall project level, the SPPC is interested to see whether the projects result in any of the following outcomes:

- People have improved knowledge of how to respond to declining health, death, dying and bereavement themselves.
- People have improved confidence/knowledge/skills relating to supporting others through declining health, death, dying and bereavement.
- People have improved access to relevant local information relating to declining health, death, dying and bereavement.
- Different organisations/groups undertaking relevant activity have strengthened relationships/mutual understanding in their activities to support people with declining health, death, dying and bereavement.
- People have more opportunities to plan for declining health, death, dying and bereavement.
- People have more opportunities to offer support in the face of declining health, death, dying and bereavement.
- More people offer support to others during times of declining health, dying, loss and care.
- People receive more support relating to declining health, death, dying and bereavement from community members.
- SPPC has a better understanding of how to build community/individual capacity to respond to death, dying and bereavement.



Timescales and milestones:

Key milestones are likely to include:

- March - June 2020: Work with the SPPC and the four selected communities to agree a useful approach to local evaluation.
- April 2020 – April 2022: ongoing collection of data/ information/ views
- April 2021 – interim report
- May 2022 – final evaluation report /web output

Workload and budget

The budget for this work is a total of £21,000 plus travel expenses for the 25 month period. SPPC is relatively flexible and open to discussion about how money and time is allocated. We envisage an average of 12 hours per week, but the actual time spent each week will vary depending on the stage of the project and how much work needs to be done. This will require a high level of organisation and planning from the person providing support, and plans for managing this will be discussed at the outset of the project. They will manage their time and workload, with support and guidance from SPPC staff, meeting key milestones as discussed at the planning stage of the project.

Application process

SPPC recognises the positive value of diversity, promotes equality and challenges discrimination. We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds.

Please email:

- Your CV
- A covering letter explaining (with reference to the project brief) what you would bring to the project.
- Copies of or links to any relevant previous projects/evaluation you have been involved in.

Please email these to: susan@palliativecarescotland.org.uk by midnight on **Monday 24th February 2020**.

Interviews will be held in Edinburgh on **Monday 9th March 2020**. We will email you on or before Tuesday 3rd March to let you know whether or not you have been shortlisted for interview.

If you have any questions, or there are any aspects that you'd like to discuss, please call Rebecca Patterson on 0131 272 2735.