

# Equitable Access to Palliative Care Education

## Creation of a new national palliative care learning hub

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**Target Audience:** Everyone in the Health and Social care workforce and wider interest

### Background

As part of the new Scottish Government (SG) Palliative Care Strategy, the education subgroup asked NHS Education for Scotland (NES) to create a learning site that brings together existing palliative care learning resources from across Scotland and beyond. The goal is to ensure that high-quality, carefully selected resources are easily accessible to everyone working in health and social care. This will support staff learning and help improve person-centred care outcomes. A scoping exercise of existing palliative care resources was conducted and subject to thematic analysis. Expert palliative care groups from NES and SG were established to inform the learning site content and structure. This work is complex due to the broad scope of palliative care, diverse stakeholders and the need to align and streamline existing resources. In establishing the learning site, it has also been important to ensure mechanisms are in place to monitor the impact of having a 'Once for Scotland' approach to learning for palliative care.



**Methods:** A scoping exercise was conducted to identify existing palliative care learning resources available via the Turas platforms as well as frequently used external resources (See Fig 1). Turas is accessible to all health and social staff, whereas other platforms can limit access. These modules underwent thematic analysis and were grouped accordingly (See Fig 2).

Expert groups were also constituted within NES and a wider SG advisory group to advise and inform how the site content and organisation should relate to the new 'Palliative Care Matters for All' strategy, and refresh of the NES palliative care and end-of-life enabling and enriching education framework.

**Discussion:** Complexities encountered with this work include:

- Palliative care is important across all health and social care.
- Numerous stakeholders are involved.
- Harmonising the volume of existing resources initially developed for other purposes to achieve greater consistency.
- Trying to align existing materials to the updated strategy, including changes in terminology.

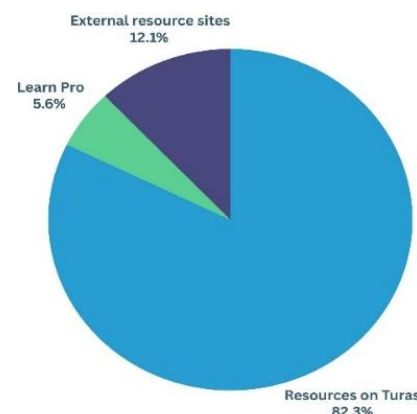


Figure 2

- Identifying gaps in current provision that may be taken forward at a subsequent stage.
- Encouraging streamlining of existing resources to reduce confusion and upkeep.
- Life expectancies are increasing with people living with more complex health and social care needs.

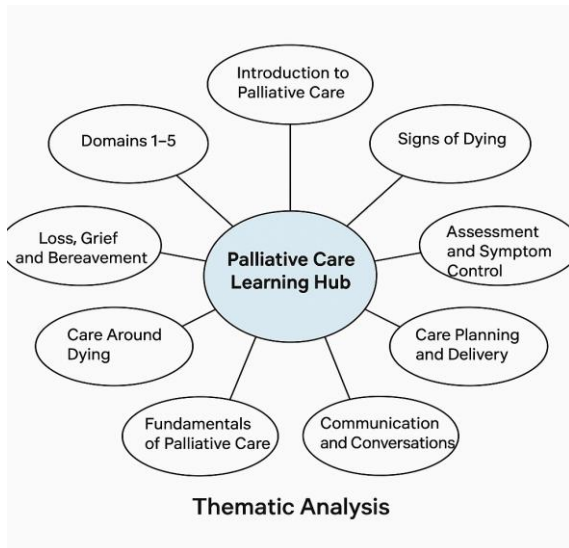


Figure 1

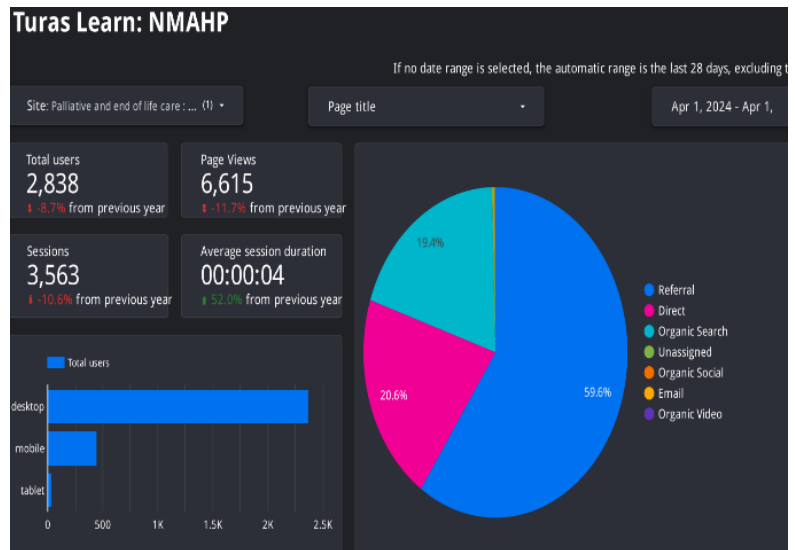


Figure 3

**Next Steps** - This is a complex piece of work with the potential for far-reaching impact on workforce education in palliative care. We will continue to ensure that all resources and educational materials align with the *Once for Scotland* approach to learning, the *Palliative Care Matters for All* strategy, and the NES Palliative and End-of-Life Enabling and Enriching Education Framework. This includes updates to reflect changes in terminology. We will maintain a clear project plan and continue active engagement with key stakeholders throughout the process.

Data will be closely monitored and evaluated by directly comparing the number of users currently accessing palliative care resources on Turas (see Fig. 3) with the number of users accessing the new *Once for Scotland* palliative care Turas Learning Hub post-launch. Our key priority is to ensure that the new site is being used effectively and is meeting the needs of the workforce. To support this, we have developed a set of KPIs and will regularly review our performance against them. Feedback from users will be actively sought and reviewed. In areas where usage is low, we will respond by strengthening awareness through targeted promotion and exploring the reasons behind underutilisation, to better tailor the content and support offered.

#### References:

(1) Palliative Care Matters for All draft strategy 2024 [palliative-care-matters-working-together-improve-life-health-care-people-ages-living-serious-illnesses-health-conditions-dying-scotland-2025-2030.pdf](#)

(2) Palliative and end of life care; enriching and improving , experience [63677ef2-7b65-4115-a7e1-33e7b808fae7\\_Palliative framework interactive\\_p2 \(1\).pdf](#)

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