

Greener Palliative Care Award Governance

Background

The Greener Palliative Care Award (GPCA) scheme provides a framework for progressing and embedding environmental sustainability within palliative care. All palliative care teams and organisations can apply for an award, whether within the NHS or charitable organisations (e.g. hospices). We welcome applications from within the UK and Ireland. During our initial pilot phase we are unfortunately not able to accept submissions from other countries, but please get in touch if you would be interested in this.

For more information on the background and development of the GPCA, please see our Overview and FAQs, and Development and Detail documents. You can also see the people currently developing the project under Our Team.

Principles of our Governance

We have developed a clear structure for how the Award levels are obtained, including types of evidence required and how this is assessed. Outlined below is how the scheme is governed. Information about membership of our current groups will be available online, and we will communicate key updates via the Palliative Care Sustainability Network webpage and other appropriate channels as identified by the Development Group.

At present the GPCA scheme does not have a budget, with our work being carried out by volunteers. Some of our team have been supported by their employers to spend time developing this work as part of their paid professional roles (e.g. time included in job plans). As the GPCA scheme develops, our Development Group will keep under review the governance structure, making changes if needed.

We welcome both feedback and applications for group membership.

GPCA Working Group

The GPCA has been developed by a working group of Palliative Care Sustainability Network (PCSN) members. Our working group had broad representation across roles/professions and palliative care settings. This group has now closed, but work continues via our Assessment and Development Groups.

Assessment Group

The Assessment Group is formed of Palliative Care Sustainability Network members from a range of professional backgrounds, including the Network co-leads.

This group reviews evidence submitted by teams/organisations applying for an award level, meeting online for 90 minute review panel sessions every quarter.

The group will provide feedback either via a meeting or in writing to let applying organisations know if they have been successful or where they might need to provide further evidence to obtain an award level. Group members may also meet with applying organisations to help where they may have questions or need other support.

Each quarterly review panel meeting will comprise three assessors, including at least one of the Network co-leads.

Assessors will declare any conflicts of interest at the start of each meeting, most obviously not assessing evidence submitted from teams/organisations they are affiliated to.

Minutes will be taken and will be available on request. Information relating to identifiable organisations/individuals may need to be anonymised/removed prior to sharing.

If you are interested in applying to join our Assessment Group, please get in touch via pallcaresusnet@gmail.com. The estimated time commitment is 3 hours per quarter. There may also be opportunities to get involved in writing up the achievements of the GPCA scheme for publication.

Development group

Our Development Group works to:

- Monitor progress of our Award scheme, initially through a pilot of 10 applying organisations
- Build partnerships with organisations which can help develop and/or fund the GPCA scheme
- Identify and approach funders to help scale the GPCA should our pilot be successful
- Publicise our work, in particular sharing evidence which shows examples of clear environmental benefit. This involves identifying the best ways to communicate, and may include preparing media articles, articles for appropriate partner organisation newsletters, presentations at conferences
- Review how the GPCA is governed

This group consists of at least 3 members, with at least one Network co-lead.

The Development Group will meet three times annually, although smaller task and finish groups/sub-committees may be formed. Minutes of meetings will be taken and will be available on request.

If you are interested in applying to join our Development Group, please get in touch via pallcaresusnet@gmail.com. The estimated time commitment is 20 hours annually.

Partner organisations

The GPCA Development and Assessment teams recognise the value of working in partnership with organisations who share our commitment to palliative care and environmental sustainability. Below are organisations who have shown support for our work, by sharing their time, knowledge and resources. Logos are used with relevant permissions from the organisation's leadership, and help us to demonstrate to our applying organisations the cross-organisational support for this work.