**PROJECT DETAILS**

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<tr>
<th><strong>Project Title</strong></th>
<th>An exploration of how a Day Hospital is meeting the needs of frail older people: a case study approach</th>
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<td><strong>Project Summary</strong></td>
<td>There are an increasing number of frail older people in the community and services are needed to best support their health and wellbeing in the broadest sense including psychological, physiological, social, spiritual and environmental needs. Research suggests that only half of older people with frailty syndromes receive effective health care interventions. Despite the decline of day hospitals nationally Christchurch Day Hospital has maintained and developed an innovative service, working closely with their primary and secondary care colleagues to provide a seamless service for the frail older person. A recent Cochrane review has highlighted that further research is needed into the effectiveness of day hospitals and also that service users views are also needed. The innovative service is valued by Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch hospitals (RBCH) Trust, however there is a lack of understanding of a) the positive processes that are taking place, b) service users’ views and c) how services for older frail people can be further developed and supported. Aim: To determine the processes underpinning how Christchurch Day Hospital (CDH) is meeting the holistic needs of frail older people</td>
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<td><strong>Objectives</strong></td>
<td>i) conduct a narrative review of the literature to determine how frailty in older people is identified and treated ii) determine how frailty is recognised within CDH through eliciting staff views and studying CDH assessment processes iii) elicit frail service users/carers views of facilitators of and barriers to processes which support their needs iv) elicit staff views of facilitators and barriers to processes which support service users’ needs v) identify transferable strategies/principles which can be used in other healthcare settings to address the needs of frail older people.</td>
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<td><strong>Methods</strong></td>
<td>Following (i) the narrative review a case study approach will be used with CDH being the case, (ii) participant observation and individual interviews will be carried out with staff, (iii) individual interviews will be carried out with frail older service users and their carers (iv) focus groups will be held with staff. Finally (v) all the data will be analysed within the context of the case to determine the transferable strategies</td>
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<td><strong>Outcomes</strong></td>
<td>This project will offer valuable insights into the strategies and principles to guide to guide good practice when working with older frail service users. It is significant in that it addresses current UK government concerns regarding frail older people, supports current NHS research policy involving service users, and will have immediate effect on UK policy making through MB’s national role.</td>
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<td><strong>Academic Impact</strong></td>
<td>The academic impact will be an advance in the understanding of positive strategies which can be used to support frail older people in NHS services locally and nationally. Theoretical outputs will be shared internationally</td>
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The project is part of a programme of academic work between RBCH Trust and Bournemouth University that is enhancing Fusion opportunities, linking education, practice and research. Current areas of collaboration:

- The Day Hospital is currently working toward a BU Practice Development Unit (PDU) accreditation
- RBCH has committed 8 places for the newly validated BA/MA Care of the Older Person and Geriatrician and Consultant Nursing staff will be contributing to the teaching of the unit.
- Current NIHR funded PhD clinical research studentship in stroke
- Ongoing externally funded humanisation research on the stroke unit

Academic outputs will include: a) the thesis itself – linked externally via BU website b) academic papers in international journals linked with older people and qualitative research c) academic papers in international journals related to care practice with older people d) International conference presentation – e) FHSS PhD seminar and f) BU PGR conference presentation g) sessional contribution to the BA/MA programme

### Societal Impact

Frailty in older age is a growing health issue in the UK, as lifespan increases. Addressing the needs of frail older people is a current key UK Government priority in terms of impact on the health and social support for older people. This project will offer valuable insights into health systems and practices which support the health of frail older people and being co-designed and co-funded by Bournemouth Hospital will have immediate societal impact as well as providing findings and recommendations which can be more readily implemented in the NHS across the UK as they come from a practice setting.

The impact will benefit frail older people and their families locally, while findings will have direct UK societal impact through contributing to national guidelines for best practice for the support of the frail older person developed by the national Acute Frailty Network and Royal College of Nurses Older Peoples Forum (MB member)

### Training Opportunities

**BU/FHSS** MB is a very experienced academic/practice - care of older people (PhD, 2015). CEH experienced PhD supervisor - health services research, 3 current doctoral students in related areas. Student will have i) Involvement BA/MA care of the older person. ii) Member of the FHSS doctoral group, the Centre for Qualitative Research and Humanisation SIG - attend related meetings/Masterclasses/conferences. **National** BU Older Person Research Collaboration Group, - growing national membership with leading researchers, British Society of Gerontology and British Geriatric society, - develop networks and access training. **International** European Academy of Caring Sciences (EACS) strong doctoral presence / regular meetings in UK, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.

**Generic research and transferable skills:** Via a) FHSS - seminars, PhD group b) BU –seminars c) Graduate School d) PGR conference e) Vitae opportunities f) Festival of Learning

**Project specific skills** CEH - deputy director of BU’s Centre for Qualitative Research provide support/training in methodologies a) Case study b) Focus groups c) Interviews MB provide training and support in working alongside frail older people. MB and CEH provide specific training related to a) NHS networking, systems and communication b) establishment of advisory groups c) Identification of transferable skills within clinical practice.

### SUPERVISORY TEAM

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<th>First Supervisor</th>
<th>Dr Caroline Ellis-Hill</th>
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<td>Additional Supervisors</td>
<td>Dr Michele Board (BU), Professor Michael Vassallo (RBCH)</td>
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(qualitative research older people)


**INFORMAL ENQUIRIES**

To discuss this opportunity further, please contact: Dr Michele Board MBoard@bournemouth.ac.uk or Dr Caroline Ellis-Hill via email: cehill@bournemouth.ac.uk

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

All candidates must satisfy the University’s minimum doctoral entry criteria for studentships of an honours degree at Upper Second Class (2:1) and/or an appropriate Masters degree. An IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 minimum (or equivalent) is essential for candidates for whom English is not their first language.

**Additional Eligibility**

You must be a registered nurse, physiotherapist or occupational therapist and be eligible to practice in the UK.

**HOW TO APPLY**

Please complete the online application form by **23rd May 2016**. Further information on the application process can be found at: [www.bournemouth.ac.uk/studentships](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/studentships)