Overview
This early evening seminar will bring together and present the current international research findings on mental health, suicidal ideation and suicidal behavior among older people living in care institutions. This will include findings from two systematic reviews of international literature on depression, self-harm, and suicidal behaviour in older people living in long term care settings; and qualitative research findings exploring perspectives of carers on the concept of ‘giving up’ and perspectives of mental health professionals on supporting older people living in care homes with depression, self-harm, and suicidal behaviours. The evidence presented will be used as a foundation for an open discussion with attendees to identify key issues and research and policy priorities going forward in order to improve quality of care and protect vulnerable older people. The target audience for this seminar includes older people; service users; concerned family members; carers; social workers, mental health professionals, clinicians, local authority representatives, researchers and academics. Light refreshments will be provided, and an opportunity to network with other attendees.

Speakers and topics

Dr Briony Jain
Research fellow, Social Care & Social Policy
*Completed suicide among nursing home residents*

Dr Helen Gleeson
Research Assistant, Mental Health and Social Work
*Preventing and responding to depression, self-harm, and suicide in older people living in long term care settings*

Prof Trish Hafford-Letchfield
Professor in Social Care
*‘He just gave up’: An exploratory study into the perspectives of paid carers on supporting older people living in care homes with depression, self-harm and suicide ideation and behaviours*

Mr Matthew Quaife
Senior lecturer in Social Work
*Perspectives of mental health professionals on supporting older people living in long term care with depression, self-harm and suicide behaviours*

The Middlesex team will be joined by service user researchers Anne Flynn, Barbara Billings, and Ruth Teacher from our centre for co-production in Mental Health and Social Care.