

# Care for people affected by terminal illness in your constituency

8 May 2015

**Every year around 110,000 people affected by terminal illness in the UK don't get the care and support they need.**

For people with a terminal illness, getting the right care and support can sometimes be difficult. Research commissioned by Marie Curie has shown that:

- People who miss out on care are often those with a non-cancer diagnosis or those over the age of 85, while people from deprived areas and black and minority ethnic communities often report poorer quality of care;
- 7 out of 10 carers say that people with a terminal illness don't get all the care and support they need; and
- Only 15% of health and social care professionals think that people with a terminal illness have their care needs adequately met by A&E services.

Across the UK, people with a terminal illness and their families are missing out on care and support they need simply because of their personal circumstances or where they live. We don't think this is fair.

**This is an issue that will affect many of your constituents, but there are ways to improve the situation locally:**

- **Ask your local Health and Wellbeing Board if their health and wellbeing strategy includes improving access to and quality of palliative care for people with a terminal illness.** Currently only 43% of England's Health and Wellbeing Boards have addressed the needs of people affected by terminal illness in their strategies.
- **Check if your local authority allows fast-track access for social care for people with a terminal illness.** People can wait 30 days and even longer to get social care. Some even die in hospital while they wait. The Care Act 2014 gives local authorities the power to end this situation through fast-track options for people who have a terminal illness.
- **Ask your local Trust and CCG what support is available for people affected by terminal illness out of hours.** Just 3% of Trusts in England provide access to specialist palliative care consultants on a 24/7 basis and many carers feel they only have the emergency services to turn to when they need support.



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Marie Curie is here to help. We provide community nursing, hospice care, information and support, and volunteer-led support services to people affected by terminal illness and we will be campaigning throughout the next Parliament and beyond to ensure that everybody affected by terminal illness gets the care and support that they need to live well for as long as possible in the place of their choice.

*If you have a constituent who needs information about living with a terminal illness, either for themselves or a loved one, then please point them in the direction of the Marie Curie Information & Support service, which can be reached by phoning 0800 090 2309 or through [www.mariecurie.org.uk/help](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/help).*

We need your help to make better care and support for everyone affected by terminal illness a reality. If we can provide any further information then please do get in touch:

Scott Sinclair  
Head of Policy & Public Affairs  
Marie Curie  
89 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7TP  
Phone: 020 7599 7116  
Email: [scott.sinclair@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:scott.sinclair@mariecurie.org.uk)  
Follow us on Twitter @mariecuriePA

We're here for people living with any terminal illness, and their families. We offer expert care, guidance and support to help them get the most from the time they have left.

[mariecurie.org.uk](http://mariecurie.org.uk)

Charity reg no. 207994 (England & Wales), SC038731 (Scotland) A003



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