

Care for people affected by terminal illness in your constituency

8 May 2015

Every year around 3,000 people affected by terminal illness in Northern Ireland 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:

- An estimated 3,000 people affected by terminal illness in Northern Ireland are missing out on the care and support they need each year – often people with a non-cancer diagnosis or those over the age of 85;
- 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.

We don't think this is fair on people and their families.

Although healthcare is a devolved matter, the issues facing people with a terminal illness and their families are consistent across the UK, with people missing out on the care and support they need no matter where they live.

The evidence shows that providing the right kind of care and support to people with a terminal illness enables more people to die at home and reduces both hospital admissions and costs.

You can play a role in improving the care and support available to many of the people affected by terminal illness in your constituency. Here are three things that you can work towards with your MLAs in order to improve care and support for people with a terminal illness in Northern Ireland:

- A new palliative care strategy with robust commitment to ensure that there is adequate future provision of palliative care for everyone in need in Northern Ireland.
- A clear resource commitment to achieve the aims and objectives of the above strategy.
- Support and accelerate coordination between all service providers across health and social care so that we can fulfil the wishes of people with a terminal illness to be cared for in their place of choice.



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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 are 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.

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:

Joan McEwan
Head of Policy & Public Affairs, Northern Ireland
Marie Curie
60 Knock Road
Belfast BT5 6LQ
Phone: 028 9088 2006
Email: joan.mcewan@mariecurie.org.uk
Follow us on Twitter @mariecurieNI

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.

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