

Care for people affected by terminal illness in your constituency

8 May 2015

Every year nearly 11,000 people affected by terminal illness in Scotland 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:

- Nearly 11,000 people affected by terminal illness in Scotland 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 if you provide the right kind of care and support to people with a terminal illness you can reduce hospital admissions, improve the likelihood of people dying at home, and reduce cost to the NHS.

This is an in issue that will affect many of your constituents.

In Scotland, the Scottish Government has committed to developing a new strategic framework for action on palliative and end of life care by the end of the year. We would like to see the following commitments included:

- A clear commitment to ensure that everyone with a palliative care need has access to it by 2020.
- That robust data is collected to measure progress and patient/family experience.
- Training and support for health and social care professionals to deliver effective care for people who are terminally ill. This should be in all settings from care homes to acute hospital wards.
- A clear resource commitment to achieve the aims and objectives of the strategy.



You can help support this by working with your local MSP to ensure that the Scottish Government develops a robust strategic framework that delivers for people living with a terminal illness in your area.

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 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.

If we can provide any further information about how to improve care for people affected by terminal illness in your constituency, then please do get in touch:

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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

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



Care and support
through terminal illness