

# Care for people affected by terminal illness in your constituency

8 May 2015

**Every year over 6,000 people affected by terminal illness in Wales 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:

- Around 110,000 people affected by terminal illness in the UK, including 6,200 in Wales, 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.** Here are three things that you can work towards changing at a local level with your local Assembly Member in order to improve care and support for people with a terminal illness in your constituency:

- **Ensure that Wales has the right information to guide the planning and delivery of palliative and end of life care services now and in the future.** A robust assessment of levels of met and unmet need for specialist and general palliative care in Wales, coupled with outcome measures which properly reflect the holistic nature of palliative care, would ensure services can be planned effectively to meet future needs.
- **Improve access to palliative and end of life care for everyone with a terminal illness who needs it, regardless of their condition.** Targeted action is required to assess whether those who typically don't access specialist care – such as people with non-cancer diagnoses - have their needs met by general care providers and, if not, to make sure barriers preventing them from having their needs met are addressed.



- **Help more terminally ill people spend less time in hospital towards the end of their life.** Strengthening links between acute and community services and increased training for health and social care professionals in recognising when people with different conditions might benefit from palliative care would help to reduce hospital admissions, enable more people to remain in their preferred care setting and relieve pressures on acute services.

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

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Care and support  
through terminal illness