

Help make a right to palliative care a reality in London by 2020

Between now and 2020 nearly 250,000 people will die in London.¹ The majority will need palliative care to help them manage their symptoms, but many will struggle to get the care and support that they need.

Our vision for London is of a city in which no one spends the final months of their life in unnecessary pain or without emotional support. We want a city where communities are empowered to look after each other, and where everyone with a terminal illness can expect high-quality care in the place of their choice, regardless of their personal circumstances. Making palliative care a priority will make this a reality.

For Londoners with a terminal illness, access to high-quality care and support is substantially more difficult than in other parts of the country. We know that:

- People with a terminal condition other than cancer, those over the age of 85 and single people are more likely to miss out on palliative care.
- People from Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities report a poorer experience of palliative and end of life care.

- Quality of palliative care varies across London. We have the second best rated Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in England (Islington), as well as the worst (Newham). Only eight of the 33 CCGs in London score above the national average for end of life quality indicators.
- 70% of specialist palliative care services in London fail to provide face-to-face visits, seven days a week, despite this being the National Institute for Health Care and Excellence (NICE) standard since 2004.
- 55% of people in London die in hospital despite most people saying this is the place they least want to be. This is higher than the national average of 49%.
- Only a third of Health and Wellbeing Boards in London directly address end of life care in their strategies.

¹ Office for National Statistics



The future Mayor and the Greater London Authority need to work towards ensuring that everyone in London has equitable access to palliative care when they need it.

We want the Mayor to:

- Lead a public health campaign to ensure that Londoners know what care and support is available to them if they have a terminal illness.
- Use their power as Chair of the London Health Board to ensure that access to palliative care is a strategic priority to ensure that the London Assembly Health Committee's recommendations about end of life care are achieved.

We want Clinical Commissioning Groups, local authorities and NHS Trusts in London to work in partnership to:

- Develop robust, population-based health and wellbeing strategies that address the end of life care needs for their localities, including how to improve access to, and quality of, care for people with non-cancer conditions, those over the age of 85, and people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.
- Commit to a greater use of volunteers to provide the companionship and emotional support that is vital for people with a terminal illness and their families but not being delivered by current health and social care services. This should also be available to people receiving their care in hospital.

- Reduce the numbers of people dying in hospital and reduce delayed transfers of care from hospital by ensuring that palliative care services are accessible and there is sufficient provision of social care for people at the end of life.
- Ensure that every specialist palliative care service meets the NICE quality standard on end of life care and delivers seven day a week, face-to-face services.
- Ensure that health and social care services for people who have a terminal illness and their friends and family have sufficient funding.

For more information about this manifesto, please contact:

Scott Sinclair
Head of Policy and Public Affairs,
Marie Curie
0207 599 7116

For information and support about living with a terminal illness call 0800 090 2309

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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Care and support through terminal illness