

Response ID [REDACTED]

Submitted to Review of access to palliative care services - Organisations/Health professionals
Submitted on 2024-12-11 23:59:44

Consent

1 The Committee for Health would like your permission to publish your response as part of the survey results. Please indicate your preference.

Consent:
Publish my response but keep it anonymous.

Who are you?

2 What is your name?

Name:
[REDACTED]

3 What is your email address?

Email:
[REDACTED]

4 Are you a healthcare professional? If yes, what is your role? If no, what is your interest in palliative care services:

No

1500 Characters:

Retired Nurse. Some experience in my career and personally around palliative services. Currently volunteer as part of the Chaplaincy Team [REDACTED]
Trust.

5 What is your organisation?

Organisation:
[REDACTED] Trust Volunteer

6 Do you currently work in palliative care services? If Yes, in what capacity?

No

1500 characters:

current state of palliative care services

7 In your view what is the current state of palliative care services in Northern Ireland?

Don't know

8 Do you think there is an understanding by the public of what palliative care is? If no, what are the main barriers to the public understanding palliative care?

Not sure

1500 Characters:

The general public may have a broad view of what they think Palliative care is or may have experience of it within their family but it is a complex and wide subject. I think people sometimes only listen to sound bites and maybe see and take what's on social media as factual.

Access to services

9 Are palliative care services equally accessible to all who need them?

Not sure

10 From your experience where are the gaps in the provision of service?

1500 characters:

My experience within my family was a very positive experience which was provided promptly by a wonderful team of professional staff with kindness and expertise. It was over short time of 4 to 6 weeks due to rapid decline.

Sometimes the expertise is not readily available and staff need particular empathy for conversations with patients and family in meaningful way.

11 Do you believe barriers exist that prevent equitable access to these services?If yes, please provide examples in the box provided.

Yes

1500 characters:

Lack off resources. Funding gaps. Lack of experienced and trained staff. Possibly lack of equipment on occasions or ready access to same.

12 What additional services could/should be provided?

1500 Characters:

As above .More of all of the above. Have good leadership to improve managing, planning and delivery of this service.

Integration of Services

13 How well are palliative care services integrated across the health system, through primary, secondary and specialist care?

1500 characters:

Not sure . But always vital to work well within teams across sectors and have excellent communication strategies, proformas , and guidelines which are well thought out and then followed. Continual review is necessary also.

14 Should palliative care be a regional service?Please outline your reasons in the box provided.

Yes

1500 characters:

The nature of palliative care would need delivered locally within reason and where possible as patients are very vulnerable and frail and on a journey towards end of life . Not sure patients could tolerate lots of travelling to access services so service needs to come to them when they need it.

15 What can be done to improve integration?

1500 characters:

I leave that with wise heads to discuss and plan .

Best Practice

16 Do you have any examples of good practice or pilots in palliative care that are meeting the needs of patients and families/carers? If so, is this best practice happening widely across Northern Ireland?

1500 Characters:

I can only speak of a family member who had wonderful care from excellent teams

17 Do you think that families receive sufficient support when accessing services?Please outline your reasons in the box provided.

Not sure

1500 Characters:

no comment

Funding and Strategy

18 Do you think the current funding for palliative care is sufficient?Please outline your reasons in the box provided.

Yes

1500 characters:

Seems very likely as all services are under pressure . Health ministers and their depts should be able to answer this question better than I can.

19 Is the current model for the funding of hospices, including hospice at home/community care/rapid response support, sustainable and sufficient to meet needs now and in the future?Please outline your reasons in the box provided.

Not sure

1500 characters:

Cannot comment as unsure what model is.

20 Is there a need for a new Palliative Care Strategy for Northern Ireland? If yes, what should it include? If no, why not?Please outline your reasons in the box provided

Not sure

1500 characters:

Most likely or certainly a big improvement needed. Not sure what the previous strategy was /is.

Any other comments

21 Any other comments

1500 characters:

No other comments. EXCEPT ... But good luck in your endeavours . But don't take forever to discuss and strategise . A practical timely solution should be enacted within a fixed agreed timeframe. We often have many many reports over years on our Health Service and they gather dust . Be bold and progressive.