

Review of access to palliative care services - Organisations/Health professionals

Overview

The Assembly's Health Committee is holding an inquiry into palliative care services in Northern Ireland. The Committee wants to:

- Develop its understanding of the current provision of palliative and hospice care;
- Find out more about the challenges in the provision of, and access to, this type of care; and
- Learn more about excellence in palliative and hospice care by identifying examples of best practice.

The Committee wants to hear from the organisations and staff that provide this important care. The Committee also wants to hear from individual and families who have direct experience and are willing to share the insight they have gained from their experience. Patients and families will complete a separate survey.

Why your views matter

The Committee will use the outcome of its inquiry to advise the Health Minister on the future of palliative and hospice care provision.

The objectives of the inquiry are listed below:

Objectives

Evaluate Current Provision: Assess the current state of palliative care services, including the range of services available, their geographical distribution, and the quality of care provided.

Funding Mechanisms: Examine the funding structures for hospices, including government contributions, charitable donations, and other sources of funding.

Accessibility and Equity: Investigate the accessibility of palliative care services across different regions and demographic groups in Northern Ireland.

Coordination and Integration: Explore the level of coordination between different healthcare providers and the integration of palliative care with other health services.

Challenges and Barriers: Identify the main challenges and barriers faced by hospices and palliative care providers, including financial, operational and regulatory issues.

Future Needs: Assess future needs and demands for palliative care services in light of demographic changes and emerging healthcare trends.

Support for patients and families: Assess what level of support is currently provided, looking at the journey of a patient and family through end-of-life care.

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 (Required)

Please select only one item

- ☐ Publish response.
- ☐ Don't publish response.
- ☒ Publish my response but keep it anonymous.

Who are you?

- 2 What is your name?

Name

- 3 What is your email address?

Email

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

Please select only one item

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

1500 Characters

RETIRED G.P. WITH SOME EXPERIENCE WORKING IN
N.I. HOSPACE

5 What is your organisation?

Organisation

N/A

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

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
☒ 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?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Excellent
☐ Good
☒ Neither
☐ Poor
☐ Very Poor
☐ 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?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ Not sure

1500 Characters

TOO MANY PEOPLE FEEL PALLIATIVE CARE IS SIMPLY FOR PATIENTS WITH CANCER AND "A TIME TO DIE"

Access to services

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

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ Not sure

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

1500 characters

GEOGRAPHIC LIMITATIONS

FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS - NOT ALL REFERRALS CAN
BE ACTIONED EXPEDITELY

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

Please select only one item

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not sure

1500 characters

LIMITED BEDS IN HOSPICE - BOTH CHILDREN AND
ADULT SERVICES

12 What additional services could/should be provided?

1500 Characters

INCREASED FUNDING FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
- DECREASED RELIANCE ON CHARITABLE DONATIONS
- INCREASE COMMUNITY COVER IN RURAL AREAS

Integration of Services

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

1500 characters

PATCHY - VERY GOOD RELATIONS IN SOME AREAS,
DEPENDS ON PERSONNEL ALSO.

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

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ Not sure

1500 characters

NOT IF THIS MEANS "INPATIENT" SERVICES ARE TOO
RESTRICTED - IF CARE CAN BE PROVIDED LOCALLY IT
IS BEST FOR FAMILIES TO CONTINUE TO VISIT / CARE.

15 What can be done to improve integration?

1500 characters

INFORMATION TO PUBLIC
FUNDING!

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

N/A

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

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☒ Not sure

1500 Characters

AS RETIRED I'M NOT SURE OF NOW - BUT IN PAST
N.I. HOPE WAS EXCELLENT - GP SERVICES
VERY STRETCHED TO CONTINUE INDIVIDUAL FAMILY
SUPPORT

Funding and Strategy

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

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ Not sure

1500 characters

AGEING, INCREASINGLY INFIRM POPULATION WITH
DECREASE FAMILY / NEIGHBOUR ABILITY TO CARE
DUE TO FINANCIAL - WORK - DISTANCE PRESSURES
HEALTH SERVICE TOO STRETCHED TO FILL GAP.

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.

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ Not sure

1500 characters

INCREASED DEMAND WITH DECREASE FUNDING
AND COMMUNITY INCOME STRETCHED!

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

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☒ Not sure

1500 characters

Any other comments

21 Any other comments

1500 characters

WITH INCREASED EXCELLENT PALLIATIVE CARE, THE
"NEED" FOR AN ASSISTED DYING BILL IS NEGATED. VERY
FEW PALLIATIVE CARE NEEDS CANNOT BE MET WITH GOOD
PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE.

