

Response ID [REDACTED]

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

Submitted on 2024-12-13 09:18:32

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:

[REDACTED]

5 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

[REDACTED]

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

Yes

1500 characters:

I am an HR Manager in Hospice and see every day the care and dedication our wonderful team gives. We cannot compete with the benefits care staff receive in the Health Service and struggle to recruit at times. I would love to be able to offer our staff more benefits. While we do try and offer non monetary benefits, we are in a vast cost of living crisis and people need money in their pocket. I think government should invest more in Hospice's as I would hate to see palliative care having to move back to a hospital and a clinical environment rather than a family orientated environment

current state of palliative care services

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

Good

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?

No

1500 Characters:

I think a lot of the public just see palliative care as keeping a patient comfortable during their final days. They do not see that it could be someone coming into hospice to receive treatment and go home again and this could be repeated for a couple of years. Palliative care is not always imminent end of life care. It is also about looking after the whole family and not just the patient

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:

It is not accessible to all who need it as there are not enough hospice beds.

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

Not sure

1500 characters:

12 What additional services could/should be provided?

1500 Characters:

More investment in Community Hospice Services, ie looking after the patient in their home if that is what they wish and is doable.

Integration of Services

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

1500 characters:

All care across the health system is disjointed and its difficult to get each department to talk to the other

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

Yes

1500 characters:

15 What can be done to improve integration?

1500 characters:

More contact with GPs and Hospice, i don't think even many of them know what happens in Hospice. Patient needs to be the priority for everyone, and it isn't fair if someone is under the care of a GP who goes off on leave (LTS) and know one else is appointed their patients they are sometimes left in limbo and passed round a variety of locums

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:

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

Not Answered

1500 Characters:

Funding and Strategy

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

No

1500 characters:

Even with funding Hospices have to find millions of pounds each year just to survive, it is getting more difficult each year to raise these funds due to people having less disposable income and businesses under pressure with increased costs.

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.

No

1500 characters:

With an aging population and more people being given a diagnosis of cancer there will be an increase in demand in the future. We also see more complex cases, where patients have underlying health conditions as well as their terminal illness.

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

Yes

1500 characters:

Any other comments

21 Any other comments

1500 characters: