

Response ID [REDACTED]

Submitted to Review of access to palliative care services - Organisations/Health professionals  
Submitted on 2025-01-08 21:31:51

## 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 response.

## Who are you?

2 What is your name?

Name:  
Patricia McKeever

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:

Yes

1500 Characters:

Social worker

5 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
BHSCT

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?

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:

Unless you have had personal experience it means nothing to most people.

## Access to services

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

No

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

1500 characters:

It is only available at the very end of life due to demand on services.

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:

I work in mental health and these patients need intensive support to access services

12 What additional services could/should be provided?

1500 Characters:

More respite throughout the illness

### Integration of Services

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

1500 characters:

Post code lottery with scant services in rural areas in fact no palliative care in Fermanagh at all

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

Yes

1500 characters:

But must have equity across all areas and not be dominated by population figures

15 What can be done to improve integration?

1500 characters:

More palliative care in patients own home and access to respite when illness is acute.

### 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:

Yes OHPCC is an example of good practice however demand excess supply and therefore patients are unable to gain access until their illness is at the very end of life.

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

Yes

1500 Characters:

My family had good support when my mum was in OHPCC

### 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:

Relies on charity and fundraising

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:

Annual budgets prevent longterm planning and innovation we need to look at demographics and plans for 5&10 years services

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:

Similar to ROI and some European models like Germany where greater focus on prevention and early intervention

Any other comments

21 Any other comments

1500 characters:

We need to move away from over reliance on acute care and develop community care which is staffed and paid at Band 5 and above which would address shortages of carers