

## Response ID ANON-PEFR-6RET-E

Submitted to Review of access to palliative care services - Organisations/Health professionals  
Submitted on 2025-01-07 10:27:29

### 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:  
Sarah Turley

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:

District nurse

5 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
Belfast Trust

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

Yes

1500 characters:

District nurse

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:

Most patients and family think of palliative care as end of life. They are not aware that it is about being supported to live well with their condition

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:

There is too many different organisations involved. In the community we have the key worker for palliative care, the DN. Then we have the hospice team, Marie Curie. Private care agencies. Why can't they be combined into one package?  
A team in the community that focuses solely on palliative care.

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:

The knowledge time and expertise of your DN.  
Does he/she have quality time to spend with the patient? Does she have the required knowledge?  
The DN caseload is complex and resources are not available for him /her to devote the time needed for good quality palliative care

12 What additional services could/should be provided?

1500 Characters:

Counselling/support for carers,  
Bereavement support

### Integration of Services

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

1500 characters:

Only really familiar with commiy services

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

Yes

1500 characters:

Yes everyone in NI should have equal opportunity and care

15 What can be done to improve integration?

1500 characters:

More collaborate working.  
Systems and processes made easier.

### 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 sure

1500 Characters:

It really depends on the knowledge of the person giving support.  
I feel it can be a mind field for families. Not sure of services aavailable, processes etc. Often family research or ask other members of their community what is available. Communication could be improved by HP.

### 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:

We have one chance to do it right. Sometimes due to work load pressures I could have done better or I'm just exhausted. When I am being called away from a palliative patient to other calls perhaps less urgent I feel it's not good enough.

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:

I don't think so. It's too fragmented. Lets consider as I have stated before a community palliative care team. A DN that solely deals with palliative patients with a team of medical consultants, physios, OTs. A MDT approach.

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: