

# Together for Short Lives Strategic Plan 2012-2015



Together for Short Lives is the UK charity working to help ensure that every child and young person unlikely to reach adulthood, and their family, has the best possible care and support whenever and wherever they need it.

We know that we cannot do this alone; we can only achieve the very best for children and families by working in partnership with all our family, professional and organisational members and supporters.

Together **we can change lives.**

We have developed four strategic objectives to guide our work over the next three years. We want every child and their family to have:

- 1 The right information from the moment of diagnosis so they can make choices about the care they receive.
- 2 Easy access to services so that they can spend more time together.
- 3 The best quality of care.
- 4 Reliable support now and throughout their journey.

# 1 The right information from the moment of diagnosis so families can make choices about the care they receive



## **The challenge**

Families find it difficult to get the right information, which can prevent them from making choices about the care and support they need.

## **What we will do**

Together for Short Lives will be the 'go-to' place for families, helping them get the support they need, from the point of diagnosis and throughout their child's journey.

## **How we're going to do it**

Ensure that all children, young people and families get the help and support they need by providing accessible information through our helpline, resources, website and social media.

Raise awareness of what children and families need so that health and social care professionals can better provide the right support, where and when families need it.

Get people talking about children who are life-limited, life-threatened or terminally ill and break down taboos about children's palliative care so people are better informed, and children and families are better understood.

# 2 Easy access to services so that families can spend more time together

## **The challenge**

Families often have to co-ordinate as many as 35 professionals involved in caring for their child. For many parents this is a full-time job.

## **What we will do**

Together for Short Lives will help families to access the services, care and support they need so they can spend more time with their child and less time navigating a complex system.

## **How we're going to do it**

Inform families about their care choices and what should happen along their child's journey so they can make informed decisions.

Encourage health, social care and education services to work together more effectively so they can deliver a co-ordinated and comprehensive package of care for each family.

Lead the development of appropriate services for young people approaching adulthood so they can live more independently.

### 3 The best quality of care

#### The challenge

Families need to know that their care is the best it can be and that they can always rely on it.

#### What we will do

Together for Short Lives will help raise standards to ensure that families get the best possible care throughout their journey.

#### How we're going to do it

Equip professionals with training, support, guidance and resources so they can deliver the right services to all children, young people and families.

Encourage a UK wide approach to collecting data on the numbers of children with palliative care needs so services can be developed when and where they are needed.

Lobby UK governments so that the right policies are in place to support children and families.



### 4 Reliable and sustainable support now and throughout the family's journey

#### The challenge

In these difficult economic times, families need to know the services that they rely on will be there for every step of their journey.

#### What we will do

Together for Short Lives will help to ensure sustainable services so that care and support is available now and in the future.

#### How we're going to do it

Lobby UK governments for the right levels of funding for children's palliative care services.

Encourage all children's palliative care services to maximise funding opportunities and champion efficiency.

Raise money for local and regional children's palliative care charities and support them to make the most of funding opportunities.

You can read and download a copy of the Together for Short Lives detailed Strategic Plan at: <http://tinyurl.com/tfslstrategy>

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