

# A manifesto for palliative and end of life care

October 2023



National Bereavement  
Alliance



Ahead of the next General Election, we call upon all political parties and candidates to commit to the following policies to ensure that everyone affected by dying, death and bereavement receives the best possible care and support, both now and in the future.

### We are calling for the future Government to:

#### 1 Deliver a new funding solution for hospices and palliative and end of life care to end the postcode lottery in access:

- Recognising palliative and end of life care as a core component of our health and care system;
- Ensuring parity of esteem and fair pay for those working to deliver support for dying people in the NHS and hospice charities;
- Ensuring providers are paid fairly and equitably for services; and
- Increasing funding for palliative and end of life care research from 0.2% of health-related research spending to 0.5%.

#### 2 Introduce a national delivery plan for palliative and end of life care in every nation to support delivery of local services:

- Enabling commissioning of services that meet the needs of the whole population, including children and young people;
- Planning and funding a health and care workforce that can respond to increased future need;
- Ensuring 24/7 access to palliative and end of life care including through a single point of access in every local area offering advice, guidance and support; and
- Improving access to medicines through more pharmacies stocking palliative medicines and more professionals trained to prescribe them in local communities.

#### 3 Guarantee that palliative and end of life care services meet each individual's needs, including those of people dying at home:

- Personalised care and support planning for every individual reaching the end of their life, including bereavement and mental health support for carers and families;
- Sharing of digital care plans across health and care services to enable joined-up support in the community for every individual and their family and carers;
- Involving people with direct experience of dying, death and bereavement in co-designing local palliative and end of life care services.

#### 4 Act to ensure that nobody dies in poverty and tackle inequalities in palliative and end of life care:

- Ensuring that terminally ill people of working age are not pushed into poverty simply for dying too young – through an entitlement to claim their state pension and other pensioner benefits; and
- Protecting everyone with a terminal illness from high energy costs through targeted support, a social tariff on energy prices, and the government covering the cost of running essential medical devices at home.
- Delivering a cross-government strategy addressing the health inequalities experienced by disadvantaged groups throughout their lives, including at the end of life.

#### 5 Improve support for families and carers of people with a terminal illness:

- Increasing support for carers of people at the end of life through better identification, needs assessment, financial and bereavement support;
- Implementing a cross-government bereavement plan, covering all areas of public policy which affect bereaved people, including bereavement support; and
- Extending of statutory bereavement leave and pay entitlement of two weeks to all people with a close relationship to a person who has died.

Help to ensure everyone affected by dying, death and bereavement receives the best possible care and support, now and in the future.

**For further information please contact:**



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This manifesto has been developed in partnership by Hospice UK, Marie Curie, the National Bereavement Alliance, Sue Ryder and Together for Short Lives.