



Meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Children Who Need Palliative Care

Tuesday 16 June 2026
3pm-5pm

Attendees

Dame Siobhain McDonagh MP (Co-Chair)
Baggy Shanker MP
John Milne MP
Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP
Stephen Kinnock MP

Summary

- The meeting involved a 2-hour reception with speeches taking place at 3pm. The event was held to mark Children's Hospice Week and raise awareness of funding challenges facing the sector.
- The speeches began by hearing from Paul Woodward who shared his experience of accessing seven years of support from Derian House Children's Hospice before his son, Kalel died aged 11 in 2019. In doing so, Paul spoke about the reality of children's hospices and the impact they have for children with serious illness. Paul also showed the trailer for a documentary on children's hospice care that he has produced.
- Nick Carroll (Chief Executive of Together for Short Lives) shared findings from a new report, 'Vital care, fragile funding: Why children's hospices can't keep filling the gap', which sets out how children's hospices have been funded in 2025/26, the impact of funding changes on their services, and what they expect to happen in 2026/27.
- The APPG heard that right now children's hospices are providing more care and support than ever before, including increasing volumes of clinical care that would otherwise fall to the NHS. Despite this, statutory funding is failing to keep pace with the rising cost of providing care resulting in mounting deficits and services being cut.
- The Minister of State for Care, Stephen Kinnock MP then spoke about the work the government is doing. The minister referenced recent funding commitments from the government for both adult and children's hospices before citing the progress being made to develop a Modern Service Framework (MSF) for all-age palliative and end of life care. Specifically, the minister reassured attendees that the MSF will reflect the needs of babies, children and young people and stated that integrated care boards (ICBs) have been asked to produce integrated needs assessments to gain a detailed understanding of local populations.
- Dame Siobhain McDonagh thanked guests for attending and encouraged attendees to stay for refreshments and further networking.