**Template letter or email to prospective parliamentary candidates (PPCs)**

Dear [First Name]

**Delivering high quality palliative care for seriously ill children in [name of constituency]**

I am writing to ask what steps you would take, if elected, to make sure seriously ill children in [name of constituency]can access high quality palliative care.

[If you are a young person with a life-limiting condition, a parent carer, a children’s palliative care professional or someone who works for a children’s palliative care service, you could insert a paragraph about this here]

I am very concerned that, across England:

* too few children and families can choose to access palliative care at home out of hours and at weekends
* too few children’s palliative care services are sustainably planned, funded or staffed
* assessments and plans are rarely joined up around children and families
* anomalies in the benefits system mean that some families miss out on crucial financial support.

This means that too many children and families are missing out on the care and support they need, when and where they need it. It also means that too many seriously ill children need unplanned, prolonged emergency hospital admissions, when their needs could potentially have been met elsewhere. As a result, the NHS is failing to achieve savings in the resources it spends on these children and their families.

The next government can help seriously ill children and their families to achieve the best possible quality of life – and make sure they receive the best possible end of life care. Together for Short Lives, the UK-wide children’s palliative care charity, [is asking all the parties contesting the general election to commit to make sure that, by the end of the next Parliament:](https://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/PolRes_191115_Together-for-Short-Lives_suggested_party_manifesto_pledges_for_seriously_ill_children_FINAL.pdf)

1. Seriously ill children can access the palliative care services they and their families need, when and where they need it, including out of hours and at weekends.
2. Children’s palliative care is funded equitably and sustainably by the NHS, local authorities and voluntary sector providers.
3. A workforce plan is in place to make sure seriously ill children can access professionals with the skills and experience needed to provide palliative care.
4. Assessments, plans and services are joined up for seriously ill children and their families across health, social care and education.
5. Seriously ill children receive the financial support they need from the benefits system.

Together for Short Lives has set out these policies in more detail at [www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/TfSLGE19](file:///%5C%5Ctfslonline%5CNewData%20Sharepoint%5CExternal%20Affairs%5CUK%20wide%5CGeneral%20election%202019-22%5Cwww.togetherforshortlives.org.uk%5CTfSLGE19). If you are elected on 12 December, I would be grateful if you could work with the [All-Party Parliamentary Group for Children Who Need Palliative Care](http://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/appg) at Westminster to implement them.

Thank you in advance for your help. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

[Your name]

**If you send this message as an email, please remember to include your address and postcode so that the candidate knows that you are a local voter.**