



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

*Dear Contribute,*

**RE: PALLIATIVE CARE**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about palliative and end of life care for people with terminal illnesses. I have read your comments with interest.

First, thank you for your kind invitation to attend Marie Curie's Great Daffodill Appeal event held on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Unfortunately, owing to prior, longstanding diary commitments, I was unable to attend, although please rest assured that I will continue to follow the issues raised closely.

I agree that we must ensure that people receive the most appropriate care, personalised to their individual needs, as they approach the end of their lives.

The 'NHS Long Term Plan', prepared by the NHS and published in 2019, builds on previous commitments made by the Government to personalise care through informed conversations between healthcare professionals and dying people. Part of this is a commitment to help people to live independently for longer, as well as a promise to give more people more say about the care they receive and where they receive it, particularly towards the end of their lives. I believe empowering people with terminal conditions in this way will better enable them to access palliative care when and where they most need it.

The creation of the Personalised Care Institute has made training available to help staff identify and support patients and to introduce personalised care planning for everyone identified as being in their last year of life. Importantly, this enables meaningful conversations to take place and allows staff to help patients and families, address their concerns, and to explain the breadth of services available in the local area.

On the funding of hospices, NHS England and NHS Improvement have recently provided funding to support seven strategic clinical networks to deliver palliative and end of life care. The *Health & Care Act* requires Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to commission palliative care and end of life services.

Since 2020, NHS England has provided hospices with over £350 million nationally, to secure and increase NHS capacity and to support hospital discharge. In addition, since 2021/22, nearly £63 million has been provided to children's hospices as part of the Children and Young People's Hospice Grant. Separately, further investment in children and young people's palliative and end of life care, including hospices, has also been made through the 'NHS Long Term Plan' commitment to match-fund clinical commissioning groups, and subsequently ICBs, totalling over £23 million.



Furthermore, NHS England has actively increased its support to local commissioners to improve the accessibility, quality and sustainability of palliative and end of life care for all. This has included the publication of statutory guidance and service specifications, with further resources available on the FutureNHS Collaboration Platform.

In addition, NHS England has funded the establishment of a Palliative and End of Life Care Strategic Clinical Network in every NHS England region, which works closely with local commissioners regarding the development of accessible, high quality, and sustainable services.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove', with a horizontal line underneath.

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**