hospiceUK

Hospice UK's work to promote better palliative and end of life care for all

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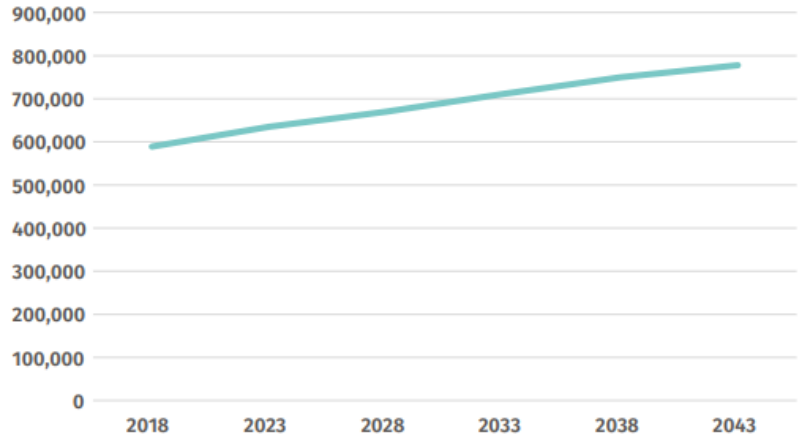
Key challenges facing the sector:

- Impact of COVID-19 on the complexity and volume of death.
- Projected increases in the need for palliative and end of life care.
- The significant increase in deaths in private homes during the pandemic.

- Inequity in access to high-quality palliative and end of life care.
- Staffing shortages and an ageing workforce.
- Lack of a sustainable solution for hospice funding.

FIGURE 1.2: TOTAL DEATHS ARE PROJECTED TO RISE IN THE NEXT 25 YEARS

Projected number of deaths in the UK per annum, total, 2018–2043, not including Covid-19[3]



Thomas C, *The state of end of life care: Building back better after Covid-19*, IPPR (2021)

Policy context in the UK's four nations

All: Emergency COVID-19 funding for hospices & COVID-19 Public Inquiries.

England: Health and Care Bill reforms and NHSEI's Palliative and End of Life Care Delivery Plan and Strategic Clinical Networks.

Scotland: Upcoming 2022 Palliative and End of Life Care Strategy and plans for a National Care Service.

Wales: Upcoming End of Life Care Quality Statement, ongoing review into Hospice funding and plans for a National Care Service.

Northern Ireland: Upcoming May 2022 elections. Currently, the only nation without a palliative care strategy or a commitment to develop one.

How Hospice UK is working to promote high-quality care for all

1) Research, policy and influencing on inequity in access to high-quality palliative and end of life care, including:

- Analysis of reports of investigations into deaths in prisons in England by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.
- Lobbying to make end of life care in prisons a priority in England & Wales.
- Sharing and promoting good practice examples of end of life care in prisons.
- Our new research project into the barriers to access facing trans and non-binary communities.

How Hospice UK is working to promote high-quality care for all

2) Clinical support programmes and ECHO networks for health and care professionals, including our:

- Clinical ECHO network, which has supported services in responding to the pandemic.
- Innovation ECHO network, which aims to explore a more sustainable future for the hospice sector.
- Quality Improvement project for bereavement services and resulting Bereavement ECHO network.

How Hospice UK is working to promote high-quality care for all

3) Mapping the extent of hospice services and the characteristics of the patients they serve, in collaboration with the Nuffield Trust, across the UK in order to:

- Address a significant gap in understanding of the services provided by the adult and children's hospice sector across the UK.
- Build a picture of hospice service provision over the last 3 years as well as report on the demographic information of patients served during 2020/21.
- Demonstrate the integral and integrated role of hospices in the health and care sector to key decision makers.

How Hospice UK is working to promote high-quality care for all

4) Exploring a more sustainable future for the hospice sector with our Future Vision Programme, which includes:

- Exploring how hospices can add maximum value within new ICS structures.
- Developing new ways for hospices to share innovative practice.
- Bringing together professionals in Wales to address challenges to providing integrated community care.
- Promoting the recommendations in our Future of Hospice Care in Scotland Report.

How Hospice UK is working to promote high-quality care for all

5) Support for the:

- APPG on Hospice and End of Life Care's review into the lasting impact of COVID-19 on death, dying and bereavement
- Cross-Party Group for Hospice and Palliative Care's deep dive into experiences of end of life care at home during the pandemic.

These inquiries aim to shed light on the experiences of death and dying people have had during the pandemic and influence future scrutiny of the COVID-19 pandemic response and ensure end of life care is considered in recovery plans.

How Hospice UK is working to promote high-quality care for all

Dying Matters

6) Campaigning for action on the surge in deaths in private homes since the beginning of the pandemic in order to:

Tens of thousands have died at home without adequate care during pandemic, charity warns

- Raise awareness of the estimated 67,000 people who have died at home without the end of life care they need.
- Call for COVID-19 Inquiries across the UK to examine this significant increase.
- Call for more Government investment in community end of life care.
- Call for basic end of life care training for all generalist health and care sector workers.