

Policy Briefing: What's Important to Me: A Review of Choice in End of Life Care Executive Summary

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http://ncpc.org.uk/sites/default/files/CHOICE%20REVIEW_EXECUTIVE%20SUMMARY_WEB.pdf

Purpose of document

The Choice in End of Life Care Programme Board was commissioned to provide advice to Government on how the quality and experience of care and support for adults at the end of their life, and those close to them, can be improved with greater and better choices. The board explored this by holding an engagement review with people who have experiences of end of life care services, and experts from health and care organisations. Their work was supported by analysing the evidence from academic research; specialist clinical advice; and work carried out by charities and statutory organisations. The advice from the review should help to enable better commissioning of high quality care and delivery of services.

Summary of contents

The report discusses the issues that adults at the end of their life face. It provides advice on the steps that should be taken to ensure greater choice in end of life care for everyone when they need it, focused around 'a national choice offer' - meaning what should be offered to each person who needs end of life care. Examples include choices and preferences that are practical and made available to the person quickly, based on open and honest communication, consistently reviewed, and recorded in a personal plan of care; and a named senior clinician and personal care coordinator. The report also mentions the models of care that have been created for end of life care.

Summary of outcomes

A number of key choices were identified from the public engagement review. They include choice of where individuals are cared for and die; other aspects of care such as pain management; supporting and involving the people who are most important in their care; and access to the right services, at the right time and place, provided by well trained and qualified staff. The report recognises that this will be a very expensive investment. However, it is still possible to achieve service improvements and keep costs down. Achieving the vision will also require greater effort and input from all the people and organisations who are involved in service delivery and care, the government and other statutory organisations.

Summary of recommendations

- Commitment to deliver choice in end of life care by April 2020.
- A new right in the NHS constitution for everyone to be offered choices.
- 24/7 end of life care for people being cared to be in place by 2019.
- A clear policy by the Government to make access to social care fast and free.
- More honest and open communication about issues to do with end of life.
- Better support for health and care professionals involved in end of life care.
- Improving awareness of end of life care amongst the public.

Further information and resources - Full Report, Annexe A and Annexe B

http://ncpc.org.uk/sites/default/files/CHOICE%20REVIEW_FINAL%20for%20web.pdf

http://ncpc.org.uk/sites/default/files/CHOICE%20REVIEW_ANNEX%20A_FINAL%20for%20web.pdf

http://ncpc.org.uk/sites/default/files/CHOICE%20REVIEW_ANNEX%20B_FINAL%20for%20web.pdf

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