

# The Myton Hospices Assisted Dying Statement

The Myton Hospices welcomes the national spotlight the Assisted Dying debate has brought to palliative and end of life care in the UK.

We believe it must act as a catalyst for meaningful change – particularly in ensuring fair and equitable access to high-quality palliative and end of life care, alongside urgent reform in hospice funding. True choice at the end of life can only exist when people are supported with the right care, at the right time.

Assisted dying is not the only option to prevent suffering. Hospices across the UK have been expertly managing pain and supporting terminally ill patients for decades. Despite repeated recognition from successive governments and prime ministers, the sector is now in crisis due to chronic underfunding.

The bill needs to be passed before it becomes law and then there is a potential implementation period of four years. Meanwhile hospices are being forced to close beds and cut vital at-home services. With every day that proper funding is delayed, more people are left to die in pain that could be managed with specialist care.

At Myton, three out of five people on our waiting list for a hospice bed will sadly die before they can access one. This is unacceptable. Access to palliative and end of life care shouldn't be a lottery.

We will continue to fight to keep our services open and to raise the vital funds needed to ensure that as many people as possible receive the compassionate palliative and end of life care they desperately need and deserve.

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   @MytonHospices

