

Assisted Dying debate in UK – a framework for Board planning

Upholding the values of the hospice

- Can you use the values of the hospice as a lens to help with how you and your leadership team prepare for the possibility of assisted dying being legalised in the UK?

Duty to service users

- Should a hospice always try and reflect the wishes of a local community?
- Can you ensure willingness to access your care services increases rather than falls after any change in the law?
- Would you turn away (or transfer) a patient who had applied for an assisted death?

Reputation

- Hospices may be on 'front line' of a new but potentially polarising legal right
- Whatever your position, it will have opponents who will criticise the hospice
- Hospices likely to be regularly asked for your views in media and social media
- How well you handle public positioning will impact on ALL other areas

Duty of Care to staff and volunteers

- Plethora of wellbeing, religious, ethical, political, wellbeing issues
- It's always good to talk, and even better to always listen
- Different team members may feel very apprehensive/demoralized/excited
- Critical to involve volunteers from the outset

Finance

- How might the introduction of assisted dying impact on statutory funding?
- What might your partners in health and social care expect from you?
- How might the decisions you take impact on voluntary fundraising and retail?
- Obvious risks of loss of some supporters of your hospice