

Briefing on the Public Accounts Committee report on the Financial sustainability of adult hospices in England- Wednesday 18th March 2026

Context

On Wednesday 18th March, the Public Accounts Committee released its [report](#) into the Financial sustainability of adult hospices in England. The [Public Accounts Committee](#) examines value for money of Government projects, programmes and service delivery. The Committee of sixteen MPs drew upon the [National Audit Office report](#), published in October 2025.

This report is part of a wider [inquiry](#) which Hospice UK has informed by submitting [written](#) and [oral](#) evidence.

Key points:

- Overall, there is a welcome emphasis on urgency and the need for reform. The report is clear that **'the Department and NHS England are not responding to the growing financial crisis in the adult hospice sector with the seriousness and urgency needed'**.
- It also highlights that it is unrealistic to rely on ICBs to solve everything locally given that they are currently navigating their own restructures and reducing staff numbers.
- The report points to the Modern Service Framework as the government's solution but notes that it is in the early stages of development, details are unclear, and that the pace of change does not address the urgent financial challenges facing many adult hospices.

Key recommendations:

The report highlights the need for improved oversight and governance of the palliative and end-of life care care sector, including by the Department, NHS England, ICBs, HM Treasury and regulators. There is a clear mandate in the report to use the Modern Service Framework to implement fair funding for hospices. It recommends that:

- The Department and NHS England should use the opportunity of the Modern Service Framework to:
 - define the core palliative care services that ICBs have a duty to commission;
 - establish how much of this is delivered by hospices; and
 - determine fair levels of ICB funding for hospices.
- DHSE and NHS England should work with and take on board the views of the hospice sector to develop and publish a fully costed delivery plan alongside the framework.
- NHS England should work with ICBs to:

- establish which hospices are forecasting imminent service reductions and confirm that for each of these, the ICB has undertaken a quality impact assessment; and
 - develop an individual plan for each such hospice, setting out how the ICB will support the hospice to maintain its services, or how the ICB will otherwise compensate for the service reductions.
- The Department and NHS England should ensure the Modern Service Framework will thoroughly examine:
 - the full range of wider benefits that independent hospices provide and that the NHS gains from; and
 - how the Department will protect and support the provision of these benefits in the future.

The Government are expected to reply to the recommendations in the report within two months of publication and we will share this response with members. If you would like more information about this update, please email policy@hospiceuk.org.