Hospice UK | April 2026

How we've supported our members in Scotland since April 2025

£9.4 million

total support for independent hospices announced by Scottish Government in 2026/27 budget

4,238+

pieces of UK media coverage secured about our work to support the hospice sector

£870,695

allocated to hospice members across the UK via our own grant programmes

904%

increase in traffic to hospice Gift in Wills pages as a result of the National Hospice Legacy Campaign

Make the most of your Hospice UK membership: visit our website to find out more about how staff and volunteers can access our services and resources.

64

face-to-face discussions with MSPs to highlight key priorities for the hospice sector

1,800

registrations for

18

Big Conversations events including webinars, workshops and roundtables

71%

of Scottish members attended one or more of our conferences

4,388

people are part of one of our networks or communities of practice

18.1 million

adults in the UK saw the National Hospice Legacy Campaign advert an average of 5.4 times in 2025

91%

of member hospices submitted data via our 2025 Activity Survey

85%

of member hospices submitted data via our 2025 Workforce Survey

398

people in the UK supported in professional development and training through our grants and bursaries

For more information visit hospiceuk.org

Charity registered in England and Wales No. 1014851, and in Scotland No. SC041112

Hospice UK advocacy and campaigning in 2025/26

Over the last year, thanks to close collaboration with our members and with the Scottish Hospice Leadership Group (SHLG), we have seen some major progress for independent hospices in Scotland, including significant hospice funding commitments from Scottish Government.

- In Stage 2 and 3 of the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill, we secured vital amendments that would have given protections to hospices should the bill have passed.

- February 2026 saw **£9.4 million in total support for hospices** pledged in the 2026/27 budget, negotiated up by Hospice UK and SHLG from an initial £6.5m.

- At our election hustings in March 2026, all political parties committed to deliver a step-change in palliative care backed by adequate resources.

We are at a hugely important time for hospice and palliative care in Scotland. The upcoming election in May 2026, along with the renewed focus on palliative care brought about by the assisted dying bill and the publication of Scotland's new palliative care strategy, have created an unique opportunity to secure the future of the sector.

Our manifesto asks are clear that the next Scottish Government must make palliative care a national priority by:



Delivering a long-term, sustainable funding model for hospice care, including fully implementing pay parity between NHS and hospice care staff



Establishing an independent review of palliative care to drive urgent system reform and identify investment needed to meet rising population need



Legislating to deliver a right to palliative care, so that everyone receives the care they need at the end of life

To help you during this time, we have developed information and guidance for hospices about what you can do during the election period, and how to engage with your local candidates.

We will continue to fight with you for hospice care for all across Scotland in the year to come.

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Working with our members

At Hospice UK, our key programmes are central to our strategic aims, supporting hospices to deliver the best possible quality care - for all, for now, forever.

Over the last year, we have launched a number of programmes focused on the transition from children's to adult services, on reaching more people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, and on strengthening our support to the hospice workforce. We've provided intensive direct support and advice to members experiencing the most acute financial pressures. And our award-winning National Hospice Legacy Campaign has gone from strength to strength.

National Hospice Legacy Campaign

Working with more than 150 participating hospices across the first and second years, we have built a ground-breaking national campaign to raise vital awareness of legacy giving for local hospices. Titled This is Hospice Care, the campaign aims to reset the public's expectations about the amazing, diverse work that hospices do, the impact that hospice care has on people's lives - and why it's so vital that it continues in future through national TV and radio adverts alongside local activation by hospices in their communities.
We are now developing the campaign for year three, inviting hospices to sign up and build on the impact we've seen so far.

Supporting the hospice workforce

We work with our members and partners to provide support and resources to the hospice workforce.
This includes wellbeing and resilience support, training and professional development opportunities and sharing innovation and practical guidance from across the sector.

Embedding quality and safety

A key element of our work is supporting excellence in hospice care, ensuring hospices are fully equipped to provide quality care for patients and their families.
We provide resources and support to help hospices embed high quality, safe care, through a quality improvement approach.

Reaching people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage

This programme will help hospices make their services more accessible and more supportive for people facing financial hardship.
Through hospice grants, data collation, policy influence and sharing best practice, we can make sure everyone gets the right care when they need it most.

Improving care for people with progressive neurological conditions

This programme aims to ensure that people in the UK living with progressive neurological conditions can receive palliative and end of life care that is high quality, equitable, and underpinned by a rehabilitative approach.
We have launched a community of practice for this field and funded 11 hospices to deliver projects to improve care for people with progressive neurological conditions.

Improving the transition from children's to adult hospice care

We aim to improve the experience and continuity of hospice care and support for young people who are transitioning from children's to adult hospice services.
We are working with four 'centres of learning' and bringing together hospices across the UK through our community of practice, to identify and share best practice. A young persons' forum will also ensure this programme's activities are designed with input from people with lived experience.

Extending frailty care

We are sharing learning and recommendations from work by 11 hospices testing creative ways to support older people living with frailty towards the end of their lives. You can access this learning through our free online resources, and by joining our community of practice, where peers can share best practice around frailty and palliative care.

How to get involved

Every year, we collate, analyse and share data about hospice services. This key input from our members supports us to be a vital voice in public conversations in the media and with government. In turn, it allows us to develop the resources to support hospices with local discussions, whether with your staff, funders or other stakeholders in your community.

Our Advisory Council, National Clinical Leaders Group, National Workforce Leaders Group and Hospice Boards Council are made up of regional representatives from across our membership, to provide invaluable guidance and input into the development of our work. To find out more about your regional representatives, or anything else about our programmes, email clinical@hospiceuk.org

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