



## **Position Statement**

As part of Hospice in the Weald's core value to be honest in all we do, and in line with our strategic aim to provide safe and responsive care, we make clear statements about ethical issues that can cause misunderstandings or concern. We make these statements public via our website, and they are intended to act as a brief guide on the issue for Hospice patients, their loved ones and the community we serve, as well as members of our staff and volunteers.

## **Position Statement on Assisted Dying**

Hospice in the Weald is open to debate and discussion about the role of assisted dying within British society. We are aware that public opinion on this matter continues to evolve and we believe that Hospices should play a role in any debate about the legalisation of assisted dying.

As the law stands now, assisted dying is not a part of palliative care practice. If the law in England is changed in the future, Hospice in the Weald will continue to support patients in making choices that are right for them and their loved ones. We will ensure that all patients have the opportunity to freely discuss and have access to all legally permitted options available to them, which may require onward referral, as they approach the end of their lives.

We acknowledge and respect the wide range of views and perspectives about assisted dying and this statement does not make any value judgment about assisted dying or the people who support, request, or oppose it. If patients hold views which differ from the position of Hospice in the Weald on this or other ethical issues, this does not prevent them from accessing our services and support. It does not change the way we care for them.

Whether or not assisted dying is introduced in the UK, everyone should be able to access high-quality palliative and end-of-life care, no matter who they are, where they are, or why they are ill.

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This Review: October 2024 (minor amendments to update language)