

## **APPG on Hospice and End of Life Care Annual Activity Report- 2023/2024**

### **Overview by the APPG Co-Chairs**

Over the last year, we have been pleased to see the parliamentary attention paid to the importance of hospice services, the support they provide to those at the end of their lives and their role in the health and care system.

In June, a Westminster Hall Debate was held on to discuss support for hospice service, which saw MPs, including members of this APPG, highlighting the work of their local hospice and the services funding needs. As co-chair of the APPG on Hospice and End of Life Care, Peter Gibson MP raised the work of the APPG in the year before highlighting the need for sustainable funding following the pandemic, as well as the national deficit hospices facing hospices due to rising costs and flat funding.

This year funding has been a particular concern for hospices. As for everyone, increases in the cost of living have meant that hospices are struggling to keep up with rising energy and staffing costs. At the same time the local communities that give so generously found they were less able to do so. Hospice UK found in Spring 2023 that 96% of hospices were budgeting for a deficit in the year 2023/24. Hospices have had to make difficult decisions about the future of their services, which so many rely on, and which play a vital role in the health and care system.

Hospices also shared concerns with APPG members that the government funding they were receiving was often unequal, confusing and not reflective of the services they deliver. Hearing these concerns from hospices, this year the APPG has focused on the commissioning of hospice services. In July 2023, the APPG launched an inquiry into hospice funding. The APPG held two parliamentary oral evidence sessions as part of this inquiry, amplifying the experiences of those in the sector, and received over 80 pieces of written evidence.

The inquiry report found that despite the introduction in the 2022 Health and Care Act of a legal requirement for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to commission palliative and end of life care, ICB commissioning of hospice services is currently not fit for purpose. The report found significant variation in the funding provided to each hospice, and found a £47 million real terms cut in government funding for hospices. As a result, the services hospices provide for dying people and their families, and the value they provide to the wider health and care system, is at risk.

The need for palliative care is projected to increase by 25% by 2048. The contribution of hospices is both vital to meeting this need and ensuring that the NHS and social care have the capacity to prevent and treat disease. The APPG hopes that this report will support both national Government and ICBs to make the necessary reforms to fully realise the benefits of the hospice sector. Looking ahead, the APPG will continue to raise the need for reliable government support for the hospice sector, and advocate for the most beneficial relationship between charitable hospices and the NHS. .

## **Publications**

### January 2024 – Government funding for Hospices.

- This report includes the key findings of the APPG's inquiry into government funding for hospices and makes recommendations to National Government, NHSE and local authorities to ensure hospices can contribute to a system where everyone who needs palliative and end of life care receives it.

## **Meetings Held**

### **10 May 2023: AGM and panel on workplace support**

- The attendees approved the Income and Expenditure Statement and elected Officers.
- Panel discussion around support for people with a terminal illness, caring responsibilities or experiencing bereavement in the workplace.
  - Sally-Ann Hart, MP for Hastings and Rye and an Officer of the APPG on Hospice and End of Life Care, spoke about her personal experience of caring for a loved one and being bereaved at work.
  - Tom Pursglove MP, Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work spoke about the special rules for those at the end of their lives accessing benefits.

### **19 July 2023: Launch of inquiry into government funding for hospices**

- At this meeting the APPG launched its inquiry into the state of government and NHS funding for hospices.
- Held first oral evidence session to provide insight into hospices' and commissioners' experience of the current funding landscape. Speakers were;
  - Luen Thompson, Chief Executive of Forget Me Not Children's Hospice.
  - Charlotte Goulding, Palliative and End of Life Care Programme Manager, West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership.
  - Andrew Randall, CEO of Hospiscare.

### **16 October 2023: Inquiry into government funding for hospices - Second Oral Evidence Session**

- Speakers who gave evidence:
  - Dr Matthew Dore – Honorary Secretary of the Association for Palliative Medicine
  - Andy Fletcher – Chief Executive at Together for Short Lives
  - Jonathan Ellis – Director of Policy, Advocacy and Clinical Programmes at Hospice UK

### **24 January 2024: Report launched**

- The APPG launched the inquiry report into government funding for hospices, and discussed the findings and recommendations with MPs and Peers.

## Income and Expenditure Statement

Name of group: **APPG on Hospice and End of Life Care**

Period covered by this statement: **21<sup>st</sup> January 2023 – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

	£
<b>A. Balance brought forward from previous year:</b>	0
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<b>B. Income received during the year:</b>	
i. Membership subscriptions (parliamentarians)	0
ii. Monetary donations (including external subscriptions and sponsorship)	0
iii. Trading income	0
iv. Interest received	0
v. Other (please explain)	0
<b>TOTAL income</b>	0

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### **C. Expenditure during the year:**

i. Employment costs (salaries, NI, pensions costs )	0
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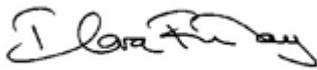
ii. Costs of contractors and freelance staff	0
iii. Visits and events (UK)	0
iv. Visits and events (abroad)	0
v. Cost of generating income	0
vi. Office and communications costs	0
vii. Other (please explain)	0
<b>TOTAL expenditure</b>	0
<b>D. Balance carried forward ( A+ total B-total C)</b>	0

<p><b>E. Value of benefits in kind received from each source during the reporting year (in bands of up to £1,500; £1,501-£3,000; £3,001 to £4,500; £4,501 to £6,000 etc )</b></p> <p><b>Please itemise according to the source and band</b></p>	<p><i>Hospice UK staff provide Secretariat services to the APPG, this consisted of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• 40% of a Policy and Public Affairs Officer's time</i></li> <li><i>• 20% of a Senior Policy and Public Affairs Officer's time/ Policy and Public Affairs Manager's time.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The value of these services was £18,001 to £19,500.</i></p> <p><i>Cost of the production of the APPG's report on the lasting impact of COVID-19 on death, dying and bereavement and the report's launch event.</i></p> <p><i>The value band of these services was £3,001 to £4,500.</i></p>
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	<p><i>Cost of the production of the APPG's report on government funding for hospices. The value band of these services was up to £1,500.</i></p>
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**Signed by Chair of Group:**





**Date:** 15/04/24

**Contact Details**

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