



Department of Health

FAO Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs

From David Mowat MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Community Health and Care

Richmond House
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Dear Chair,

14 DEC 2016

I am writing to you in your capacity as local Health and Wellbeing Board Chair to highlight the Government response to the independent Review of Choice in End of Life Care.

This document set out the Government's commitment to everyone approaching the end of life, and I ask you to consider this commitment at this important time for your local area as Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) are further developed, and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) finalise Operational Plans for the coming years.

Our ambition is for everyone approaching the end of life to receive high quality care that reflects their individual needs, choices and preferences, regardless of where they live.

On 5th July, we set out plans to improve end of life care in England. Our proposals were based on a commitment to high quality, personalised end of life care that we are making to all people at, or approaching the end of life. The commitment states that everyone should be able to expect:

- honest discussions between care professionals and dying people;
- dying people making informed choices about their care;
- personalised care plans for all;
- the discussion of personalised care plans with care professionals;
- the involvement of family and carers in dying people's care;
- a key contact so dying people know who to contact at any time of day.

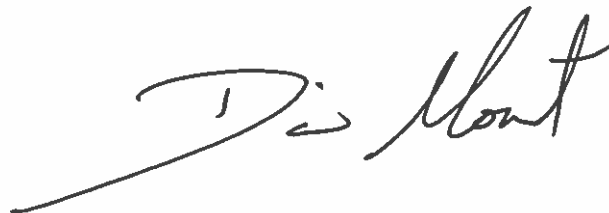
I am aware of the many priorities you have at a local level, but I am asking you to consider how you can encourage your colleagues locally to consider the importance of end of life care as local strategies and priorities are finalised.

A key element of the commitment is bringing together the NHS, social care and the voluntary sector to deliver seamless, person-centred care. Good end of life care is not the responsibility of one person or organisation: it happens because professionals and organisations work together.

There is a real opportunity over the coming years to ensure innovative ideas are put to work to deliver better outcomes for dying people. The Government fully supports the Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care Framework, which encourages local health leaders to develop strategies for palliative and end of life care which involve all providers and relevant stakeholders.

NHS England and the National Council for Palliative Care have launched a *Palliative and End of Life Care Knowledge Hub* bringing together resources and tools to support commissioners and providers to drive delivery of the Ambitions Framework. More information is available at: <http://endoflifecareambitions.org.uk/>.

In summary, I am asking you and your colleagues to consider how you can encourage action to improve end of life care, specifically through Operational Plans and STPs, to ensure everyone receives the high quality, personalised care at the end of life they deserve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Mowat'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

DAVID MOWAT