

Draft terms of reference for the review to consider a national choice offer for end of life care to support people's preferences about how and where to have good end of life care.

To provide advice to Ministers on improving the quality and experience of care for adults at the end of life, their carers and others who are important to them by expanding choice.

This advice should cover the following issues:

- choice options: what people want and the nature of the choices being offered;
- choice barriers: what are the main reasons why people are not able to exercise choice in end of life care;
- choice enablers: the practical solutions which could make choice available and possible for all at the end of life;
- delivery: the levels of service provision required to ensure that choices being offered are achievable, responsive to changing circumstances and equitable;
- assurance: the mechanisms required to measure outcomes and experience of people in relation to their preferences.

This advice should:

- take the form of costed options, as far as possible within the evidence that is currently available, which take into account the current funding situation for the NHS and social care;
- include health and social care, and take account of other relevant factors such as housing;
- be produced by working in collaboration with a full range of end of life care stakeholders including health and social care staff, people with experience of end of life care services and carers;
- take into account the needs of all people including those identified as having protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010;
- be subject to wider public and clinical consultation through a variety of engagement activities;
- in matters relating to euthanasia, assisted suicide and mental capacity, be confined to the existing legal framework;
- be made on the basis of the evidence currently available. If there are gaps in available evidence, it should also identify what these are.

This advice should be produced by February 2015.

Status of the review to consider a national choice offer for end of life care

The Government's review to consider a national choice offer for end of life care will be undertaken by an independently-led programme board. This body will provide advice to Government on how to improve the quality and experience of care for adults at the end of life by expanding choice, in line with its terms of reference.

Status of the Chair and programme board members

The programme board consists of leading experts in end of life care, who bring experience from a wide range of perspectives, including: charity, health and social care, policy making, carer and personal experience of end of life care services.

The chair and programme board members have been selected on the basis of their expertise in end of life care. The views that they express, including the advice that is collectively produced, will reflect their own views as experts in this field.

Invite letter for Board members

The Government's review to consider a national choice offer for end of life care

Dear XXX

As you may be aware, the Government is carrying out a review to consider a national choice offer for end of life care. This will be undertaken by an independently-led programme board which will provide advice to Government on how to improve the quality and experience of care for adults at the end of life by expanding choice, in line with its terms of reference.

I have been asked to chair the programme board which will consist of leading experts in end of life care, who bring experience from a wide range of perspectives, including: charity, health and social care, policy making, caring and personal experience of end of life care services.

I would like to invite you to become a member of this programme board in your capacity as an individual with expertise in end of life care. As a board member, you would be expected to commit your time to the work required to produce the advice to Government, which would include attendance at board meetings and some of the external engagement events which will form part of this process.

Further details on the terms of reference for the programme board, and the status of the review and board members are enclosed. The initial proposals for the membership of the programme board have been agreed by the Minister.

If you are unable to accept this invitation, I would be grateful if you could suggest an alternative individual with similar expertise in this field for consideration.

I hope you are able to accept this invitation and work with me in this exciting opportunity to shape a vital element of end of life care.

Yours etc...