

Draft Strategy for Palliative Care and Care Around Dying.

What is palliative care?

Palliative care is care for people of all ages who are living with a life-shortening condition. It focuses on what matters most to each person and those who care for them. It can begin at diagnosis, continue while someone is living with illness, include care when someone is dying, and extend into bereavement support for families and carers.

Care around dying is focussed on the last hours, days and few weeks of a person's life and includes care after death.

Why is this important now?

Palliative care is needed by more people than ever before, and people's experiences are not always equal.

Who provides palliative care?

Palliative care is everyone's business.

- Most care is provided by families, carers, communities, volunteers, and general health and care staff.
- Specialist palliative care teams, including hospices and hospital teams, support people with more complex needs across all ages and settings.

Key facts:

- Around 89% of people who die have a palliative care need. In Greater Glasgow and Clyde, this equated to 11,628 people in 2024/25.
- Although 90% of the last six months of an adult's life is usually spent at home or in the community, in 2024/25 only 54% of people in Greater Glasgow and Clyde died in the community, with 46% dying in hospital.
- Across Scotland, over 16,700 children live with a life-shortening condition, and around three children die each week. Many children now live longer and move into adult services.
- Bereavement affects many people. For every death, an estimated five people are bereaved, meaning around 65,000 people in Greater Glasgow and Clyde were affected in 2024/25.
- Poverty and inequality matter: up to one third of working-age people who die experience end-of-life poverty, and almost half of children with life-shortening conditions live in the most deprived communities.

What is driving this strategy?

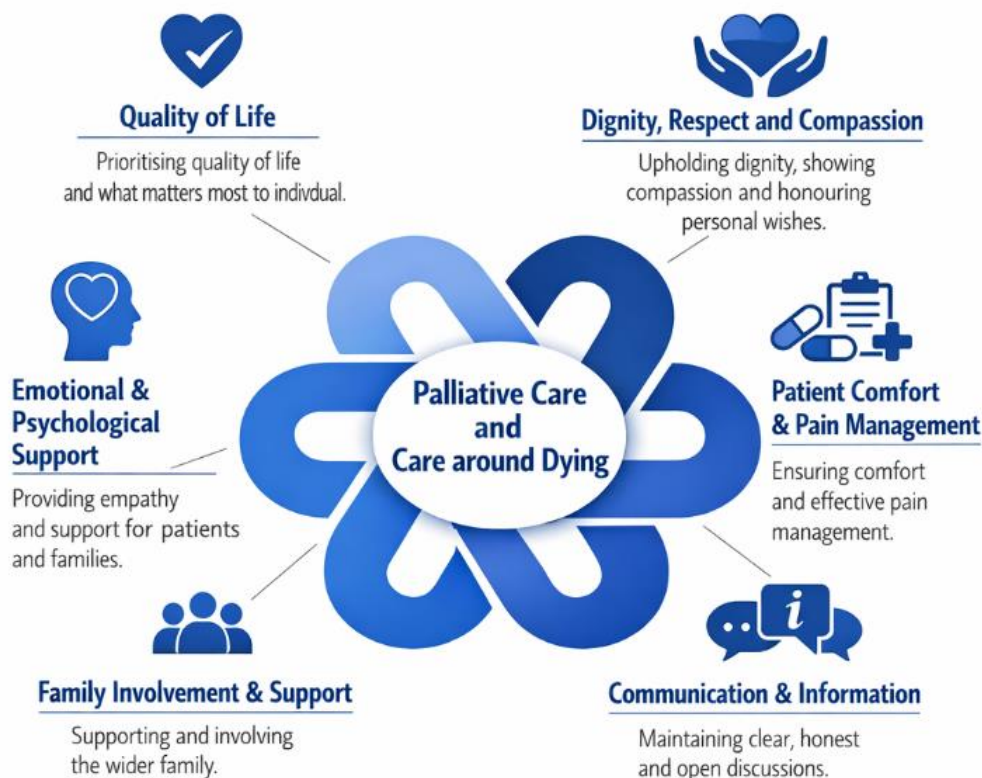
This strategy is shaped by national policy, NHS GGC priorities and has been informed by local lived experience.

- It responds to the Scottish Government's national strategy "Palliative Care Matters for All" (2025–2030), which sets a clear expectation that palliative care is for people of all ages, across all settings, and should be based on what matters to them.
- It aligns with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's wider priorities, Integration Joint Board strategic plans, and national commitments on person-centred care, tackling inequalities, children's rights, and workforce wellbeing.
- It has been co-created with people with lived experience, carers, staff, hospices and partners following extensive engagement, including an Accelerated Design Event.

What people told us

In 2025 we engaged with over 200 people who told us about their experiences and what was important to them around palliative care and care around dying.

These are the themes that they told us were important to them.



What are we asking you?

The draft strategy on palliative care and care around dying for NHSGGC has identified 5 key priorities for delivering palliative care and care around dying for all services, paediatric and adult and in all areas of our services.

Priority 1: Early identification and person-centred care planning of palliative care needs

Priority 2: Equitable, coordinated, responsive care across all settings

Priority 3: Enhance access to information, digital inclusion and community empowerment around palliative care

Priority 4: Ensure accessible and compassionate bereavement support for all

Priority 5: Supported, skilled and resilient workforce

We would like to hear from you to check if these priorities are clear, easy to understand and include everything they need to.

We want to know for each priority:

- Are the priorities clear and easy to understand?
- Do they cover everything?
- Have we missed anything important to you?
- How will we know this is working well for you?

Your feedback will help shape the strategy.

<https://link.webpolsurveys.com/S/03F8ED57552C09A4>



Should you need support please access our resources listed below;

Palliative care

[Palliative Care - NHSGGC](#)

Bereavement

[Bereavement Information and Support - NHSGGC](#)

NHS Inform

[Bereavement and grief self-help guide | NHS inform](#)

Cruse

[Home : Cruse Scotland](#)

Should you need this information in any other format please contact
Public.Involvement@ggc.scot.nhs.uk