

Minister for Public Health and Women's Health
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Clare Haughey
Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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10 September 2025

Dear Clare,

PALLIATIVE CARE MATTERS FOR ALL – PUBLICATION OF PALLIATIVE CARE STRATEGY

I am pleased to inform the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee that the Scottish Government has published its new palliative care strategy 2025 – 2030, '[Palliative Care Matters for All](#)', today. This strategy highlights the changes needed to improve experiences of people of all ages who are living with life shortening conditions or dying in Scotland, and their families and carers.

This strategy has two overarching aims:

- 1. Enabling people and communities** – Scotland is a place where people of all ages and their communities can help and support each other to live as well as possible with life shortening conditions, dying, death and bereavement.
- 2. Strengthening palliative care** – People of all ages with life shortening conditions and their families and carers receive palliative care, care around dying and bereavement support based on what matters to them.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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Alongside the strategy, we will also publish an initial 3-year [delivery plan \(2025-28\)](#), which sets out how the Scottish Government will work with those who plan and deliver palliative care in Scotland, and in partnership with people of all ages who have life shortening conditions, their families, carers and communities, to deliver the changes outlined in our palliative care strategy. The plan contains 23 actions that, delivered together, will enable us to achieve our eight strategy outcomes for people of all ages across Scotland.

This strategy development was informed by Strategy Steering Group (SSG) chaired by the National Clinical Lead for Palliative Care and supported by a Clinical and Professional Advisory Group (CPAG) and six working groups. Wider engagement involved key stakeholders including Health Boards, Health and Social Care Partnerships, primary care, care homes, unscheduled care services, hospital services, third sector organisations and those with lived experience.

The Scottish Government ran a public consultation on the new palliative care strategy from October 2024 to January 2025. A total of 160 responses were received, and the majority of respondents supported the overall aims of the strategy. The [consultation report](#), also published today, includes a summary of the responses received and sets out what actions were taken in response to this feedback.

Delivering on the actions outlined will require collaboration and joint working, with leadership, input and support from a range of policy areas, national and local organisations and delivery partners. During the autumn we will establish a Palliative Care Delivery Group, which will take an active role in providing oversight and impetus to delivery of the strategy and ongoing monitoring and progress reporting. Membership will include representatives from organisations and services that plan, commission and deliver general palliative care and specialist palliative care services for people of all ages in all places of care.

This new strategy, alongside the £5 million recently allocated to hospices to support them to provide pay parity with NHS levels for their staff who deliver essential palliative care services, will help ensure that our palliative care services are delivered sustainably, safely and in a person-centred way. The central Scottish Government budget for palliative care (£2 million for 2025-26) will be focused on developing tools that will support frontline delivery across Scotland and the sharing of best practice.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to developing this strategy and delivery plan, and all the individuals and organisations that took time and effort to respond to our consultation. I look forward to working with partners across the sector to implement this strategy and deliver improvements in palliative care across Scotland.

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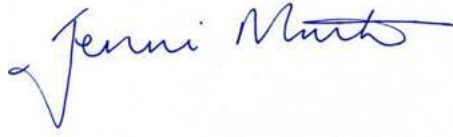
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I will ensure Parliament continues to be informed as to progress with this important piece of work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jenni Minto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

Jenni Minto MSP

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