



Position Statement

As part of Hospice in the Weald's core value to be honest in all we do, and as part of our strategic aim to be a leader in Hospice Palliative care, we make clear statements about ethical issues that can cause controversy or misunderstandings. We make these statements public via our website and they are intended to act as a brief guide on the issue for Hospice patients, those important to them and the community we serve, as well as members of our staff and volunteers.

Position Statement on Assisted Dying

Hospice in the Weald is open to debate and discussion about the role of assisted dying within British society. We are aware that public opinion on this matter has changed significantly over the past few years and we believe that Hospices should play a major role in any debate about the legalisation of assisted dying.

As the law stands now, assisted dying is not a part of palliative care practice. If the law in England is changed in the future, Hospice in the Weald will continue to support patients in making choices that are right for them and their loved ones. We will ensure that all patients have the opportunity to freely discuss and have access to all legally permitted options available to them, which may require onward referral, as they approach the end of their lives.

We acknowledge and respect the wide range of views and perspectives about assisted dying and this statement makes no value judgement about assisted dying, the people who are supportive of it or who request it, or those who oppose it. If patients hold views which differ from the position of Hospice in the Weald on this or other ethical issues this does not prevent them from accessing our services and support. It does not change the way we care for them.

First written: June 2011

Reviewed: May 2021

Next Review: April 2022 (could be later depending on changes in the law)