Council Motion – Support for people dying in poverty

This council notes that:

a) Research by Marie Curie has found that a significant number of people are spending their final months, weeks, or days of life in poverty. In 2025, 93,000 people died in poverty, equating to more than one in seven people facing poverty at the end of life.
b) Working-age people are at a much greater risk of dying in poverty: 28% of these people who died in 2025 died in poverty, compared to 15% of pension-age people.
c) Poverty affects some groups more than others, including women and minoritised ethnic groups, and there are significant geographical variances in the proportion of people dying in poverty.
d) We also know that energy costs can increase dramatically for someone living with a terminal illness. At least 141,000 people died in fuel poverty in 2025, struggling to heat their homes or run vital medical equipment.
e) Marie Curie research shows that in {X LA}, {X}% of working-age people are dying in poverty and {X}% of pensioners are dying in poverty.
f) This means that {X}% of people in {X LA} experience poverty in the last year of their life.
g) This is higher than the national average of people dying in poverty, which is 15%.
h) Marie Curie research also shows that in {X LA}, {X}% of people in the final year of life are dying in fuel poverty.

This council believes that:

a) Nobody should die in poverty. The last months, weeks and days of someone's life should be a time to focus on what really matters: making memories with family and friends and living as well as you possibly can.
b) Too often financial pressures add unnecessary worry, uncertainty and strain to what is already a difficult time. Loss of income and rising costs create instability at a time of life when security is vital.

This council resolves:

a) To explore how {X}'s Council Tax Support scheme can better support and protect low-income households where someone is living with a terminal illness.
b) To review eligibility criteria for discretionary financial support provided by {X} Council, such as discretionary housing payments and the Crisis and Resilience Fund, to ensure that support is available and accessible for low-income households where someone is living with a terminal illness.
c) To consider council strategies such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Health and Wellbeing Strategies to ensure they consider terminally ill people and take steps towards minimising winter deaths in line with National Institute of Care Excellence (NICE) NG6 guidelines on reducing the health risks associated with living in a cold home.

If you are taking this motion to your council, or require further information or support in gathering the data for your council, please contact Local Public Affairs Officer, Millie Mann: millie.mann@mariecurie.org.uk

For more information, or to arrange a meeting to discuss the contents of this document, please contact **local@mariecurie.org.uk**

Thank you to everyone who supports us and makes our work possible.
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