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, and since 2023, 310,000 people have died in poverty, equating to 283 people every day.
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. More than 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 review the eligibility criteria and application process for {X LA} Crisis and Resilience Fund, so that low-income households where someone is living with a terminal illness are prioritised. The council's website should set out clearly what support is available and how to apply, and this information should be shared with local health and care professionals who can refer eligible residents.
b) To fast-track Crisis and Resilience Fund applications in {X LA} from people living with a terminal illness, in line with DWP guidance, and to accept an SR1 form as sufficient evidence.
c) To provide terminally ill residents and their families with income maximisation and energy advice through Resilience Services, treating their energy costs as an essential need when assessing Crisis Payment applications.

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, Aaron Young: aaron.young@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.
To find out how we can help or to make a donation, visit mariecurie.org.uk

Marie Curie is a registered charity in England and Wales (207994) and Scotland (SC038731).
Registered as a company limited by guarantee in England & Wales (507597). Registered Office: One Embassy Gardens, 8 Viaduct Gardens, London, SW11 7BW.