We’re here for people living with any terminal illness, and their families. We offer expert care, guidance and support to help them get the most from the time they have left.

Day services
Our day hospice services are delivered in Belfast, Downpatrick and Newtownards. They include:

- a modern physiotherapy department and gym offering rehabilitation and exercise programmes to help manage fatigue, increase physical ability and improve quality of life
- the Breathing Space lung clinic, Northern Ireland’s only nurse consultant-led service for patients with lung cancer and lung diseases
- our patient and family therapy team, supported by bereavement volunteers, that provides bespoke pre and post-bereavement support to patients and their families who receive care at the hospice. As well as one-to-one support, bereavement care can be delivered in small groups, both on our hospice site in Belfast and in local communities. Our social workers also provide specialist bereavement support to parents of young children, or to children directly, when requested to do so
- complementary therapies and podiatry

Quality
Marie Curie is committed to delivering high-quality services. This is shown in inspection reports, clinical audits, surveys, and training and development. In Northern Ireland, as part of our Patient and Carer Feedback survey, 99% of people who were surveyed said they were likely, or extremely likely to recommend Marie Curie services to friends or family, with 98% of people rating their overall experience as good or very good.

98% of people rating their overall experience as good or very good.

Resources
A study by the Nuffield Trust, Exploring the cost of care at the end of life (2014) found that even when costs in other sectors – social care, primary and community care – were considered, the Marie Curie patients’ costs are around £500 less per person. This study builds on previous research which found that Marie Curie patients in England were less likely to use all forms of hospital care at the end of life compared to patients who did not receive our services.

mariecurie.org.uk/impact

Discover case studies, resources and the latest updates from Marie Curie
mariecurie.org.uk/commissioning

Contact
mariecurie.org.uk/regionalcontacts
mariecurie.org.uk/commissioning

1 Transforming Your Care - A Review of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland, December 2011.
2, 3 Marie Curie Service Patient and Carer Experience survey, July 2014 to June 2015.
What we do and the impact we make in Northern Ireland

These factors, together with more demand for acute services, are key drivers for the government’s health reform programme, Transforming Your Care (2011). One of the key themes is a move from acute to community services so that people can be cared for in their place of choice, avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions. This briefing paper looks at how Marie Curie is working with partners across the province to create strategic reforms in palliative and end of life care and improve services for people with a terminal illness.

Transforming Your Palliative and End of Life Care – addressing challenges in Northern Ireland

Transforming Your Palliative and End of Life Care is an initiative from Marie Curie and the Health and Social Care Board, supported by the Public Health Agency, that supports the principle that care should be provided at home or as close to home as possible, where safe and appropriate. The programme is region-wide, covering all five health and social care trusts (HSCTs). Marie Curie is promoting change through the programme and uses the learning from Marie Curie’s Delivering Choice Programme approach used in 19 sites across the UK.

Reaching more people

Marie Curie’s strategic plan sets out how we will reach more people living with a terminal illness and their families. Our belief is that everyone living with a terminal illness should have access to the highest quality care and support.

Key themes in care for people with a terminal illness

In Northern Ireland the needs of people with a terminal illness are set to escalate given the expected growth of the ageing population, and an anticipated increase in people with chronic conditions. The number of people aged 65 and over in Northern Ireland is projected to rise by nearly 50% in the next ten years (National Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, 2013). These needs are compounded by the prediction that one-third of people over the age of 65 will be living alone by 2020. We also know that too many people die in hospital, when most would prefer to die at home.
We’re working with a wide range of stakeholders across multiple sectors to develop new and improved ways of delivering better care to more people. Equality of care and support to people with terminal illnesses remains our priority.

At the start of the programme, we organised a major public engagement exercise attended by more than 400 people. This informed the programme’s eight initiatives. In the second phase, our programme team supported eight design groups to design service improvements, develop cases for investing in resources for the initiatives and plan their implementation. This programme is informing the development and delivery of care to people with a terminal illness over the coming years.

A vision for care
Marie Curie’s expertise, track record and focus on patients make us well placed to support the design and delivery of high-quality services for people with a terminal illness. Our values and vision mirror the objectives of Transforming Your Care. An independent evaluation of the Delivering Choice Programme in Somerset (University of Bristol, 2012) showed that hospital death rates and admissions in the last month of life were lower among people receiving a Delivering Choice intervention compared to those not receiving a Delivering Choice intervention.

We recognise the increasing need to work with other providers and show this through our desire to build productive partnerships with key stakeholders across the sector. We work with local palliative and end of life care networks like Integrated Care Partnerships, the Living Matters, Dying Matters Implementation Board and the Long Term Conditions Alliance to provide support and collaboration on third sector industry forums and public sector policy implementation boards.

We’re well placed to support health and social care trusts in developing high-quality care and support. This includes designing services in an area, and providing hospice and nursing care that complements existing services. We have the workforce and skills to ensure patients receive the care they need. We’re also unique in our investment in quality palliative and end of life care research. The research we fund and collaborate in improves our knowledge of end of life care, which benefits patients, their families and carers.
People who receive palliative care from the Marie Curie Nursing Service at the end of their lives **spend less time in hospital** than those who don’t receive the service.

*The impact of the Marie Curie Nursing Service on place of death and hospital use at the end of life, Nuffield Trust, 2012*

**Our services**
Marie Curie provides specialist and generalist care through its hospice and nursing services. As well as contributing to the costs of the services we provide, we deliver:

- palliative care research in our facilities and hospices while collaborating to improve care for patients
- high-quality services, professionally managed and delivered by experienced staff
- responsive, flexible services, available 24/7
- services subsidised by charitable funds
- robust clinical governance, registered with national regulators
- expertise in palliative and end of life care

“I commend Marie Curie for the invaluable work it is doing as an organisation to support people and families who are often at their most vulnerable.

“I also pay tribute to the skills, dedication and commitment of Marie Curie staff and volunteers for the contribution they make to ensuring that people with palliative and end of life care needs have access to the care and support they need.”

*Simon Hamilton, Health Minister*

**Marie Curie Nursing Service**
The Marie Curie Nursing Service works in all five health and social care trust areas.

The service delivers practical hands-on nursing care, helps with pain and symptom control, and gives emotional support to patients and carers in their own homes. Our services include 24/7 planned care, as well as a responsive, unscheduled service, giving care to people where and when needed. We offer continuous support to avoid emergency hospital admissions. Our Belfast nursing service also provides a blood and platelets service in patients’ homes.

**Marie Curie Helper**
The Marie Curie Helper Service’s trained volunteers bring companionship and emotional support to people living with a terminal illness. The service launched in May 2013 with the full Northern Ireland roll-out being completed in 2015. It supports around 55 people every week.

**Marie Curie Hospice, Belfast**
This 18 bed hospice provides a range of specialist palliative care services to patients, their families and carers in the greater Belfast area. We have an in-patient unit with day hospice services, and satellite day services that extend care into the community.