

19 June 2025

Voluntary Palliative Care

1. The Trust spend on voluntary palliative care in each of the last five years.

Marie Curie Planned Variable					
(1) Trust spend on voluntary palliative care in each of the last five years.					
Years	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Expenditure	£97,597.40	£233,965.76	£295,131.32	£269,039.00	£224,323.40

2. A breakdown of the people served in each of the last five years.

(2) A breakdown of the people served in each of the last five years.					
No. of People served	227	216	209	450	257
Marie Curie Planned Variable Service provide day and night sits to support palliative patients who would prefer to die in their own home. Many palliative conditions can be long term and impact on carers due to the commitment required by them to support the patient to remain at home. Similarly the palliative condition may be short term but equally stressful for the carers involved. These carers need to be supported in their role to maintain patients at home and avoid crisis attendances at unscheduled care department.					

3. A breakdown of the response times from service providers, with i) lowest response time, ii) highest response time, iii) average response time in each of the last five years

(3) A breakdown of the response times from service providers.					
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust are unable to provide this information as it is currently not collated. Marie Curie Planned Variable Service is on a request basis, they will prioritise patients when required.					
Marie Curie Rapid Response					
Years	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Expenditure	£23,200.71	£108,430.13	£100,981.41	£75,663.77a	£118,467.93

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(3) A breakdown of the people served in each of the last five years.					
No. of people served	621	1056	435	497	628
Marie Curie Rapid Response Service provides symptom management and nursing support to patients with a palliative diagnoses and reaching the end of life. This includes all aspects of nursing care, for example suction, catheter care, administration of medicines, personal care etc. Marie Curie Rapid Response Service in conjunction with core district nursing can in reach into the persons home, including residential and nursing homes. This provides an alternative response to crisis management and minimises the inappropriateness of transferring patients at end of life to hospital via ambulance.					
(3) A breakdown of the response times from service providers,					
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust are unable to provide this information as it is currently not collated.					