



# Position Statement: Assisted Dying

## Definitions

- Euthanasia is the act of deliberately ending a person's life to relieve suffering.
- Assisted suicide is the act of deliberately assisting or encouraging another person to kill him/herself.

## Statement

- Assisted dying is a complex issue. Blythe House Hospicecare as an organisation is respectful and considerate of people's varying views on this issue. However, we consider that media views and coverage of this issue could be emotionally charged and misleading.
- The ethos at Blythe House is to support people to live well for as long as possible. Our patients are supported to have sensitive conversation regarding 'what is important to them'.
- We believe that the palliative care profession has been working to support choices, relieve suffering and maintain dignity for many decades. Working with our clinical colleagues to plan a patient's care in advance, and develop an Advance Care Plan according to their wishes, is integral to what we do.
- Blythe House Hospicecare is therefore opposed to assisted dying in any form, and in this respect is in line with the views of the General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council, and endorses the views of Hospice UK.
- Blythe House Hospicecare will continue to offer relationships of clinical friendship, which allow people to share their concerns and fears in the hope that no-one ever feels the burden of suffering is too high.