



Palliative care and people with learning disabilities: Awareness of and access to services including bereavement support (4)



Accessing services- who, what, how

There are many different services that can be accessed that provides support for a person who has a life limiting illness and those who are bereaved. Services will vary across the country.

There are lots of different organisations ranging from local hospice, community and hospital palliative care teams to those focusing on specific conditions e.g Macmillan Cancer Support.

For further information on services <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/professionals/palliative-care-knowledge-zone/proving-good-quality-care/a-guide-to-end-of-life-services#local-services>

Bereavement

People with learning disabilities are often excluded from conversations around death and dying and as a result their grief can go unrecognised. Yet, loss and grief is a universal life experience and it is important to communicate clearly with people with learning disabilities both before and after a death, offering anticipatory support or signposting for advice when required.

There are several resources that can support conversations with people with learning disabilities when someone has died, including [Books beyond Words](#) and [Macmillan bereavement resources](#). PCPLD Network have a free to access webinar [Supporting people with learning disabilities in bereavement](#) that includes voices of people with learning disabilities and insights into supporting people with more profound learning disabilities.

Remember- There is no right or wrong way to grieve and people will experience a range of different emotions and behaviours. This is no different for someone with a learning disability.

Top tips!

The best place to start looking is your local authority, GP surgeries hospice, local information services and libraries.

For further information please visit: www.learningdisabilitynurse.co.uk



Useful websites

<https://www.thegoodgrieftrust.org/>

<https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/>

<https://nationalbereavementalliance.org.uk/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/end-of-life-care/what-it-involves-and-when-it-starts/>

<https://www.pcpld.org>

<https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/help/support/publications/easy-reads>

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/>

<https://nationalbereavementalliance.org.uk/support/>