

Care and support
through terminal illness

Marie
Curie



‘Hiding who I am’: The reality of end of life care for LGBT people

On 7 September 2017, Marie Curie will host a lunch time policy seminar on end of life care for LGBT people.

Marking Palliative Care Week, the event will reflect on findings from Marie Curie and the Rainbow Project to explore the unique barriers LGBT people face to accessing high-quality end of life care when they need it.

There is significant unmet need among those living with terminal illness in Northern Ireland – with one in four people who need palliative care not currently accessing it. The problem is particularly acute within the LGBT community, and concerns around discrimination, stigma and invisibility often result in LGBT people accessing services late or not at all.

The event will bring together a panel of expert speakers to discuss how HSC professionals and service providers can improve end of life care provision for the LGBT community. Guests will hear from:

- Joan McEwan, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at Marie Curie
- John O’Doherty, Director of the Rainbow Project
- Richard O’Leary, personal perspective

The presentations will be followed by a Q&A session with the audience, chaired by Mark H Durkan MLA.

Marie Curie is a leader in the provision of care to people with a terminal illness in Northern Ireland. We provide a range of bespoke services for patients, carers and loved ones, encompassing the Marie Curie Hospice in Belfast, Nursing Service and Helper Service. Each year we provide care and support for around 4,000 people living with a terminal illness, their carers and loved ones. Marie Curie recently joined the Rainbow Project’s Diversity Champions programme, demonstrating our commitment to being inclusive in the provision of care and support to everyone with a terminal illness.

For more information about the event, please contact Craig Harrison at craig.harrison@mariecurie.org.uk or call 028 9088 2082.