



Poverty at the end of life

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Why this matters to us

- Financial security is a key priority area for Marie Curie – and to people at the end of life and those around them
- Terminal illness can be expensive, as income drops and costs rise
- In 2022, we commissioned Loughborough University to develop an analysis of deaths in poverty, and published *Dying in Poverty*
- This research updates this, and for the first time includes fuel poverty

Poverty and fuel poverty

What we mean by...

Poverty

Based on the Social Metrics Commission definition

- Income after housing and 'inescapable costs'
- Under 54% of the median income

Fuel poverty

Based on the definition used in Scotland

- Spending 10%+ of income on energy
- Left with <90% of the Minimum Income Standard

Headline findings

111,000 people die in poverty every year

- Nearly 30% of working-age people
- Nearly half of working-age Black people

At least 128,000 people die in fuel poverty every year

- Including 110,000 pensioners
- Most common in London, the North East of England and Northern Ireland

If planned rises to the State Pension Age go ahead, over 15,000 people a year will die before accessing the State Pension



Poverty – what needs to change



Establish a **joint action plan across the UK** to tackle poverty and fuel poverty.



Guarantee a **State Pension level of income** for working-age people living with terminal illness.

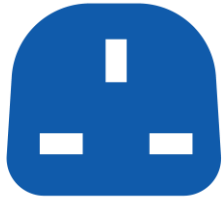


Provide **support with ongoing bills** like Council Tax for people in the last year of life.

Fuel poverty – what needs to change



Introduce a **social tariff** to reduce the cost of energy for people living with terminal illness.



Develop a **comprehensive rebate scheme** for the cost of running at-home medical devices.



Expand the **Winter Fuel Payment** so that anyone living with a terminal illness receives support with energy bills.

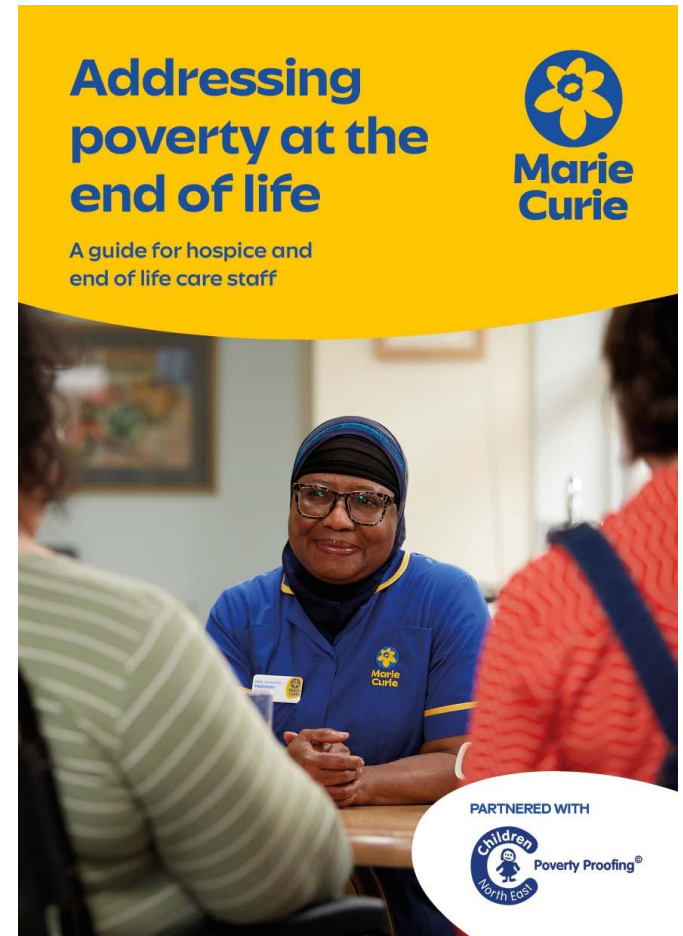
How you can help

Sign and share our petition

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

Download or order our guide to “poverty-proofing”
Palliative and End of Life Care services

<https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/poverty-guide>



“

She didn't like to admit to me that she didn't have money for food, but I went to do a shop for her one day and she had to tell me she didn't have the money to pay for it.

I would find her sitting in her pyjamas, a house coat and a blanket, worrying about putting her heating on because of the cost.

The last thing that anyone needs when they know they're dying is to be worrying about financial issues. People shouldn't have to cope with that on top of everything that they're already going through.

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Gillian, whose mum struggled with her finances while at the end of life with lung cancer

Thank you

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