



## Audit tool for achieving age equality in health and social care

### **B3.4: End of life care**

#### **B3.4.1: Choice, focusing on location of death, by age**

##### **RED**

Older people approaching the last phases of their lives, and their carers, experience systematic and structural disadvantages and discrimination. About half of all deaths of older people do not take place in the setting that they prefer.

##### **AMBER**

End of life and palliative care for older people is recognised as a priority locally, but there are few defined or targeted services and plans for improving the current provision of end of life/ palliative care services are unclear.

##### **GREEN**

Older people make informed choices based on accurate and timely information and advice. A range of options enable them to manage pain and other distressing symptoms, retain control and have choices in how and where they die, and how they and their carers are supported.

### **B3.4.2: Access to specialist palliative care by age**

#### **RED**

Access to specialist palliative care varies by age and condition. Services are generally more accessible for people with cancer but older people are less likely to be referred to or use specialist palliative care services than other adults with cancer. In addition older people with conditions other than cancer are less likely than other adults with other conditions to access specialist palliative care.

#### **AMBER**

A local end of life care strategy sets out plans for improving access to specialist palliative care services to support people of all ages at the end of their lives, for both cancer and other conditions. However, older people do not access the same range of palliative care services as younger age groups.

#### **GREEN**

People of all ages have information and advice about their options for support at the end of their lives and high quality care, including access to specialist palliative care services, is available wherever the person is or chooses to die and whether or not they have a diagnosis of cancer. No age group receives a less favourable service or access on the basis of age.