

## **Assisted Dying – Framework for Debate**

I set out some of the issues that I think we may need to consider if we are to move forward.

***The first question of course is: do we support the basic concept of ‘Assisted Dying’ and if so why?***

If we do support the concept then I think we need to be able to agree some basic principles, for example, would the following be appropriate:

- ***when death is inevitable suffering should not be - along with good care, dying people deserve the right to control the timing and manner of their death;***
- ***assisted dying should be controlled by the dying person only – there should be no right to allow anyone else to end another’s life***
- ***dying people should have the means to control their death safely and comfortably in their own home***
- ***those healthcare professional who may not wish to assist dying people to control their own death should not be required to do so.***

What other fundamental principles we should be incorporating and if so what are they?

What safeguards should be in place, for example, should:

- ***assistance be limited to terminally ill and mentally competent adults?***
- ***there be a requirement for the dying person to end their own life and not to permit other persons to do it for them?***
- ***there be a waiting period to give the dying person time to reflect on their decision***
- ***there be a requirement for an assessment by doctors and/or lawyers***
- ***the dying person be allowed to choose to die at home.***

Any other safeguards?

Are there any other conditions that we might want to apply, for example

- ***should the right be limited to Alderney and/or Bailiwick residents***
- ***would we want this to apply in Alderney even if other British jurisdictions rejected it***

*Note: the concept and safeguards listed above are based on the position presently adopted by the charity “Dignity in Dying”. They are provided as a starter for debate and do not necessarily reflect the writer’s own views.*