



**Palliative Care Lead**

Strategy and Planning

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**Ceannasaí um Chúram Mhaolaitheach**

Straitéis agus Pleanáil

Seomra 133, Ospidéal Dr Steevens', Baile Átha Cliath 8, Eircode D08 W2A8

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**Alan Kelly TD  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.**

**14<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Re.: PQ 44224/19 – To ask the Minister for Health if there are palliative care beds for children in County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Kelly,

The Minister has requested the HSE to respond directly to you on this matter and the response is as follows:-

The development of children's palliative care in Ireland is guided by the recommendations contained in *Palliative Care for Children with Life-limiting conditions – A National Policy* (DoH, 2009). The policy did not recommend the provision of specialist palliative care inpatient beds for children as a priority but instead placed a strong focus on the provision of care at home in the community.

LauraLynn, located in Dublin, provides inpatient respite care for children from every part of Ireland. The service also provides accommodation for parents and siblings. Each year a small number of parents choose the centre for end of life care for their child.

An external evaluation of the Children's Palliative Care Programme was undertaken in 2016. Parents and healthcare professionals expressed the need for improved respite care, but did not suggest the need for inpatient palliative care beds.

In some circumstances (based on the assessed need of the young person and their family) young people aged 16-18 years from Tipperary will be cared for in the specialist palliative care inpatient units (Hospices) in Marymount or Milford.

I trust this answers your question but please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Regards,

**Sheilagh Reaper-Reynolds**  
HSE Strategy and Planning Lead for Palliative Care