



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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18th November 2019

Mr. John McGuinness TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 46248/19

To ask the Minister for Health the extent of the palliative care services in the south-east for children and teenagers; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGuinness,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.

The Consultant led Paediatric Specialist Palliative Care Team is based at Crumlin. This has a national remit to provide support to Consultant led Paediatric teams at local and regional level. In the South East there is a Clinical Specialist Children's Outreach Nurse for children with life limiting conditions, based at University Hospital Waterford who supports a coordinated approach to care across acute and community services. There are a range of paediatric and community supports in place for children and families with life limiting conditions and for children with other complex medical and disability needs. These children and families require access to a range of coordinated services to support the child in the home environment such as General Practitioner, Public Health Nursing service, access to home based Nursing supports and disability services. The HSE works with Jack and Jill foundation to access supports for families and young children in the home. Respite services are also available. A significant number of children with complex medical and/or disability needs can also have palliative needs, but rarely access local Community Specialist Palliative Care Teams. Their needs are met from within the services already described above.

There is a smaller cohort of children (approximately four per year across the South East) that may not meet the criteria for the above pathways. To ensure that a coordinated approach is maintained across the South East for this cohort of children a review of current pathways is underway. There is a commitment by all stakeholders across acute and community services to ensure that there is an integrated approach to support appropriate and timely care planning for end of life care needs, for children who have Specialist Paediatric Palliative Care needs.

Should you have any further queries in relation to same, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan
Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare