



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
HSE Offices, Lacken
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15th September 2020

Ms. Róisín Shortall TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 22005/20

To ask the Minister for Health if he will address the absence of paediatric palliative care in the south east; his plans to provide this service in the region; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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

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

There is a pathway of care for each child requiring end of life care in place between Paediatric and Palliative Care teams in the absence of a Specialist Paediatric Palliative Care Team in the South East. This care pathway is supported by Specialist Paediatric Palliative Care Teams at Children's Health Ireland (Crumlin).

There are a range of services currently in place that manage both the child's generalist palliative and end of life needs. These integrated services span acute and community services involving acute medical teams, primary care and social care. The service accessed and required is dependent on the diagnosis and presentation of symptoms, for example a child with a life limiting condition or an oncology life threatening need. The majority of children with a life limiting condition will have palliative needs but may not always access local Community Specialist Palliative Care Teams.

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

Yours sincerely,

Jeanne Hendrick

**A/Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare**