



**Ceannasaí Náisiúnta um Chúram Mhaolaitheach**

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**Ms Róisín Shorthall TD**  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022**

**PQ No.: 10267/22 To ask the Minister for Health the progress of the recommendations contained in the clinical governance and operational arrangements for supporting a model of care for children with life limiting conditions towards the end of life in the community in Ireland in particular, recommendations 14 and 15; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Shorthall,

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

Since the publication of the report the HSE has established a Steering Group to oversee the implementation of the recommendations contained in the document.

Recommendations 14 and 15 are being progressed as follows:

**Recommendation 14: An implementation plan which enables additional workforce to be appointed within 3-5 years.**

**14 a.** Funding has been secured under the estimates processes for an additional eight Clinical Nurse Coordinators for Children with Life-limiting Conditions (CNC) which will bring the total number of posts to 20 in 2022. The locations for the new nurses has been agreed and the hospital sites will be notified by mid-March. A national recruitment campaign will take place and it is intended to have all the nurses in place by Q3/Q4 in 2022.

**14 b.** Funding has been secured under the estimates process for four additional paediatric consultant posts with a special interest in palliative medicine. These posts, which are new to Ireland, will be located in the major paediatric units in Cork, Limerick and Galway. Work is in progress on the job description and contingency plans are being developed should recruitment to these posts prove difficult.

**14 c.** Funding has been secured under the estimates process for an additional paediatric palliative medicine consultant to be located in CHI Crumlin. This consultant will work closely with their two existing colleagues in CHI Crumlin and Temple Street to extend on-call cover, provide education, training and mentoring to other healthcare professionals and to provide on-going support to the main Dublin maternity hospitals.

The job description has been agreed and it is hoped to commence on a recruitment campaign shortly and to have the consultant in place by Q4 2022/Q1 2023.

**14 d.** The Centre of Childrens Nurse Education in CHI Crumlin has been provided with additional funding to further develop its education programme to support healthcare professionals who provide end-of-life care to children in the community. In addition to this NUIG has been funded to facilitate the awarding of scholarships for its HDipGrad and MSc course in Children's Palliative and Complex Care. The aim of the scholarship fund is to encourage CNSs currently working on the adult palliative care teams to improve their competence in paediatric end-of-life care. One of the main aims of the programme is to also build the palliative care competence of existing paediatric nurses and it is hoped that some former graduates of the programme will apply for the new CNC posts under 14 a) above.

**Recommendation 15:** The main component of this recommendation is consideration of children's palliative care needs in discussions about the new GP contract.

The new phase of the GP contract is being managed by the Office of the Chief Clinical Officer and this recommendation has been brought to HSE senior managers responsible for leading on this for inclusion and consideration in the next phase of negotiations.

I trust this is in order and answers your query.

Regards,



**Sheilagh Reaper-Reynolds**  
National Lead for Palliative Care