

19th January 2022

Mr. David Cullinane TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 62964/21

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to provide paediatric palliative care for the south east region; his plans to recruit a full-time paediatric palliative consultant in the region; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 reviewed the matter and the following outlines the current position.

At present there are a range of services available to support children with palliative care needs (both generalist and specialist) in the HSE SE region. The supports currently in place are integrated across acute and community settings and include paediatric and other teams (both local and national), voluntary agencies and primary and social care tailored to the specific needs of each child, which are accessible both directly and indirectly.

A model of care for such children with Life Limiting Conditions (LLC) in the South East has been developed following detailed and comprehensive discussion with the relevant stakeholders and giving due consideration to issues of competencies and safe practice. This proposal for a new model of care to support children with LLC in the home setting at end of life is outlined as follows:

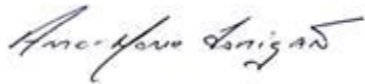
- The delivery of the service should be predominantly provided by the Paediatricians, with support from palliative care locally and specialist paediatric palliative care consultants.
- Paediatric consultants will assume and retain governance over the child who is nearing end of life.
- Specialist paediatric palliative care training for existing or new paediatric consultants and the appointment of paediatricians with an interest in palliative care should be a priority.

- Care will continue to be co-ordinated by the local Clinical Nurse Co-ordinator in SE with the additional appointment of a second Clinical Nurse Co-ordinator with experience in this area which is pending.
- The GP and Community Paediatricians (when in post) will play a vital role in providing care for these children.
- Paediatric and Community Based Nurses will be trained and supported to provide home care and medication / syringe driver changes etc.

The South/South West Hospital Group with the South East Community Healthcare have supported the recruitment of additional posts including a Paediatrician with special interest in Palliative Care, an expanded Outreach Nursing service and a comprehensive education programme in specialist paediatric palliative care for new and existing paediatric healthcare professionals.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Anna Marie Lanigan
Head of Service-Primary Care
Assistant National Director
South East Community Healthcare