



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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25<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Deputy Hourigan,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 17050/23 - 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; the proportion of posts that have been filled; which posts remain vacant; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

- Neasa Hourigan

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 17050/23) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In 2020 the HSE commissioned Professor Bee Wee (National Clinical Director for Palliative and End of Life Care, NHS) to chair an expert advisory group to set out an operational and governance framework for the provision of palliative care to children with life limiting conditions in the community in Ireland. This report endorsed the multi-agency model of care being operated for children with palliative care needs in the community and made recommendations on additional workforce resourcing and educational supports required to support the model. A National Implementation Group chaired by Dr. Ellen Crushell, (HSE Clinical programme lead for paediatrics / neonatology) was established by the Chief Clinical Officer and oversees the implementation of the report's recommendations. The report committed to appointing additional staffing within 3- 5 years to support the model of care outlined in Professor Wee's report.

**1. Clinical Nurse Coordinators for Children with Life Limiting Conditions:** The report recommended increasing the number of Clinical Nurse Coordinators from 11.5 WTE to 22 WTE to mitigate against lone working and to ensure cross cover for annual leave.

Table 1. Additional Clinical Nurse Coordinator Posts since 2021.

Allocation	Status
Clinical Nurse Coordinator, Mayo University Hospital, CHO 2	Recruited and started
Clinical Nurse Coordinator, Sligo University Hospital, CHO 1,	Recruited and started
Clinical Nurse Coordinator, Mullingar Regional Hospital, CHO 8	Recruited and started
Clinical Nurse Coordinator, OLOL Drogheda, CHO 8	Recruited and started
Clinical Nurse Coordinator, University Hospital Limerick, CHO 3	Recruited and started



Clinical Nurse Coordinator, Cork University Hospital,	Not filled. Re advertised
Clinical Nurse Coordinator, Childrens Health Ireland, Crumlin	Recruited and started

**2. Resourcing of the Specialist Palliative Care Team, Childrens Health Ireland:** The report recommending increasing the capacity of the Specialist palliative care team in CHI to provide remote support to clinicians including GPs and community palliative care teams providing care to children with life limiting conditions.

Table 2. Additional resourcing Specialist Palliative Care team, Childrens Health Ireland since 2021

Allocation	Status
Consultant in Palliative Medicine, Childrens Health Ireland, Crumlin	Locum Recruited and started
Clinical Nurse Specialist, Children Health Ireland, Temple St.	Recruited and started

### 3. Consultant paediatricians with a special interest in palliative medicine

The report recommended the creation of a new regional post of Consultant paediatrician with a special interest in palliative medicine. It recommended four posts be appointed regionally to provide strategic leadership for the development of Childrens palliative care nationally. Four posts have been allocated in 2022 to Waterford, Cork, Limerick and Galway. Local HR teams are currently progressing the recruitment pathway for these posts.

### 4. Additional Support to Voluntary Agencies.

Subsequent to the publication of the Bee Wee report Laura Lynn Childrens Hospice received statutory funding for the first time. An allocation of €1.5 million in recurrent funding was provided in 2021. In 2022 an additional €800,000 was provided. This funding has been used to increase Laura Lynn's Hospice in the Home Service across Leinster and supported the opening of a new Laura Lynn Hospice Hub in Munster

### 5. Future Developments.

The National Implementation Group for the operational and governance framework for the provision of palliative care to children with life limiting conditions in the community in Ireland continues to meet is working to ensure that all workforce recommendations are put in place within the 5 year timelines specified in the report

I trust this is of assistance.

**Seán McArt**

General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations