

Information for Professionals



Specialist palliative & supportive care service for children with life limiting conditions and their families.



LauraLynn

IRELAND'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

What We Do

LauraLynn provides a range of interdisciplinary care and supports to children and the entire family. Our services are provided in LauraLynn House in Leopardstown, Dublin 18 and in the home to children and families that live within a designated geographical area.

LauraLynn is free of charge to all children and families.



Direct Care includes short breaks / respite for children and their families – may be either planned or unplanned in LauraLynn House or in the child's home.



Family support – therapist-led and targeted interventions for children and their families provided by our interdisciplinary team enhancing quality of life by building resilience, promoting well-being and reducing distress.



Symptom management – Our experienced doctors and nurses work alongside our interdisciplinary team to optimise quality of life and reduce possible suffering associated with the burden of physical as well as emotional and spiritual symptoms.



End-of-life care – Childhood deaths are very rare, however we will support children and their families in LauraLynn House or within the family home, thereby offering children and families a choice in location of care for their child's death.

Our Butterfly Suite can be used after a child has died, regardless of where the death occurred.



Bereavement Supports – Helping family members through the grieving process whilst nurturing positive relationships, fostering resilience, self-esteem and emotional well-being.

Who can refer?

Anyone can refer to LauraLynn – but we always need the parent(s) and primary paediatrician / GP to agree to a referral and the form must be completed in full.



Our Staff

We have a wide range of specialist staff experienced in children's palliative care. It is our aim to support each child and family and to help them with their daily activities.

Our team includes:

- Chaplain
- Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Consultant Paediatrician
- Dietitian
- GP
- Health Care Assistant
- Music Therapist
- Nurse Manager
- Occupational Therapist
- Pharmacist
- Physiotherapist
- Play Therapist
- Psychologist
- Staff Nurse
- Social Worker

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LauraLynn is a happy and fun place where we celebrate life regardless of its time span, by taking care of the whole family with great love and care. If I can bring a ray of sunshine to their difficult journey and give them a reason to smile that's my job well done.

Divya Smitha Mathew
Care Coordinator

LauraLynn House

LauraLynn House is a purpose built facility, with eight en-suite children's bedrooms, along with en-suite accommodation for families. During a child's stay, parents and family choose themselves if they would like to stay too, and how little or how much care they want to provide themselves.

LauraLynn in the home

Our dedicated team of experienced nurses provide hands-on care and support to families that live within a designated geographical area. Offered for targeted periods to give families some extra support as well as help with symptom management and expert advice and nursing care at end of life. Our intention is to expand the area in which we offer care in the home, so please contact us for further information on how we can best provide support.

Collaboration

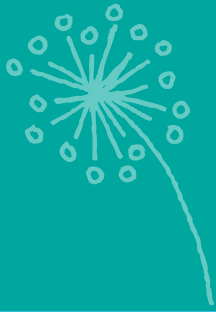
LauraLynn understands that to provide integrated, seamless, effective and efficient supports, communication and coordination between services is essential. Our team will always look to collaborate with the broader team around the child and family for all aspects of care.



Referral Guidelines

Referring to LauraLynn is not just for when treatment has failed or been ruled out. A referral early in a child's illness may allow us to help the child and family throughout their illness, and not be seen as a 'last resort' when a child is at end of life.

Having a definitive diagnosis is only part of the identification of need and is not always necessary when deciding whether a referral to LauraLynn is appropriate. The spectrum and severity of disease, subsequent complications, as well as the needs of the individual child and family should be taken into account when considering whether a palliative care approach is appropriate (TFSL 2018).



1

Life-threatening conditions for which curative treatment may be feasible but can fail, where access to palliative care services may be necessary when treatment fails, irrespective of the duration of that threat to life. On reaching long-term remission or following successful curative treatment there is no longer a need for palliative care services.

Examples: cancer, organ failures of heart, liver, kidney, transplant and children on long-term ventilation.

2

Conditions where premature death is inevitable, these may involve long periods of intensive disease-directed treatment aimed at prolonging life and allowing participation in normal activities. Children and young people in this category may be significantly disabled but have long periods of relatively good health.

Examples: cystic fibrosis, Duchenne muscular dystrophy and SMA.

3

Progressive conditions without curative treatment options, where treatment is exclusively palliative and may commonly extend over many years.

Examples: Batten disease, mucopolysaccharidoses and other severe metabolic conditions.

4

Irreversible but non-progressive conditions causing severe disability leading to susceptibility to health complications and likelihood of premature death. Palliative care may be required at any stage and there may be unpredictable and periodic episodes of care.

Examples: severe cerebral palsy, complex disabilities such as following brain or spinal cord injury.

For further information

Please contact us if you have any questions. You can talk to one of our Clinical Nurse Specialists by phone Monday – Friday between 8am-6pm on **01 289 3151** or by email on **CNS@lauralynn.ie**.

If you need to discuss an urgent referral or wish to speak to a member of our Care Team in LauraLynn House please call **01 268 6666** (available 24hrs) and ask to speak to the nurse in charge.

LauraLynn Ireland's Children's Hospice
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