

Paediatric Palliative Care

There are a rapidly growing number of children living with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions across the UK.

Research suggests that such children and their families would benefit from some elements of the palliative care approach and from knowing about the support that is available from children's palliative care services



What is Paediatric Palliative Care?

- What?
- An active and total approach to care
- It includes the management of distressing symptoms, provision of short breaks, care at the end of life and bereavement support



 From the point of diagnosis, throughout the child's life, death and beyond How?

 It embraces physical, emotional, social and spiritual elements and focuses on the enhancement of quality of life for the child or young person and support for the whole family



Who may receive Paediatric Palliative Care?

2

Category

Life-threatening conditions for which curative treatment may be feasible but can fail

Children with Cancer

• Some Cardiac Conditions

Conditions where premature death is inevitable

- Cystic Fibrosis
- Neurodegenerative Conditions
- Duchene's Muscular Dystrophy





Who may receive Paediatric Palliative Care?

Category 4

Progressive conditions without curative treatment options

Batten's Disease

Neurodegenerative Disease

Irreversible but nonprogressive conditions causing severe disability, leading to susceptibility to health

- Severe cerebral palsy
- Multiple disabilities, such as following brain or spinal cord injury





When might palliative care be right?

Palliative care can be introduced at any point throughout a child's life; it is completely individual.

Some children may require palliative care from birth or diagnosis; others only as their condition deteriorates.

Families may also vary as to whether they wish to pursue treatments aimed to cure or significantly prolong life. Intent to cure should not mean that palliative care can input is not offered when appropriate.

In practice, palliative care should be offered from diagnosis of a life-shortening condition or from recognition that curative treatment for a lifethreatening condition is not an option. However, each situation is different and care should be tailored to the child



Paediatric Palliative Care



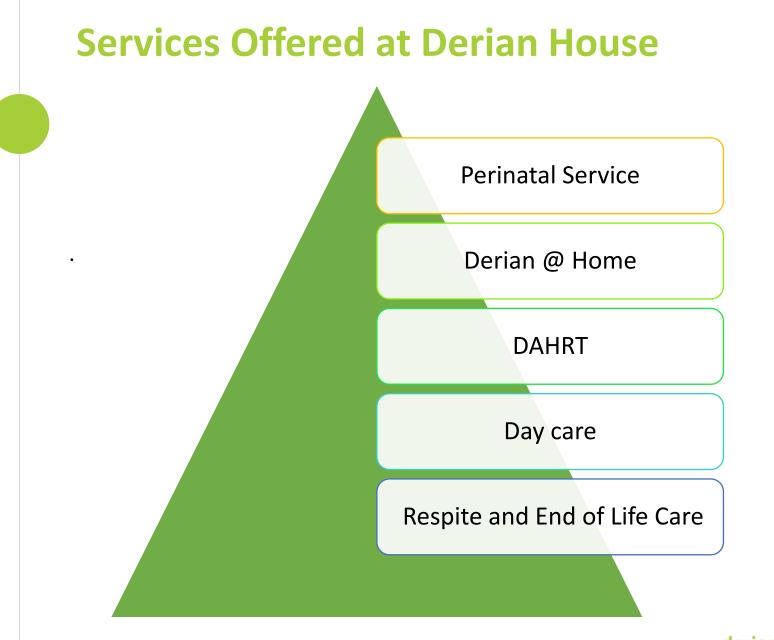
What is a Children's Hospice?







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Facilities offered at Derian House







Hydrotherapy Pool

Private Cinema

Accessible Park

Messy play & Crafts

Sensory Room

Days out

Holiday Lodges







children's hospice

Advance Care Planning

- The CYPACP is a document designed to capture advance care planning discussions between professionals,
 patients and their families.
- It aims to aid these discussions giving prompts of important issues to consider and also to give space and structure to enable documentation of

Child and Young Person's Advance Care Plan Collaborative

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Perinatal Palliative Care



Perinatal palliative care is defined as the planning and provision of supportive care during life and end-of-life care for a fetus, newborn infant or infant and their family in the management of an appropriate candidate condition.

Advances in ultrasound and fetal medicine in recent decades have improved prenatal diagnosis, including fetal conditions where the efficacy of interventions carried out at birth are ineffective, questionable or harmful to the neonate Palliative care focuses on making a person's quality of life as good as possible by relieving discomfort or distress. A person can receive palliative care for any length of time, from a few days to several years. Some babies will still receive active treatment until that treatment is consider no longer viable or in the best interest of the baby.

Professionals can struggle with the difference between end of life and palliative care and sometimes this can prevent early help to support a family throughout their antenatal or neonatal diagnosis.





Symptom Management Planning

Association for Paediatric Palliative Medicine

- The APPM was established in November 2009 after the merger of Children's Hospice UK doctors' group and the British Society of Palliative Medicine
- Joining forces provided a platform to better promote and support practice and reflects the work of paediatric palliative medicine practice across the sector and develop tailored resources and educational opportunities to our members

Download the APPM Master Formulary (5th edition, 2020) - PDF

APPM CLINICAL GUIDELINES- now available



Transition

Whilst NICE (2016) recommends that "health and social care service managers in children's and adult services should work together in an integrated way to ensure a smooth and gradual transition for young people," research evidence suggests that many staff feel ill equipped and often lack confidence to provide this care. The Care Quality Commission (2014) emphasised that "everyone seems to want to do the right thing but there seems to be a missing link and no one seems to work together."





"Transition is a time in which we need to empower young people. But it is also a time to let them explore and explain their own destiny and help them achieve that. Not everyone's ambitions look the same, not everyone wants to be fully in, or out, of control." Hannah Hodgson



Paediatric Palliative & End of life Care Education Project



