

## Northern Ireland Children's Hospice

Northern Ireland Children's Hospice cares for over 250 children, young people and their families living in Northern Ireland. Care is provided in the two Children's Hospice buildings; Horizon House in Newtownabbey and Horizon West in Fermanagh. Care is also provided in the family home. We are a nurse led service who work with local GP's and Health and Social Care Trusts to ensure that specialist care is provided to the families who rely on our services.

We review the services provided to children and young people in our care on a yearly basis. Parents will be informed when the review is happening and they can contribute relevant information or attend the panel meeting.

## Children's Hospice Services include:

- Planned and emergency specialist short breaks
- Symptom management
- End of life care
- Emotional support
- Bereavement care
- Sibling and family support

If you are unsure about any aspects of the referral process you can contact us directly and speak to a member of the management team.

If you would like more information on Children's Hospice services or to view a short film about the service, please visit our website [www.nihospice.org](http://www.nihospice.org) or contact us using the details below.

Northern Ireland Children's Hospice  
18 O'Neill Road  
Newtownabbey  
BT36 6WB

T: 028 9077 7635

Charity No. XN45696  
Publication Date: December 2013



*Help us  
to continue  
caring*



Northern Ireland Children's Hospice relies heavily on the public to raise £2.5 million every year through donations and fundraising events. Every pound that you raise will make a real difference to local children and their families.

## Information for families and professionals

# How to make a referral



This leaflet will provide you with the necessary information to refer a child or young person to Northern Ireland Children's Hospice services.

## Who can benefit from Northern Ireland Children's Hospice services?

Northern Ireland Children's Hospice is the only service of its type offering specialist care to children and young people who have very complex needs. We care for children and young people who have a life-limiting or life-threatening condition, both in Children's Hospice and in the community through our Hospice at Home services. Care can be provided from birth through to nineteen years of age.

## What are the referral criteria?

### Children and young people who are referred:

- Must be between 0 - 17 years of age
- Must have a life-limiting or life-threatening condition

### Clinical indicators must also be present, for example:

- Recurring severe chest infections
- Severe or difficult to manage seizures
- Interventions required to support breathing

Or the child or young person must have an advanced illness where they require care to improve their comfort rather than cure their illness.

Unfortunately children and young people with non-progressive disabilities do not meet the referral criteria.



## How to make a referral

We accept referrals from family members and professionals.

We have one referral form which is used for all Children's Hospice services. It can be downloaded via our website [www.nihospice.org](http://www.nihospice.org) or by contacting a member of the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice team:

Northern Ireland Children's Hospice  
18 O'Neill Road  
Newtownabbey  
BT36 6WB  
**E: [children@nihospice.org](mailto:children@nihospice.org)**

In an emergency situation, referral can be made via telephone. **T: 028 9077 7635**

1. When referring a child or young person, please state their medical condition and stages of any noticeable deterioration.
2. If you are a professional referring a child please get consent from the family and confirm this consent when you make your referral.



## What happens next?

Regardless of who is making the referral, we will need to contact the child's family doctor and consultant to obtain specific medical information to help determine if the child meets the criteria. This may take some time but we aim to do this as quickly as possible.

## When will a decision be made?

All information is assessed by our Multidisciplinary Referral Panel. The panel meet regularly and we aim to let the family, referring agency and professionals know the outcome within 3 working days of the panel date. If the referral is urgent we will process it as quickly as possible in the best interests of the child's needs.

*"We were kept informed of our child's referral process at every stage, which was really important for us at such an anxious time. The Children's Hospice team explained everything to us and were there to answer all our questions."*

**McLarron Family**