



LauraLynn

Ireland's Children's Hospice

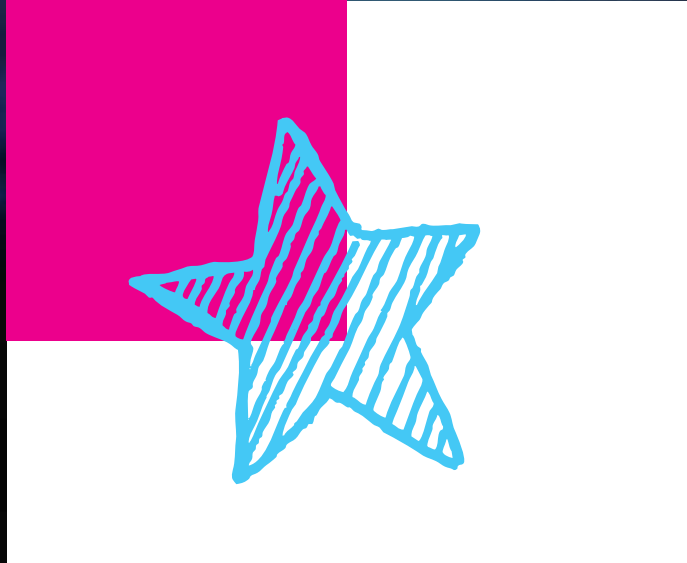
at a

Glance



LauraLynn

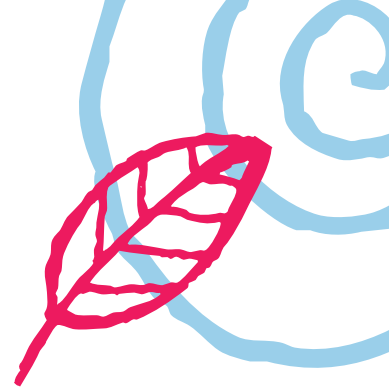
IRELAND'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICE



Welcome

from our

CEO



We are delighted to present this At A Glance Document to equip you with information about how your support cares for children with life-limiting conditions and their families across Ireland.

Ireland's only Children's Hospice exists only due to the tireless efforts of all of you, our wonderful supporters and volunteers... Without you, there would be no children's hospice in Ireland.

LauraLynn's commitment to enhancing the quality of life of the children and families we support is at the heart of what we do. Thanks to the generosity of you and others like you our hospice service continues to grow, providing more care, to more children and families; ensuring they have greater choice than ever before. Over 260 children and their families from across 26 counties avail of our services each year, from attending our family activities to receiving direct care, symptom management, family supports, end-of-life and bereavement care services.

Thank you for being there for children with life – limiting conditions and their families when they need us.



Kerry McLaverty

CEO, LauraLynn, Ireland's Children's Hospice

of

LauraLynn

IRELAND'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

LauraLynn Children's Hospice opened in September 2011, however it evolved through the merging of the long established Children's Sunshine Home, which dates back to 1923, with the more recently established LauraLynn Foundation, which had been set up in 2001 by Jane and Brendan McKenna after their daughters, Laura aged four and 15-year-old Lynn, passed away within two years of each other.

OUR JOURNEY

Jane and Brendan's youngest daughter Laura, was born with a hole in her heart, and having endured and survived six months and two serious operations in Our Lady's Hospital Crumlin, went on to have a few relatively good years, with the final repair operation to come. Sadly, when it did, Laura did not survive it and died in 1999, aged just four. Lynn, on the other hand, had 13 years of perfect health until she was diagnosed with Leukaemia just days before her younger sister passed away. She sadly passed away aged 15.

Through their personal experience, Jane and Brendan were aware of the need for support and palliative care in a home from home environment, so they established the LauraLynn Foundation and dreamed of building a hospice dedicated to their memory.

They worked tirelessly raising funds and fulfilled their dream when they joined forces with The Children's Sunshine Home Hospice Project and succeeded in the building of a dedicated children's palliative care unit. It was opened in September 2011 by President Mary McAleese and since then has provided care and support to more than 450 families from the time of diagnosis, through crises and where required at end of life and into bereavement.



1923

Dr Ella Webb, founder of The Children's Sunshine Home in Stillorgan, a convalescent home for tenement children with rickets.

The foundation stone laid in 1952 by Dr J Ryan, Minister for Health, on a new site donated by the Overend family of Airfield.

1950's



Jane McKenna and her daughters, Laura & Lynn



Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, opens LauraLynn House which was followed by the rebranding of all our children's disability and hospice services under **LauraLynn, Ireland's Children's Hospice.**



1970's

Long-term residential care commenced for profoundly disabled children.

2008

The Children's Sunshine Home and The LauraLynn Foundation join forces to fundraise and build a dedicated hospice for children.

2011

2014

LauraLynn At Home commenced in two HSE regions, providing hospice care for children and their families in their own home.

2019

Growing a Community of Care Strategic Plan 2019-2023 commences



LauraLynn



Approximately

3,840

with a life-limiting condition
are living in Ireland today.

LauraLynn, Ireland's Children's Hospice, is the only children's hospice in the Republic of Ireland, providing palliative care to children with life-limiting conditions (aged 0-18 years) and their families from all across Ireland. Our holistic approach to care enables us to support the whole family, allowing patients to be children and parents to be parents rather than full-time carers. Care can be availed of in our hospice in Dublin, at hospital, in the community, or in the family home where possible, depending on the medical needs, preference and location of the child and family.

Our service focuses on enhancing quality of life, which includes physical comfort and wellbeing, as well as the emotional, social and spiritual aspects of care of the family; supporting the entire family unit from the point of diagnosis to end of life, and throughout bereavement, with a range of nursing, practical, emotional and medical care. All LauraLynn services are provided free to families thanks to your generosity.

50%

of whom
currently have
palliative
care needs

Up to

720

children are
estimated as
unstable,
deteriorating
or at end-of-life and
in need of specialist
hospice care at
any given time



Since opening in 2011,
LauraLynn cares for more than

450 families

Our care focuses on the whole
family including the *parents, siblings
and grandparents of the child.*

Inside LauraLynn

LauraLynn House has seven en-suite children's bedrooms and one child and family suite. Upstairs there are an additional four en-suite family bedrooms. This allows us to have up to five families staying at any one time.

Alongside the large living room, there is a specially designed play therapy room, multisensory activity room, multisensory bathroom and kitchen. Throughout the building, every effort has been made to ensure a comfortable atmosphere, full accessibility, with overhead tracking hoists for safe moving and handling, ensuring we can meet the complex, clinical needs of each child. There is direct access from most rooms to the landscaped gardens that surround LauraLynn House.



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We would like to thank the donors and supporters for all their help, without them we wouldn't have this very special place in our lives

Mary,
Taylor Rose's Mum



What

we

DO

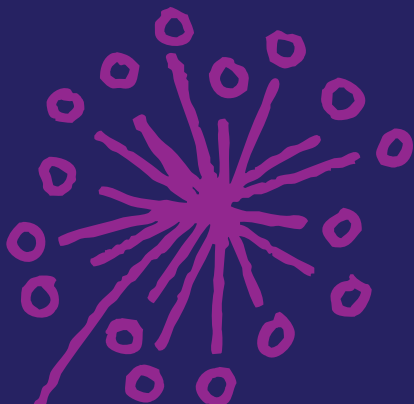
LauraLynn, Ireland's Children's Hospice provides specialist palliative and supportive care services to meet the needs of children with life-limiting conditions and their families in Ireland.

Our LauraLynn Model of Care describes our supports within five pillar of children's hospice care: Direct Care, Family Support, Symptom Management, End-of-Life Care, and Bereavement Support.

The aim of our Model of Care is to ensure that the right child receives the right care, at the right time, in the right place, by the right team.

We want to:

- Provide high quality, child and family-led care, based upon an assessment of needs, in the preferred location of care
- Ensure all children and their families have equitable access to our palliative care services that are flexible, planned, person-centred and takes account of their physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs
- Provide compassionate care and support in a home-from-home environment and to facilitate a supportive network for the child and family



Vision

To make everyday better for those in our care



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Thank you for helping children to be children, to be loved and cared for in a home from home.

Sam,
Isabella's Mum



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.

What you

have helped us

achieve...

We have a purpose-built eight bedroom children's hospice here in Leopardstown which includes additional family accomodation

- We have built a world-class children's palliative care team
- Our services are free to children and families from every county in Ireland
- We are providing our services in children's homes in the greater Dublin area
- We have a growing supporter base committed to not only keeping but extending the reach and depth of our care
- We have a developed and are living our Model of Care
- We have growing brand awareness bringing more children and families to us from the point of diagnosis
- We have submitted estimates and Pre-Budget Submission to the Minister for Health with the goal of receiving appropriate and fair state support while maintaining our independence
- We have been named in the Sláintecare (Future of Irish Healthcare report) as a recipient for children's palliative care funding



Good Governance

In 2019 LauraLynn received a Good Governance Award in Governance Improvement, for our 'Growing a Community of Care Strategic Plan 2019-2023'.

This achievement is a huge testament to the robust process LauraLynn put in place, the extensive engagement with stakeholders and the coherent evidence-based plan we have set within the strategy. Good governance matters not only because it promotes compliance with the law but also because it has a strong bearing on the organisation's effectiveness in achieving its mission.

LauraLynn is committed to upholding the highest levels of governance across our clinical, corporate and fundraising activities. We operate to the 'triple lock' standard of good governance and are fully compliant with:

- Charity Regulator
- Fundraising Standards
- SORP Financial Reporting
- HSE Compliance Statement

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Meet

Natalia

LauraLynn has been gratefully in our lives for about five years now. This amazing and fun filled place has brought a lot of precious memories to our busy lives. The short 'sleepovers' that Natalia has there are so looked forward to by her. She is treated like a true princess by all of the team. LauraLynn is Natalia's life. We are truly grateful to receive their services for our brave little girl.

Kelly,
Natalia's Mum



Natalia is a bright, bubbly 8-year-old little girl who loves to talk! She loves music, dancing, princesses and everything sparkly!

Natalia is limited in her movement due to her condition but uses a motorised wheelchair and she loves it when someone is running around after her! Natalia has spinal muscular atrophy type 2, a genetic neuromuscular disorder that affects the nerve cells that control voluntary muscles (motor neurons). SMA is primarily characterized by progressive muscle weakness and atrophy. Natalia also has severe scoliosis and is PEG fed.

Natalia has been attending LauraLynn for about 3 years including attending events, enjoying short stays in the hospice, family supports and

music in the home. At LauraLynn she really enjoys playing with Jessie the dog and taking her for little walks in the hospice gardens. She also loves having bubble baths in our sensory bathroom. Natalia loves being the centre of attention with the team... keeping them on their toes as they chase her in her chair.

Natalia loves to dance and attends dance classes with Kid Kast. She loves school, her teachers and has lots of friends! Natalia loves her music...particularly musicals! She loves listening to music and her favourite artists are Arianna Grande and Spice Girls.

With your help, LauraLynn will;

EXPAND its children's hospice and palliative care services nationwide in line with unmet need and demand nationwide. With your help we will develop regional hubs across the country so that every child who needs hospice and palliative care can access these services closer to home. With your support, LauraLynn provide hospice care and support to families from across the country. Families travel from every county in Ireland to access our specialised hospice in Dublin, the development of hubs would allow care to be accessed closer to home for some of these children and families.

Where are we heading... Strategy

2019 saw the first year of the implementation of the LauraLynn (2019-2023) Strategic Plan. As part of the development of the plan, a comprehensive policy review and SWOT analysis of the environment was conducted by the Executive Team to build the strategy content and to take into account the evolving requirements of the sector. Extensive stakeholder consultation was conducted, including site visits, meetings, teleconferences, surveys and workshops, in order to assess current and future system needs and opportunities.



Strategic

Goals

The Strategic Plan identified a number of projects under six Strategic Goals that will provide the organisation with a roadmap for LauraLynn to achieve its mission and realise its vision:



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Without your support LauraLynn wouldn't be able to keep providing the love and care for the children and provide the break for families that is truly needed. Thank you for caring. The smallest donation goes a long way.

Kate,
Jack's Mum



LauraLynn Ireland's Children's Hospice
Leopardstown Road, Foxrock, Dublin 18.

T 01 289 3151

E info@lauralynn.ie

www.lauralynn.ie

Registered Charity Number: 20154844

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Making every day
better for those
in our care.



LauraLynn
IRELAND'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICE