

St Andrew's Hospice

Children's Services Referral Criteria

GROUP 1

Life-threatening conditions for which curative treatment may be feasible but can fail. Palliative care may be necessary during periods of prognostic uncertainty and when treatment fails. Children in long term remission or following successful curative treatment are not included.

Examples: cancer, irreversible organ failures of heart, liver, kidney.

GROUP 2

Conditions where there may be long periods of intensive treatment aimed at prolonging life and allowing participation in normal childhood activities, but premature death is still possible.

Examples: cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy.

GROUP 3

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

Examples: Batten's disease, mucopolysaccharidosis.

GROUP 4

Irreversible but non-progressive conditions that cause severe disability, leading to susceptibility to health complications and likelihood of premature death.

Examples: severe multiple disabilities such as following brain or spinal cord injuries

NB: We appreciate this group of children are very complex in nature and can be deemed as vulnerable. Also, the definition is broad, unclear and can be open to interpretation. As a multi-disciplinary team, we assess each individual child on their specific health needs and may come to the decision that the child may not fit the hospice criteria at the time of referral or subsequent reviews.