



## PAEDIATRIC TASKFORCE

### Palliative Care for Children and Young People

Children's palliative care is an emerging speciality which has many similarities to adult palliative care but also some distinct differences, not least because children's palliative care is often provided by staff trained in paediatrics, with knowledge of the specific needs of children with a wide range of rare and complex conditions. Children's palliative care often extends over many years, from the point of diagnosis and involves a multitude of professionals and services that need to work together to meet the child's developmental, social, spiritual, medical and nursing needs as well as providing support for their family.

Children's palliative care is increasingly being recognised as a distinct specialty, but we are still a long way from it being provided equitably and sustainably across Europe. In particular support is needed for countries in Europe where children's palliative care is still struggling to get a foothold and in countries where there is only isolated provision, to ensure that it continues to flourish.

### The EAPC Paediatric Taskforce

The EAPC Paediatric Taskforce aims to ensure that palliative care for children and young people has stronger representation within EAPC so that the EAPC can provide one voice across Europe for palliative care for all age groups. The Taskforce will bring together all those working to develop and sustain children's palliative care services, to share learning, to develop and share research and lay a strong evidence base for this small and specialised area of care.

The Paediatric Taskforce is coordinated by a small steering group that aims to drive developments for professionals and organisations working in children and young people's palliative care across Europe.

#### Aims & objectives

1. To bring together a network of the wide range of professionals working to develop children's palliative care in European countries and provide opportunities for sharing of information, research, education and advocacy.
2. To support the development and dissemination of the evidence base in children's palliative care through identification of specific workstreams leading to published guidelines and standards.
3. To provide educational opportunities for those working in children's palliative care through the development of paediatric sessions at EAPC events.
4. To support the development of palliative care for children and young people across Europe, through advocacy and awareness-raising, signposting organisations to the support offered by children's palliative care organisations around the world.

To join the EAPC Paediatric Taskforce please email [EAPC@togetherforshortlives.org.uk](mailto:EAPC@togetherforshortlives.org.uk)