**We accept babies antenatally, and children and young people between the ages of 0-18 years based on the criteria below, and in line with guidelines developed by Together for Short Lives, adopted widely in UK Hospices.**

**Part A:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **GROUP 1** | Life threatening conditions for which curative treatment may fail e.g. cancer, irreversible organ failure. |
| **GROUP 2** | Conditions where premature death is anticipated but intensive treatment may prolong life e.g. complicated cystic fibrosis, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. |
| **GROUP 3** | Progressive conditions without curative treatment options where treatment is exclusively palliative e.g. Battens disease. |
| **GROUP 4\*** | Irreversible but non-progressive conditions causing severe disability, leading to susceptibility to health complications and an increased likelihood of premature death e.g. severe cerebral palsy, multiple disabilities following brain or spinal cord insult. |

**\*Group 4 – Children and young people will require additional assessment where eligibility is unclear using these criteria – please see Part B**

**Part B:**

**Eligibility criteria for children and young people in Group 4 (above).**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Respiratory Factors** | A | Frequent or increasing number of lower respiratory infections: | Yes/No |
| B | PICU admission for lower respiratory tract infection | Yes/No |
| C | Requirement for long-term oxygen therapy or non-invasive ventilation at home | Yes/No |
| D | Tracheostomy and/or 24 hour ventilation | Yes/No |
| **Feeding Factors** | A | Gastrostomy/Jejunostomy | Yes/No |
| B | Severe uncontrolled reflux despite maximum treatment | Yes/No |
| C | Losing weight due to feeding difficulties | Yes/No |
| D | Pain / distress associated with feeding, causing progressive feed reduction | Yes/No |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Seizure related factors** | A | Epileptic activity needing medication | Yes/No |
| B | Poor seizure control despite numerous drugs | Yes/No |
| C | Frequent use of rescue medication (daily basis) | Yes/No |
| D | Episodes of status epilepticus requiring intensive treatment (IV infusions/PICU admission) | Yes/No |
| **Locomotor Factors** | A | Spastic quadriplegia / total body involvement | Yes/No |
| B | Poor head control / fixed spinal curvature | Yes/No |
| C | Dependent on a wheelchair driven by a carer | Yes/No |
| D | Difficulty with maintaining a sitting position | Yes/No |
| **Other neurological vulnerabilities to consider & relevant family history** |  | Other evidence of severe bulbar involvement (worsening swallow, cough, gag reflex) | Yes/No |
|  | Baclofen pump (as a marker or severe hypertonia / very difficult spasms) | Yes/No |
|  | VP shunt (particularly with frequent need of review) | Yes/No |
|  | Family history of possible genetic conditions with similar symptoms to referred child? | Yes/No |
|  |  | In light of the factors above, would you be surprised if the child was still alive at the age of 25 years? | Yes/No |

This document will be used to assess whether the child meets the criteria for acceptance onto the Children and Young People’s Team Hospice service caseload.