**DIAGNOSIS PATHWAY GUIDANCE**

**Start Point:**

When there is concern that a baby/child/young person may have a life threatening or life limiting condition, whether that concern is raised through parental anxiety, professional concern or a critical event. In the majority of cases (but not all) this will be when the mother/baby/child/young person first attends hospital; however it is recognised that in some instances this may also be through clinic appointments where degenerative conditions are not identified until some symptoms become noticeable.

**End Point:**

When the baby/child/young person has been diagnosed with a life threatening or life limiting condition and care moves from the immediate, intense activity around diagnosis/recognition to an on-going care over days/weeks/months/years or where end of life care is required.

**Inclusion Criteria:**

All babies/children/young persons who are thought to have a life threatening or life limiting condition regardless of whether there is a formal diagnosis or whether that condition involves active treatment or not.

**Exclusion Criteria:**

· Baby/children/young persons who are not thought to have a life threatening or life limiting condition.

· Baby/children/young persons who are known to have a life threatening or life limiting condition and are receiving support during the maintenance or end of life phases of their condition.

**Working To Achieve:**

· sensitive, open and honest delivery of baby/child and family focused services

· access to play and education where possible

· concerns of the baby/child/young person/family being heard and responded to

· access to an appropriate specialist and a second opinion if requested

· fully informed consent to all investigations

· prompt communication of results

· practical advice and assistance in areas such as transport, accommodation and interpreters

· acknowledgement of and respect for the importance of family members in the child/young persons life

· acknowledgement and consideration of ethnic, religious, spiritual and cultural needs