

CDNT 6

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2025

FAMILY FORUM

**WAS HELD ON THE 12TH
OF MARCH**

The focus of the family forum is on the collective needs of families within the CDNT6 catchment area.

Our next forum will be on in early October 2025



TEAM NEWS

We wish Maria & Collette well on their retirement. Recruitment is ongoing to fill 5 vacant posts across the team. We are also recruiting for 2 new posts which are part of the Special School Pilot in Rosedale.

I want to extend a warm welcome to Jack, Aisling and Elaine, who are new to the team.



CDNT6.CHW@BOCSI.IE

UPDATES

UPDATES FROM CDNT

REFERRAL MANAGEMENT & PATHWAYS

At the forum, Gillian shared insights into how referrals are currently managed within the CDNT. She presented a visual pathway outlining how referrals are prioritised, in line with the 'Interim Revised National Policy on Prioritisation of Referrals to CDNTs' (November 2023). Gillian outlined CDNT6 revised referral pathway and the establishment of an Admissions, Transfers, and Discharge Committee with an aim to streamline access and transitions within our service.

ADVOCACY

Gillian & the team continues to advocate strongly for additional clinical and administrative staff to meet service demand. Children's Disability Services met with Bernard Gloster, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Health Service Executive (HSE). Gillian, Michelle (CDNT team representative), Jenny Joyce (Children's Sector Manager) and Eamon Loughrey (Director of Services) attended from BOCSI, West Region. Increased resources for CDNT and respite were highlighted as an essential need.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS PILOT SCHEME

As part of the new Special Schools Pilot Scheme, funding has been secured for two dedicated clinical roles: OT and SLT, who will support Rosedale School exclusively. We have also been given an administration post for CDNT6. Recruitment is underway for all positions

REFERRALS & CASELOAD

Referrals & Caseload
There is a continuing increase in referrals to CDNT6. Current figures:

- 765 children are currently referred to the team
- 163 children are on the waiting list

Waitlists are a growing concern particularly with no additional staffing to meet the increase in numbers.

UPDATES

UPDATES FROM CDNT

FACILITIES

We are delighted to have rebound therapy now set up in Therapy room 1 in The Gables.



This room was significantly damaged during the storm, thankfully the roof has been replaced and it is now ready for use.

GROUP INTERVENTIONS

Some of the group Interventions delivered in the last quarter have been:

- Hanen
- Exploring Autism
- Baby Massage
- Hydrotherapy
- Teen Life
- Lámh

CONTACT US

If there are any group training that you feel would be of benefit we would love to hear from you. Email us on cdnt6.chw@bocsi.ie

SCHOOL LEAVERS

We want to extend all our best wishes to all of the young people who will embark on their next chapter as they leave children services and move on to their chosen path for adult life.

An information evening was held for young people and their parents leaving school next year on the 18th June.

STUDIO 3

We are delighted to announce that two members of the team, Ciaran and Leanne have completed Studio 3 training and will be able to offer training for families.

CDNT MODEL REVIEW

The National Disability Authority have commenced an independent review of the Children's Disability Network Teams Service Model, to read more scan this QR code:



UPDATES

UPDATES FROM FAMILY REPS

FAMILY REPS

Thank you to Irina, Cathy and Simon for their continued engagement and commitment. They have been in the role for the last 2 years.

If you would like to become a family representative for CDNT6 at family forums and family representatives group (FRG) please let us know at the next forum or via contact details below.

If you would like further information on the role or like to know more

please contact cdnt6

cdnt6.chw@bocsi.ie

Or

galwaycdnt6parentreps@gmail.com

FAMILY FORUMS

Genio was commissioned by HSE National Disability Services to independently review the functionality and sustainability of the Family Forums and FRGs. This report is now available (QR code)



ROLE

At our next forum Irina will share an overview of the parent reps role and how it aligns with current operational and governance structures.

ADVOCACY

The Family Reps are advocating for more support and highlighting the significant number of children on the waiting list for services (including respite). Family representatives have met with the IHA Manager Ann Cosgrave and at a separate engagement event with Bernard Gloster (CEO of HSE) and Aoife O'Donohue (Assistant National Director for Disability) was held in person. A follow up online update was held following this with Ann Bourke (PDS Lead). Please contact the Reps through their email address if you would like the power point slides.

There is family representatives at the CDNT HSE Governance and Operational groups.

There is restructuring occurring across the HSE, which may impact operations and may change potential policies.

Q & A

FROM FAMILY FORUM

INFORMATION SESSIONS FROM SOCIAL WORK

From our previous Family Forum, families requested an information session from Social Work. One of the Social Workers from the team, Carol Ann attended to get feedback from families about what they would like to have included. We hope to be able to offer this in early Autumn.

FAMILIES FELT THAT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE IN GALWAY TO PROMOTE HOME SHARING, TO GET MORE FAMILIES ON BOARD.

Gillian spoke with the BOCSI Home Sharing Coordinator. Leaflets are in circulation and on the web.

<https://west.brothersofcharity.ie/home-sharing-and-respite/>

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORK IN CDNT?

Carol Ann explained her role; Social Work covers areas such as housing benefits, entitlements, support and information in relation to life transition stages. Social workers support parents to support their families. Often the need of social work intervention arises during an IFSP, any member of the team can link with you with a Social Work if you require support.

Social Workers in CDNTs do not investigate concerns that would be deemed as safeguarding, Tusla The Child and Family Agency has a primary responsibility to promote the safety and well-being of children.

CAN FAMILIES HELP OR CAN FUNDRAISING BE DONE TO SUPPORT THE SERVICES?

This would be most welcomed. We would love to further develop our rebound therapy and sensory space for children in The Gables. We would love to develop a soft play space in Newcastle to offer children a space to develop and learn physical skills with our team such as crawling, climbing, pull to stand cruising, squatting this would also offer a space to work on early communication and engagement. We would also love to update the spaces for children in both buildings.

Q & A

FROM FAMILY FORUM

CAN SIGNPOSTING BE IMPROVED?

Families highlighted it can be difficult to find buildings on Woodlands campus. Gillian agreed to follow this up.

FEEDBACK ON CDNT WEBSITE

Galway, Mayo and Roscommon are in the process of developing a website based on CHO7's website. A focus group took place to get feedback from families - thanks to all those who attended.

FEEDBACK ON THE WELCOME BOOKLET

Drafts of the welcome booklet were circulated and some excellent feedback was received. Families welcomed having this information particularly in relation to benefits and schemes. Gillian agreed to have a final draft ready for the next forum.

GROUP INTERVENTIONS

WHAT ARE GROUP INTERVENTIONS?

We tailor group interventions based on the needs of children and families. We have received excellent feedback from the groups we have offered so far this year. The groups are evidence based and are delivered by relevant clinicians.

From feedback at a previous Family Forum - Lamh was requested. This was delivered by two of our Speech & Language therapists in April and we hope to run another one towards the end of the year.

If there are other group interventions that you think could be offered, please get in touch with us.

GROUP INTERVENTIONS

HANEN

Hanen empowers parents to use evidence-based strategies during daily routines and play to support a child's communication development.

EXPLORING AUTISM

Support and understanding a diagnosis of Autism. There are different versions of Exploring Autism; some are for parents and others are for young people themselves. Examples of topics covered: communication, preferences, regulation, specific interests and supporting transitions

STUDIO 3

Is support for families, Studio 3 is based on the principles of the Low Arousal philosophy of managing distressed behaviours, firstly by preventing situations escalating to crisis levels in the first place, and by developing an understanding of why the behaviour occurs.

TEEN LIFE

Is an educational and support program that helps parents of teenagers learn about Autism and neurodiversity, coping with sensory differences and managing emotions and stress

SIB SHOPS

Sib shops, is an event where siblings of individuals with disabilities can gather for peer support, education, and recreational activities. It provides an opportunity for siblings to meet others in a relaxed setting and discuss the challenges and joys of having a brother or sister with special needs

REBOUND

Rebound therapy is a therapeutic exercise that utilises a trampoline to facilitate movement and rehabilitation for individuals with physical or learning disabilities. It is conducted under the supervision of a specially trained physiotherapist, allowing participants to engage in bounce, momentum, and rhythm in a gravity-free environment.



**Children's
Disability
Network
Team**