

Newsletter

Issue July 2026



Message from the CDNM

Welcome to our second newsletter to families. In this edition, you will find details of our next forum, along with upcoming workshops and local events that may be of interest.

Below are some service updates for you:

- Lucan is an exemplar (pilot) site for the **Single Point of Access (SPoA)** for new referrals. This is part of a national rollout of SPoA which will take place in the coming months. The change means that all new referrals will go through one centralised point within their area, rather than families needing to refer separately to CDNT, CAMHS and Primary Care services.
- Our **Baby Pathway** is running for those up to 2 years of age. This clinic brings together Speech and Language Therapy (SLT), Occupational Therapy (OT), and Physiotherapy in a single appointment. A baby massage group is also included as part of this pathway.
- Our **Encouraging Independence Pathway** was introduced for teenagers and their families. It is a mix of group-based parent sessions, with individual support sessions for teenagers to help build their independence and confidence.

Claire Donnelly, Children's Disability Network Manager

Contact us



**Children's Disability Network
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Caseload

Open and waitlist numbers*

- **499 children are open to the team.**
- **109 children are on the waiting list.**
- **We are working through 2024 referrals.**

*These figures are correct as of 30th of June 2026

Staffing

Our total staffing allocation is 28.4 WTE*. We have 21.4 WTE in post, with a further three team members on maternity leave.

All unspent salary funding continues to be reinvested into contract positions and targeted waiting list initiatives.

We have strengthened and expanded our team:

- Senior Psychologist returned from maternity leave in May.
- An Occupational Therapist (OT) began with us in June. We await start dates for 2 more OTs.
- A Clinical Specialist Speech and Language Therapist and a Senior Social Worker will join our team in July.
- There is ongoing recruitment for Psychology roles.

*WTE = whole time equivalent. This is the measurement we use for staffing. It combines our full-time and part-time roles.

Our last forum

Our last Family Forum took place on 26th of May at 7pm in Rossecourt Resource Centre. We alternate meetings between mornings and evenings to suit different families' needs. Families received updates from our Family Representatives, along with a service update from the CDNM. We were also delighted to welcome Criona Blackburne, Special Education Needs Organiser (SENO) as our guest speaker, who shared information on supports available in schools.

12th of October 2026, 10am-12pm.

Our next forum

This forum will be online on MS Teams. Invitations will be sent closer to the date.

How our team works

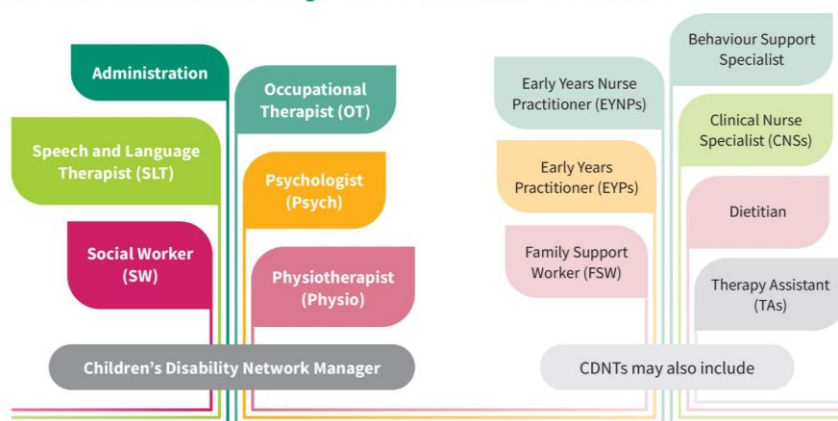
If you are new to our CDNT or waiting to receive services from us, you might not know how the different roles work within a CDNT.

On the CHO7 CDNT website, we have a page which explains how the different clinicians work together: <https://www.cho7cdnt.ie/teams/who-works-on-a-cdnt/>

This information is also included in our Welcome to our Service booklet, which you can read here: [Welcome to our Service booklet pdf](#)

The information explains the typical make-up of a CDNT. It also explains the areas of expertise the different roles will have, for example, how an Occupational Therapist (OT) versus a Physiotherapist works.

Who typically works on a Children's Disability Network Team?



Community supports – National Council of Special Education (NCSE)

For families seeking guidance around educational supports for children with additional needs, the [National Council for Special Education \(NCSE\)](#) offers a wide range of information and support services.

A key support available is the Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) service. SENOs work directly with schools and families to help children access appropriate educational supports, including special classes, school placements, assistive technology and school transport. They can also advise families during important transitions such as starting school or moving to post primary education. Families can search for their local SENO contact through the NCSE website.

More information: [NCSE Support Network & SENO Contacts](#)



This short survey only takes 2 minutes to fill out. We'd love to hear your thoughts on our forums, whether you attend them or not.

Deadline for feedback is 31 August 2026.

Please scan the QR code or click on the link below to complete our survey.

[CDNT 5 \(Rossecourt\) - survey on family forums and family engagement – Fill out form](#)

Calendar of events

July

- Lámh Choir: Every Tuesday 2pm–4pm from 14th of July to 4th of August

August

- Parent Support Group: Wednesday 5th of August at 10:00-11:00am

September

- Parent Support Group: Wednesday 2nd of September at 10:00-11:00am

Sign up to any of these events by emailing

cdnt5groups@Stewartscare.ie with your name and your child's