



Message from the CDNMM

This is our first newsletter to families. You will still receive email updates from us, but this is another way we hope to stay in touch.

You'll find details of our next forum, and other upcoming workshops and local events that might be of interest to you.

In February, we were pleased to welcome Emer Higgins, Minister of State for Disability, who visited our service to review our work. The Minister acknowledged the continued improvements in waiting times and expressed her satisfaction with the progress being made.

We are currently developing a Younger Siblings Pathway in response to your feedback. We appreciate your input and look forward to sharing further updates as this progresses.

Claire Donnelly, Children's Disability Network Manager (CDNM) – CDNT 5 (Rossecourt)

Contact us

**Children's Disability Network Team 5,
Stewarts Care,
Rossecourt Resource Centre,
Lucan,
Co. Dublin.**

Email:

cdnt5@stewartscare.ie



Caseload

Open and waitlist numbers

- **465 children are open to the team.**
- **116 children are on the waiting list.**
- **We are working through 2023 referrals.**

Staffing

Our staffing allocation is 28.4 whole time equivalent (WTE)*. We have 19.8 WTE in place. Four team members are also on maternity leave.

All unspent salary funding is being reinvested into contract positions and targeted waiting list initiatives to maximise service capacity.

As with many services nationally, we are experiencing natural turnover across Speech & Language Therapy, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Psychology, including maternity leave cover.

At the same time, we have strengthened and expanded our team:

- 3 Speech & Language Therapists have joined since November 2025.
- A Senior Physiotherapist and Occupational Therapist started in January.
- Recruitment is underway for additional Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Psychology posts.

*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 most recent Family Forum took place on 2 March at 10am 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 CDN. We were also delighted to welcome Conall Ó Sé from Special Olympics Ireland as our guest speaker, who shared information on local sporting opportunities and inclusion initiatives.

Parent Communications

At the forum, we had breakout groups where parents discussed their experience of communications from us in the last six months.

Key areas for improvement included:

- **Timelier responses to emails**, ideally within a few days.
- **Clearer points of contact**, particularly regarding reviews of a child's needs.
- **Better updates while waiting for services**, with parents expressing a wish for regular updates on their child's waiting list status.
- **More proactive communication from key workers**, especially about next steps and what families can expect after IFSP meetings.
- **Communication channels**, with some parents requesting that important information also be sent by post rather than only by email.

Contact with your CDNT:

- Families can contact the team at any time to request an update on their **waiting list position or approximate timeframe** for being seen.
- **Key workers will provide updates after IFSP meetings** and families are encouraged to contact them with any queries.
- Guidance for staff on how to communicate to parents when leaving the service has been strengthened.
- The service aims to remain **paperless where possible**, so communication will usually be by email, with post used where families do not have email access.

Our next forum Tuesday, 26 May 2026 from
7:00-9:00pm



Community supports – Lucan Special Olympics Club

Special Olympics Ireland provides inclusive sports opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

The Lucan Special Olympics Club offers different activities including basketball, bocce, floorball and a Young Athletes programme for younger children. Training takes place at Coláiste Phádraig CBS for athletes from the Lucan and Adamstown area.

The activities are adapted so everyone can participate, with a strong focus on fun, teamwork and personal achievement.

Families interested in joining can search for local clubs using the Special Olympics Ireland Club Finder: [Club Finder | Special Olympics Ireland](#)

Family Forum Survey

We'd love to hear your thoughts on our family forums, whether you attend them or not. Please scan the QR code or click on the link below to access our survey. It will only take 2 minutes to complete. The **deadline for feedback is 8 May 2026**. Thank you.

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



Calendar of events

May

- Parent Support Group: Wednesday, 6 May, 10:00-11:00am
- Understanding Echolalia Parent Workshop: Thursday, 14 May, 10:00-12:00pm.

June

- Parent Support Group: Wednesday 3 June, 10:00-11:00am

Sign up to any of these events by emailing cdnt5groups@Stewartscare.ie with your name and your child's name.