



## Message from the CDNMM

Dear Parent /Guardian

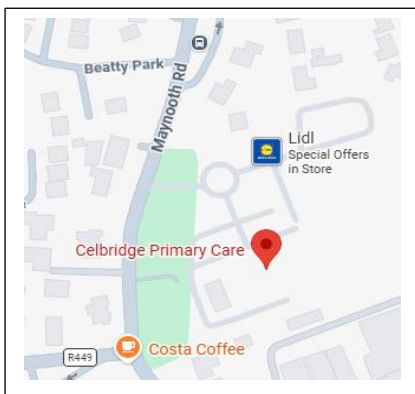
Welcome to our first newsletter. North Kildare CDNT has a large caseload of children, and our dedicated experienced staff are working very hard to provide support and services.

We provide a mix of support including individual intervention and targeted groups for parents and children.

We also have started a signposting clinic for our waitlist families. We would love to hear your feedback.

**Deepak Kumar, Children's Disability Network Manager (CDNM)**

## Contact us

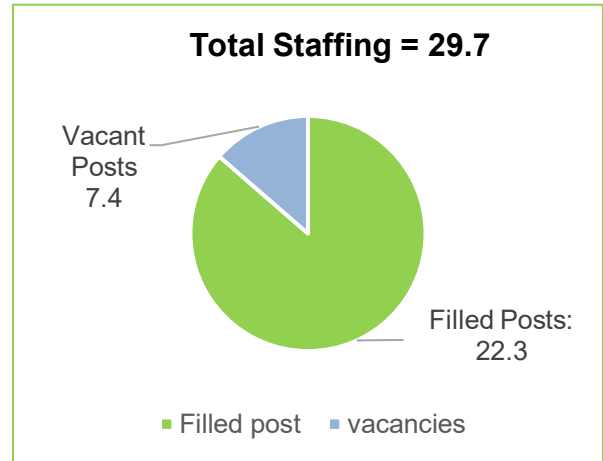


North Kildare CDNT,  
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## Staffing



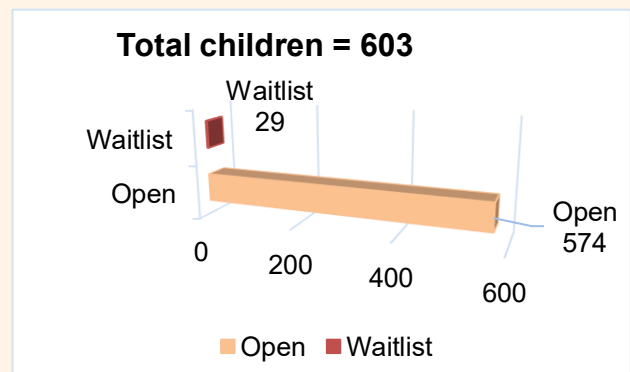
**Vacant posts = 25%**

### Positive staffing news:

- 1 Senior Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) started in January.
- 1 staff grade Psychologist started in March.
- We are actively recruiting for the vacant posts on the team.

## Caseload

### Open and waitlist numbers



- On an average 450+ individual and group appointments are offered monthly. 20% of appointments are missed. Please let us know if you can't attend your appointment.

## Our last family forum

We hosted our last family forum on 12 March. Both open and waitlisted families were invited and 19 parents attended on the day. Kieran Murphy was the independent facilitator.

The forum's family representative, Celine Taaffe, gave an update on the work that the regional Family Representative Group is doing to advocate for parents on the issues of concern to them. The update included raising parents' issues at regional and national levels within the HSE.

Child and Family Support Network coordinators from Túsla were the guest speakers. They presented on the support and services available through Túsla and how these can be accessed.

The CDNM gave an update on the service including caseload numbers, waiting list, waiting time; staffing and vacancies; forthcoming groups; challenges with non-attendance and the team's activities. Parents who attended reported that the forum was helpful in building understanding of the service and what it can provide.

The key theme that emerged from the forum was the need for consistent and proactive communication with the parents. The parents suggested several ideas to improve communication, and the team is actively progressing some of these ideas.

## Our next family forum

**When: 11 June 2026, 7-9pm**

**Where: 2nd Floor, HSE Primary Care Centre, Celbridge, W23 YK24**

We will send you the invitation and how to book for this forum closer to the date.



## 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 30 April 2026**. Thank you.

[North Kildare CDNT - survey on family forums – Fill out form](#)





# Team Activities



## Big Fish Little Fish

This workshop supports parents of young people moving onto secondary school.

Session 1: on 16<sup>th</sup> April. This is for parents of children in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class. The SENO (Special Educational Needs Organiser) will be a guest speaker. There will be advice and guidance given on secondary school education options and the application process. Our CDNT clinicians will be present to answer any questions.

Session 2: on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. This is for parents of children in 6<sup>th</sup> class who are preparing to transition to secondary school in September 2026. Our clinicians will provide practical ideas on how to support your young person in advance of the move as well as during it. There will be opportunities in October for a follow up clinic for parents who attend this workshop.

## Hanen More Than Words®

Our SLTs recently ran another Hanen More Than Words® Part 1 group. This intervention includes parent education, coaching, and one-to-one sessions with a SLT (4 group sessions, 2 individual sessions).

The Hanen More Than Words programme is a family-centred, evidence-based intervention that supports parents of young children with social communication differences. It focuses on developing parents' understanding of what motivates their child to communicate and strategies to support meaningful interactions.



## Little Stars Group

This group supports our youngest service users and their parents in the early stages of development; most babies are between 2 – 12 months old. Our team supports a family and child's goals by integrating elements of motor development, communication, positive attachment and play into the sessions.

Parents and babies receive individualised support during these sessions. Each session begins with infant massage which is a lovely way to support parent and baby attachment.

The group is also a really great way to meet other parents and for the babies to socialise with each other.

## Free To Be Me group

Free To Be Me (FTBM) is a group for young people to understand their autistic identity. The group explores living in a neurotypical world, having a neurodivergent brain and sharing their experiences and interests.

These groups take place over school holidays for 3 days. We do our best to match the young people based off interests and age group. We are running our next FTBM at Easter 2026 for ages 10-12 years.

## Signposting Clinic for Waitlist Family

Our Social Workers are offering short, bookable in-person or phone consultations for advice to discuss an identified query. They signpost to resources in the community while you await intake to service.

Our next clinics are on:

- 30<sup>th</sup> April, in Kilcock Primary Care Centre
- 25<sup>th</sup> June, in Kilcock Primary Care Centre

**Please email us to book your slot. Slots are provided on a first-come, first-served basis.**

# Calendar of Events

April	May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hanen More Than Words® Part 2</li> <li>• Big Fish and Little Fish (Transition to Secondary School)</li> <li>• Signposting Clinic (for waitlist Family only)</li> <li>• Free to be me group</li> <li>• Orthotic, Motor Management and Postural management clinic</li> <li>• Toileting Clinic</li> <li>• Sleep parent group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hanen It Takes Two to Talk® Part 1</li> <li>• Orthotic, Motor Management and Postural management clinic</li> <li>• Toileting Group</li> <li>• Sensory workshop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signposting Clinic (for waitlist Family only)</li> <li>• Orthotic, motor management and Postural management clinic</li> <li>• Toileting Clinic</li> <li>• Get set for preschool</li> </ul>



If a session is suitable for your child's needs, you will receive an invitation.

## Community supports



**Leixlip Family Resource Centre** is offering Therapeutic Play Sessions for ages 3 to 12 and Family Lámh for all ages. For more information & booking contact:

**Tel:** [01 624 7435](tel:016247435) **Email:** [info@lycc.ie](mailto:info@lycc.ie) **Web:** <https://lycc.ie/>

**Kildare Local Enterprise Office and Kildare County Council** will run the free annual Kildare Inclusivity Festival on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026 in Curragh racecourse. For more information visit [www.ckan.ie](http://www.ckan.ie)

[www.cho7cdnt.ie](http://www.cho7cdnt.ie)

Visit our website for more information on CDNTs and for useful resources locally and nationally.