



North Kildare Children's Disability Network Team Newsletter



Children's
Disability
Network
Team

Message from the CDNMT

Dear Parent /Guardian

North Kildare CDNT is delighted to send you our 2nd newsletter.

The team has been very busy with individual appointments, and many targeted groups for children and parents. These groups have included supporting children and families at key transitions such as moving to school and adult services.

Our next family forum is in October. If you would like to have any updates from the team, please let us know, and we will include that in the next forum and newsletter.

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



Contact us

North Kildare CDNT,
2nd Floor, HSE Primary Care Centre
Maynooth Road, Celbridge,
W23 YK24,
Co. Kildare



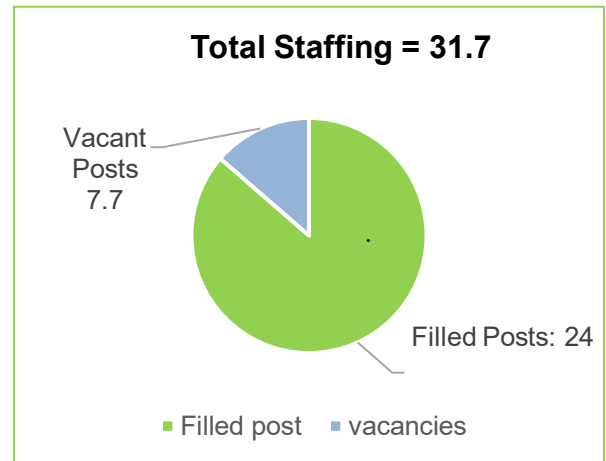
01 9214127



Northkildarecdnt@hse.ie

Please let us know if you change address, email or phone number.

Staffing*



Vacant posts = 24%

Positive staffing news:

- 1 Senior Social worker started in June.
- We continue to recruit for vacant posts.

Caseload

Open and waitlist numbers*

- 575 children are open to the team.
- 23 children are on the waiting list.
- Since January 2026, an average 483+ individual and group appointments were offered monthly.

**These figures are correct as of 3 July 2026*

Missed appointments

- In May, 100 appointments (18%) offered by our team were not attended.
- If we do not get 48 hours' notice that a family cannot attend an appointment, we cannot offer those appointments to other families.
- Please let us know if you cannot attend your appointment with us.

Our last family forum

We hosted our last family forum on 11th June. Both open and waitlisted families were invited and 22 parents attended on the day. There were some new faces who attended the forum for the first time.

Parents got an update from our family representative, along with a service update from the CDNM. Celine Taafe finished her two-year term as family representative, and we thank Celine for her contributions. Bella Carr was elected as the new family representative at the forum. Emma Doyle will also continue as a family representative.

Monica Flynn, Community Nurse Specialist in Autism, was the guest speaker. She presented on her role and how the interdisciplinary team support is provided from the CDNT. This was well received and attracted positive feedback from parents.

The key themes that emerged from the forum were the high level of missed appointments, communication and access to service, transfers to/from Primary care, access to respite and other community supports.

Our next family forum

When: 21 October 2026

Time: 10am-12pm

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 31st August 2026**. Thank you.

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





Team Activities

Spotlight on therapy – what does it look like?

We offer a range of supports, including one-to-one work with your child, and targeted children or parent groups. Sometimes, a mix of supports may be needed. It depends on what is best suited to meet your child or young person's needs at that time. The supports all have equal value.

For example, for one child who needs toileting support, the strategies and approaches their parents learn at a toileting workshop and introduce at home might be all they need to learn this skill. For another child, they might require support from the team in a follow up consultation or home visit to identify what other strategies or approaches are also needed.

Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA)

Psychology and Occupational Therapy will run four sessions for parents of children experiencing, or at risk of, emotionally based school non-attendance. The sessions will take place in July and August.

The sessions will explore the autistic experience of school, anxiety and the cycle of avoidance, and the impact on family wellbeing. They will provide practical, emotion-focused strategies to support your child, strengthen the parent-child relationship, and build confidence in responding to distress.

The sessions will discuss strategies to support maintaining daily routines and promoting daily living skills during periods out of education, alongside guidance on alternative education options such as the National Learning Network and iScoil. Guest speakers from relevant services are also planned.

Signposting Clinic for Waitlist Family

Our Social Workers are offering short 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:

- 27th August, in Kilcock Primary Care Centre
- 22nd October, in Kilcock Primary Care Centre

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

Lámh Cafe

Come along to our Lámh café and learn new signs in a relaxed and supportive environment with our Speech and Language Therapist.

Next dates of Lámh café are

- Tuesday 11th August; 9.30 -10.30am
- Tuesday 22nd September; 9.30-10.30am
- Monday 9th November; 9.30-10.30am
- Tuesday 15th November; 9.30-10.30am

Please call CDNT reception to confirm your place.

Calendar of Events

July & August	September & October
- Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance - Signposting clinic (for waitlist families only) - Sensory workshop	- Signposting clinic (for waitlist families only) - Hanen: It Takes Two to Talk



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

Community Supports

Day trips

Dublin Zoo

The **Priority entrance** at the main gate is ideal for children who may struggle with waiting in crowds or busy environments. There is **one free carer ticket** per visitor with additional needs. You can show an autism ID card, Access Card, or a short medical note, and **no pre-booking is required**.

Visitors are welcome to bring noise-cancelling headphones, weighted lap pads, or other supports to help manage sensory input during their visit.

- <https://www.dublinzoo.ie/plan-your-visit/accessibility/>

Barrow Blueway Inclusive Initiative (free)

This is a new inclusive cycling initiative on the Athy Barrow Blueway. This initiative welcomes those with additional needs and provides them with the use of a wheelchair accessible bike, tandem pilot bikes, or a handcycle bike.

- contact Majella: mfennelly@kildarecoco.ie.

Travel

Dublin Airport

Dublin Airport has a sensory room in each terminal.

- <https://www.dublinairport.com/accessibility/sensory-room>

Passengers who are autistic or have additional needs can find the airport environment difficult. For this reason, Dublin Airport offers the Important Flyer lanyard to highlight to staff that they may need support.

- <https://www.dublinairport.com/accessibility/autism-non-visible-disabilities>

Irish Rail

Sensory packs are available. These packs are free of charge and can be obtained by filling in the below form. The form may close from time-to-time to clear requests but will re-open again.

- [Form to request a sensory pack](#)

Irish Rail has a quieter coach option (Coach G) on its Dublin to Cork service. The coach is available for booking.

Tours

Maynooth Castle offers sensory tours daily (free)

Families must make the guides aware when they arrive. Staff can advise families about waiting times. They offer guided tours or self-guided tours of the castle, whatever suits the person attending

- <https://heritageireland.ie/places-to-visit/maynooth-castle/>

Dublin Castle (free):

Autism Friendly Tours are available at Dublin Castle. These tours are designed and delivered with neurodivergent children, teenagers and adults in mind. Tours are free of charge and are scheduled month by month.

If you have further questions, or wish to book a private Autism Friendly Tour for your group, please email: dublincastleeducation@opw.ie

Sports

Maynooth GAA Allstars

Every Sunday throughout the summer at 10am: GAA club Maynooth at the astro pitch.

- GaaAllStars@MaynoothGaa.com.

St Kevin's GAA Donadea

Their Inclusive Cul Camp runs on 5th & 6th August, 11am-1pm. It is for ages 5 to 14 years.

- Contact Kildare Sports Partnership to book: 045 980 546.

Inclusive Rugby Camp at Clondalkin Rugby Football Club

This camp is on 20th, 22nd & 24th July, 10am-12pm.

- [Inclusive Rugby Camp Tickets, Monday 20 July • 10 AM - 12 PM | Eventbrite](#)

School Leavers Information

Is your Young Person preparing to leave school in the next two years? The HSE is running an **Adult Day Service Information Evening for Young People**, 16 years upwards, and their Parents:

- Date: 20th October 2026
- Time: 5:30–7:30 pm
- Location: Naas Community College, W91 P93F
- Email: disabilitydayservices.cho7@hse.ie