



**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Progressing Disability Services (PDS) for Children &
Young People (0-18 Years)
FAMILY BULLETIN 2
December 2020**

This is the second in a series of regular bulletins, which will keep you informed of the **HSE's National Programme Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People**, changes that will occur within children's disability services in the Cork area and how this might impact you and your child.

The '**Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People**' Programme aims to achieve a national unified approach to delivering children's disability health services. The central focus of this programme is to provide a clear pathway to services regardless of where a child lives, goes to school, or the nature of their disability or delay.

At present there are some very good services for children with disabilities and their families but also some large gaps. There may be a service for children with a physical disability in a locality, but none for children with an intellectual disability. Some children and their families have little or no access to services.

We need a fairer way to provide services for children with disabilities

- Access to services should be based on a child's needs rather than just on their diagnosis
- Children and families should have services available wherever they live

A national programme called 'Progressing Disability Services for Children & Young People' is changing the way services are provided across the country to make it equitable and consistent for all.



As part of the national changes some children will have their needs supported by their Primary Care Childrens services. A Children's Disability Network Team will support children with more complex needs in a defined geographic area, regardless of the nature of their disability.

As part of the national changes, some children who have a developmental delay or disability whose needs are less complex will have their needs supported by the Primary Care Childrens services. Children's Disability Network Teams will set up to support children who have a more complex developmental delay or disability. This is the case regardless of whether or not your child has been given a diagnosis.

Both services work according to the same geographical areas, called Network areas. Within Kerry & Cork there are a number of network areas. Both the Primary Care Service and the Childrens Disability Network team will provide their services to your child and family according to the network area you live in.

The HSE, in partnership with Enable Ireland, Brothers of Charity Services Ireland, St Joseph's Foundation, CoAction and COPE Foundation, are working together to establish one unified regional service of 14 Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) for the Cork Kerry Region. West Cork and Kerry have already reconfigured into local Children Disability Network Teams.

We are now beginning to reconfigure the remainder of the Cork area. We understand that this change may raise questions and concerns for you and your child.

We will also be giving **online information sessions** to all families during **December 2020** and **January 2021**. Your current service provider will be in touch with you shortly to give you the dates and times of the information session. This will be a live session and will also be recorded if the time does not suit your family. **You will be able to ask questions so have your questions ready!** Your service provider will also be able to help you with any specific questions concerning your child. Please be assured that we will try to support each child and family through the change in every way possible.

What does this mean for my child?

Reconfiguration to the new service will take place over the next 6 months.

At the end of this time your child will transfer to either a **Childrens Disability Network Team** or a **Primary Care Childrens Service**.



Children with complex needs will transfer to a **Childrens Disability Network Team**. These new teams are being formed by merging the staff from the service you attend now..

Children with non-complex needs will transfer to a **Primary Care Childrens Service**. This is an existing service.

Your current service provider will assist you in transferring to the new service for your child.

What is a Primary Care Childrens Service?

Primary Care Childrens Services include: Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Psychology. These disciplines work closely with other core Primary Care Services such as Dietetics, Community Medical Doctors and Public Health Nurses.

These services are for children and young people with non-complex needs.

What is a Children Disability Network Team?

The Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) supports children and young people with complex needs. This service is for children who need the supports of an interdisciplinary team. The CDNT is an interdisciplinary team who work collaboratively with the child and family to identify the needs and priorities of the child and family. From this process a written plan is developed over time, called an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). This IFSP will include the goals chosen with you and what strategies and supports are required to achieve your goals.

What is a Lead Agency?

The Lead Agency Model is the agreed structure for the future service delivery of children's disability services. Each Lead Agency will have the responsibility for the provision of services for children with complex disability in the CDNT's assigned to that agency. The Lead Agency for each team is listed on the table below. **All CDNT's regardless of their Lead Agency will have similar pathways for supporting your child and family priorities.** Each CDNT has an appointed Childrens Disability Network Manager (CDNM) responsible for the operation of the team.



Children's Disability Network Team	Lead Agency	CDNM
Northwest Cork Charleville/Buttevant/Kanturk/Mallow/ Millstreet/Newmarket	St. Joseph's Foundation	Maeve Howlett
Northeast Cork Castlelyons/ Fermoy/ Mitchelstown	St. Joseph's Foundation	Mary O'Dwyer
East Central Cork Midleton Youghal	Cope Foundation	Caoimhe Dillon
East Cork City Glanmire/ Riverstown/ Cobh/ Carrigtwohill	Brothers of Charity Services Ireland	Lynley Harfield
Central Cork Mayfield Montenotte/ Tivoli/ The Glen/ Blackpool/ Carrignavar/ / St Patricks	Cope Foundation	Catherine O'Leary
North Cork City & Blarney Blarney/ Sundays Well/ City Centre/ Fairhill/ Farranree/ Gurranebraher/ Knocknaheeny	Cope Foundation	Conor McNally
Southeast Cork City Douglas/ Blackrock/ Mahon/ Passage West	Enable Ireland	Gillian O'Dwyer
West Central Cork Ballincollig/ Bishopstown/ Macroom	Enable Ireland	Emer Lotty
Carrigaline/ Kinsale / Bandon	Brothers of Charity Services Ireland	Eleanor Stanton
South Cork City Turners Cross/ Grange/Frankfield/Togher/Ballyphehane/ Greenmount/The Lough	Enable Ireland	Triona Hayes

What happens now?

You will remain with your current service provider until the reconfiguration date in 2021. During this period your service provider will be in contact with you to inform you of where your child will be transferring to following reconfiguration. They will assist you in terms of any queries you may have during this period.

You will know the name and address of your service before you transfer and your new service will make contact with you when you transfer to introduce themselves.

We will do our best to keep any disruption to services to a minimum but we would like you to be aware that this is also a time of significant change for staff in your current service and services are currently busy getting ready to reconfigure into the new teams and preparing for a smooth transition for you and your child. We will keep you informed of any delays or changes in services.

Where do I go if I have questions?

Please try to attend the online presentations during December 2020 and January 2021.

Your current service provider should be able to help you with any questions that you may have on the process at this time.

The HSE website also has some useful information that you can access at this link: www.hse.ie/childdisability

Ends

