



Community Healthcare East (CHE)

Programme of Reconfiguration into Children's Disability Network Teams

Family Bulletin 2 – March 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Many thanks to all the parents/guardians who got in touch with us after receiving the recent letter which provided you with the details of your child's Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT).

We will try and address the questions that have been raised in this bulletin and in other planned bulletins across April, May and June.

What is Progressing Disabilities?

The National Progressing Disability Programme for Children and Young People 0-18 is changing the way services are provided to children with disabilities and complex needs across the country in order to make services fair and similar for all. This change involves a partnership between Disability Service Providers to reconfigure existing staff and services to form local Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs).

You can find more information about the programme on

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/progressing-disability/pds-programme/>

Your health service area is called Community Healthcare East which covers the areas of South/SouthEast Dublin and East Wicklow. In Community Healthcare East (CH East) this partnership is between:

- Enable Ireland – Wicklow and Dublin Services
- HSE (Early Intervention, School Age Teams & Beechpark Services)
- St. Catherine's Association
- St. John of Gods - Dublin East
- St. Michael's House

Lead Agency Model

In the area of CH East there are two Lead Agencies; Enable Ireland and the HSE. Each Children's Disability Network Team has a lead agency which has the responsibility for providing the services offered by the team. The lead agencies are working together to ensure all 7 Children's Disability Network Teams will work in a consistent way regardless of who the Lead Agency is.

Staffing for Children's Disability Network Team

Each staff member was involved in a process whereby they could choose their preferred team to work on while giving consideration to the skill mix across the Children's Disability Network Teams to cater for all the needs and complexities that children can present with. Staff from each of the agencies in CH East will be based across all the 7 Children's Disability Network Teams. Each team will have the following disciplines:

- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Speech and Language Therapy



There will be pathways for children to access additional services and supports such as medical management of tone, nursing and positive behaviour support.

Next steps:

Each Child/ Young Person and their family has already received communication regarding the new team they have been assigned to.

Staff will finish in their current services on Friday the 11th of June. They will start work on the Children's Disability Network Teams on Monday June 14th. Following a two-week set-up phase, the Children's Disability Network Team's will open for service on Monday the 28th of June 2021. During this two-week period, urgent cases will be seen.

How will the transition to the Children's Disability Network Team be managed?

The agency your child is currently attending – whether your child is active or on the waiting list – is preparing a “transfer report”. This report will provide information on your child and family needs and priorities. It will be accompanied by your child's file.

There are systems in place to ensure that all information reaches your child's new team safely. On transfer to the team, you will be assigned a “key-worker”. The keyworker will make contact with you to introduce themselves and talk to you about your child.

Future Communication you will receive:

April -Information on how the Children's Disability Network Team operates and specific, practical information about your chosen Children's Disability Network Team – Live Children's Disability Network Team Webinar

May - Information to help your Child with the transition to a new Children's Disability Network Team

June - Parent Induction pack & Webinar

Please contact your service provider by **Wednesday April 7th** if you have issues accessing the team of your home address to and would like to be considered for an alternative team be through the exceptional circumstances process.

We understand that this change to service delivery may be difficult and we are available to support families in any way possible as we navigate this change together.

If you have any questions or queries about the reconfiguration process please contact XXXX.