

EAST LIMERICK CHILDREN SERVICES FAMILY NETWORK MEETING 3RD OCTOBER 2024



Avista



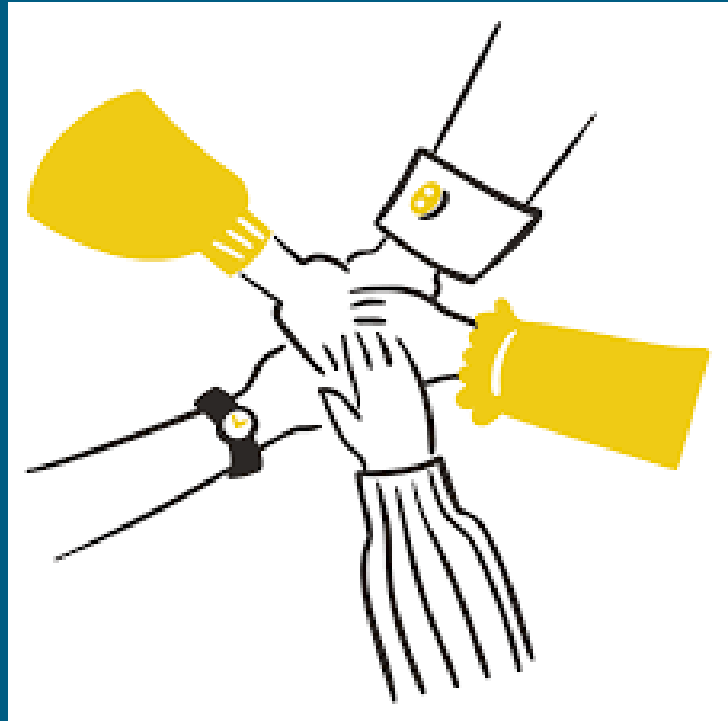
WELCOME AND AGENDA

1. Introductions – John/Baerbel
2. Ground Rules – John
3. East Limerick Children’s Services update - Baerbel
4. Update on activities - Baerbel
5. Group discussion/Topics to be brought forward to regional forum - John
6. Family Network Meeting dates 2025
7. Conclusion of meeting

INTRODUCTIONS

- Children's Disability Network Manager (CDNM) - East Limerick Children Services: Melissa Murtagh, currently on maternity leave
- New Interim CDNM – Nicola Haran Breen, gives apologies for today's meeting
- Children's Services Manager Avista: Baerbel Schlueter
- Family Forum Facilitator: John McCusker
- Administrator of ELCS Brian O'Flanagan

GROUND RULES



HOW WE WORK TOGETHER

- Family Network meetings are the method by which families can formally engage with their local CDNT to support the further development of the service and look at service improvements
- Part of the governance structure for Progressing Disability Services
- An opportunity for you to share:
 - What you think is working
 - What you think isn't working
 - What could be improved

EAST LIMERICK CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE

- East Limerick Children Services is operated by Avista in partnership with the HSE. We currently (30.09.2024) have **989** children accepted to our service. **764 children active**. **225** children are currently on the waiting list. Approximate waiting time for start of service provision: **24 plus months**

	Current Staffing	Current Vacancies	Staff recruited awaiting commencement
0-9 yrs team - Spraoi	10.5 WTE in situ	2.6 WTE (Physio, BG PSYCH, SWTL)	1
9-18 yrs team - Sonas	8 WTE in situ	2,75 (Senior Psych, Assist Psych, Therapy Ass 0.75)	0
St Vincent Team	2.1 WTE (SLT, OT, Psychology); supported by Nursing and Physiotherapy	0.5 WTE Maternity leave Senior Social Worker	0

- Current vacancies: Senior PT, Senior OT, Basic Grade Psychologist, 0.75 Therapy Assistant**
- Maternity leave: CDN M until January 2025, Social Worker ST Vincent Team July 2025 // Retirement: Jeanne Dippenaar**
- Admin staff: 2 Clerical Officers, Administrator and CDN M (currently on maternity leave, Interim since Sept 24: Nicola Haran Breen)**
- To support and ensure governance: Children Services Manager**

ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES REGIONAL

Regional CDNT's:

- Improving Communications: regional questionnaire was completed by over 1200 people/report with themes finalised and under review – implication on practice; communication with families: main topic
- Development of service information leaflet regionally; launch by end of year
- IFSP leaflet and information now available
- Signposting to other support services now available/website

ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES EAST LIMERICK CHILDREN SERVICES

- Planning to resume in person service introduction meetings
- Working on improving Avista website/awaiting funding allocation for interactive access including courses and webinars (Limerick and Dublin CDNT's)
- We are planning to introduce quarterly newsletter: what topics would you like to hear about?
- Back yard had to be cleared due to unfit equipment and fencing – plan to create a safe outdoor space for all including sensory spaces: in preparation, cladding to be installed before Christmas; proposal for funding in preparation (incl soft flooring, sensory wall, seating, equipment shed)

ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES

- Inclusive summer camp at University of Limerick in collaboration with Limerick and Clare Sports Partnership: will continue next year with same
- Whole team training on “Being Me – parent and children neuroaffirmative group” – rollout from end of October this year
- Responsive feeding training today and tomorrow in Dublin: to be rolled out at ELCS

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Ongoing staff vacancies impact on capacity and waiting times for entry to services
- High number of children to clinician ratio- burnout of staff
- Non replacement of maternity leaves
- Issues not actioned to move services forward for example casting services at CDNT's
- HSE Disabilities office closed at present – business cases not being dealt with/delays



GROUP DISCUSSION/TOPICS FOR NEXT REGIONAL FORUM

- Please find in today's notes from meeting, to be issued later



FAMILY FORUM DATES FOR 2024

- Regional Family Network Meeting: **13.11.2024**
- ELCS for 2024/25: to be agreed
- Venue for ELCS Network meetings at centre; times 10.30 am to 12.30

THANK YOU!