



Family Forum Minutes Tuesday 24th March 2026. Wicklow Primary Healthcare Centre	
Who was present: Participants 	
<p> Family Forum Facilitator: John McCusker, Family Representative: Barbora Svecova Children's Disability Network Manager: Olive Gormley Children's Services Manager: Michelle Carroll Administrator/Minutes: Ashling Doyle </p>	
What happened: Agenda 	
Introduction	<p>John introduced himself & his role, he introduced Barbora as the Family Representative, he also introduced Olive as CDN, Michelle as CSM & Ashling as Administrator to the parents.</p> <p>John gave a summary of the Family Forum, informing parents that this group had been set up 2.5 years ago, and provides an opportunity for families to have a voice.</p> <p>John asked if there would be anyone interested in filling the second position of Family Representative for the area.</p> <p>Barbora updated the families with all the communication platforms available for the Family Forum, Facebook and What's App.</p> <p>Email: info@wicklowfamilyforum.ie for further information.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/groups/568834146272901</p>
Family Representative	<p>Barbora began the session with a 10-minute sound-based relaxation technique.</p> <p>She then asked for the parents to introduce themselves and to share their story and concerns.</p>
Family Forum Facilitator update	<p>John spoke to parents about how the family forums have evolved over the last 2 years. The forums now are a collaborative process and there is a good working relationship with the family reps and the CDNT manager.</p> <p>The culture is changing in that CDNT have improved the information flow to parents and carers by the introduction of a (a) service update (b) 3 monthly newsletter and the introduction of a (c) website which gives extensive</p>


	information of what services are available in the HSE and Enable Ireland.
Updates	<p>John & Barbora gave feedback on the survey they had ran through their Facebook page,</p> <p>Survey Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents/Guardians prefer the Family Forum quarterly, in person ideally evenings. - People want practical guidance, emotional support & community. <p>There was a discussion regarding the suggestion to have two Family Forum groups; a group for active families and another for waitlist families - This will be brought to the Governance Group for discussion.</p>
CDNT Update	<p>Spring Newsletter in process this will be circulated to all families once completed.</p> <p>Groups - Our groups continue to run throughout the year for our Active children, when available we do offer these to families on the waitlist.</p> <p>Individual & Clinic Appointments - these include 1:1 sessions, School & Home visits. Our clinics include Dietitian, Orthotics & Physical Assessments.</p> <p>We also offer waitlist screening appointments.</p> <p>Please see Resource Hub Enable Ireland & Enable Ireland YouTube Channel for digital resources</p> 
Topics of interest arising during the meeting:	<p>Educational System – Useful links</p> <p>NCSE - https://ncse.ie/ AIMS - https://www.aims.ie/ POBAL - https://www.pobal.ie/ SENO - https://ncse.ie/seno-support-service RELATE Programme - https://ncse.ie/relate</p>
What is helpful for us?	Please share any reports you might have completed privately and update us with any changes in your address, phone number or email address.
Next Steps & Feedback	Next Family Forum – Date, time and location TBC

Table 2

Q & A Section	
<i>Family members present were given the opportunity to write down questions they had and these were directed to management for answering</i>	
Question	Response
What support services can my 17-year-old access for anxiety?	The CDNT offer groups including Managing Emotions and Decider, which aim to support children and young people experiencing anxiety.
Are autistic children entitled to an Irish exemption?	Language exemption needs are best discussed with your child's school.

Table 3

Feedback	
<i>Families were asked to provide written feedback on the meeting</i>	
I liked	I did not like
Listening to other family stories & receiving advice. Hearing what has worked for them.	More catered for younger children.
With help from CDNT they can see progression with their child, there are still other challenges but there has been a positive change.	

Feedback	
<i>Families were asked to provide written feedback on the meeting</i>	
I would like more information on	
- How to advocate & effectively apply for assistance and advice to get help for our child's development.	
- More supports for older children	
- Parent's trying to navigate a diagnosis	