

CDNT 2 Sandymount – Family Forum Summary

Date: 4th December 2025 **Location:** Dundrum Parish – Lynwood Room

Attendees: Eight family members (including two family representatives), Eimear Ryan (Children's Disability Network Manager), Michelle Carroll (Director of Children's Services), John McCusker (Independent Facilitator) and Lisa Kelly (Administrator).

Welcome and Introductions

John McCusker welcomed everyone, explained the purpose of the meeting, and introduced the attendees. He also welcomed two new family members to their first family forum meeting, as well as Eimear Ryan, the new Children's Disability Network Manager for CDNT2, and Michelle Carroll, the new Director of Children's Services for Dublin / Wicklow.

Ciara and Renaith, our family representatives, spoke briefly about their roles. They updated everyone on regional meetings and shared how they feel about being family representatives and what the role means.

Eimear Ryan and Michelle Carroll introduced themselves and talked about their views of the CDNT and their goals for the future. Both were newly appointed in August 2025.

Regional Family Forum Update

John told everyone that he had received a reply from the National Office to the questions raised by the regional representatives after their May meeting.

Please see attached document for the National Office's responses to the questions identified by the regional representatives for both regional and national answers.

Topics that were discussed at the meeting:

Support Services: Families think that support services like NEPS, NCSE, AIMS, SENO, AON, and the CDNTs are not well connected. Parents think these services should work together more closely and be better coordinated to make things easier for families.

Outsourcing of Assessment of Needs (AONs) to private service: The Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) complete most Assessments of Need (AONs). However, if there are a high number of requests for AONs at the same time and we cannot meet the

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demand with current staffing capacity, some AONs may be outsourced to private services to avoid further delays.

Inviting Local TDs to Family Forum: Families would like to invite local TDs to future family forums so they can hear directly from families about their experiences and concerns.

Use of Plain English in communications: Families would like The Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) to use more plain English in their communications. This is very important for families as it helps everyone understand information more easily.

Bureaucracy with national team: The Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) is doing their best to support families. Sometimes, the experience of families is that national rules and processes can slow communication and progress down. The CDNT works within a national framework but will continue to try support and respond to families in a timely manner where possible.

Family Feedback: Some parents shared positive stories about their experiences with the clinicians on The Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT). While families would generally like more support and contact with the team, they are happy to see the progress that has been made over the past twelve-eighteen months.

Location of the Family Forum: We are aware that the current location may not suit everyone. We are looking for a new place to hold the family forum and will let everyone know the location once the next date is confirmed.

Updates for CDNT2 Sandymount (Click the blue links below to go to the page)

New CDNT websites are live - [Dublin and South East CDNT | Home Page](#)

CDNT 2 Sandymount - [Home Page](#) This page will be updated regularly with information and resources for families.

Next Family Forum Meeting: TBC

Thank you to everyone who came and helped shape our family forums. Your ideas and feedback are very important. We would love for more families to join us in the future. We have attached a short video that explains what a family forum meeting is for anyone who wants to watch.

What is a Family Forum – [Family Forum Video](#)

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Best wishes,

The Children's Disability Network Team 2