



Newsletter



Blackberry Park Children's Disability Network Team

Manager's Message

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter newsletter from the Blackberry Park Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT). We hope children have settled back into their new school year.

We hope you find the newsletter useful, and welcome all feedback on this newsletter to our e-mail or if there is additional information you would like to see.

Olive Barry, CDNT Manager.



Your Family Network

Please join us at your next Family Network Meeting!

When: January 29th 2026

Where: Moyross Community Centre, V94VONP

Updates From Your Last Family Network Meeting:

You can find information about what was discussed at this meeting here:

<https://www.mwcds.ie/cdnt-blackberry-family-forum/>

Some of the areas discussed included:

- Update from our Family Rep
- Community supports for families
- Community activities/clubs that children & young people can access

Meet Your Social Workers:

We have two social workers with the 9–18 team: Orla Ryan (full-time) and Maggie Finn (part-time). Katie Metelko is with the 0–9 team.

They can help your family by:

- Explaining and guiding you through services
- Supporting you emotionally and with practical matters
- Help with understanding and making applications for benefits and services for example, social welfare, housing, or respite services
- Information and help to access resources in the community
- Advocating for your child with other professionals

For more information on the role of social workers, please see this link: [IASW – Social Workers in Disability](#)

Raising a child with additional needs comes with many emotions—love, hope, worry, and stress. Taking care of yourself is just as important, but it can be hard to find the time. Make space for sleep, support, and activities you enjoy, like meeting a friend or trying a new hobby. Remember, looking after yourself isn't selfish—when your cup is replenished, you can give more to your child.



Upcoming Events



October

- 'Uniquely Me' Neurodiversity Group for 9-12 year olds
- Emotional Well-Being for 12-14 year olds
- Social and Life Skills Group (invite)
- Autism Parent training (0-9yrs & 9-18 yrs) (invite)
- Youth Club 13-18 yrs (invite)

November

- Youth Club 13-18y (invite)
- 'Calm & Connect'-Communication Workshop 0-9yrs (invite)
- Feeding Workshop (0-9 yrs-open invite)
- Talk to your child about Different Brains (invite)
- 'What's Next Fair' for families & young persons- information on transitioning to Adulthood: Nov 12th Southcourt Hotel (open invite)
- Social Communication Skills Workshop (parents only (9-18y)

December

- Youth Club 13-18 Years (invite)
- Autism Parent training (0-9yrs & 9-18 yrs) (invite)

The groups are either targeted interventions or * Universal supports. Invites to targeted interventions are based on goals in your plan. Universal supports are offered to all open to the service, including those on the waitlist.

Seasonal Activities

Liskennett Halloween Farm:
<https://www.sjf.ie/What-We-Do/Facilities/Liskennett-Farm/Book-Liskennett-Open-Day/liskennetts-halloween-farm>

Panto for All: Cinderella at University of Limerick.
<https://www.uch.ie/panto-for-all/>. **BOOK NOW.**

Inclusive Dance Workshops: for age 14-18 years.
<https://dancelimerick.ie/event/inclusive-dance-youth-workshops>

Parent peer support group for parents of children with additional needs: Northside Family Resource Centre. 061-326623
Contact: Rosie Donelan.
(rosiedonelan@northsidefrc.ie)

Midwest website: www.mwcds.ie

We have developed an area on our website, with information for families while they are waiting for services. This includes information on topics, including disabilities, benefits and entitlements, strategies that you can try with your children and supports available in your community.



Your Children's Disability Network Teams Current Vacancies

We currently have the following vacancies:

- Psychologist
- Assistant Psychologist
- Occupational Therapist

Vacant posts can be applied for at:
<http://enableireland.ie/about-us/careers>

Children's and Young Person's Services

For more information on community services in your area, please visit the Children and Young People's Services Committee website by scanning the QR code. www.cypsc.ie

