

EAST LIMERICK CHILDREN SERVICES FAMILY NETWORK MEETING

23rd July 2026

Avista



INTRODUCTIONS

- Children's Disability Network Manager (CDNM) - East Limerick Children Services: Melissa Murtagh
- Administrator of ELCS: Brian O'Flanagan
- Clinical Specialist Principal Social Worker: Mairead O'Keefe
- Parent Representatives: Peter, Jennifer, Shirley, Gemma, Petrina.

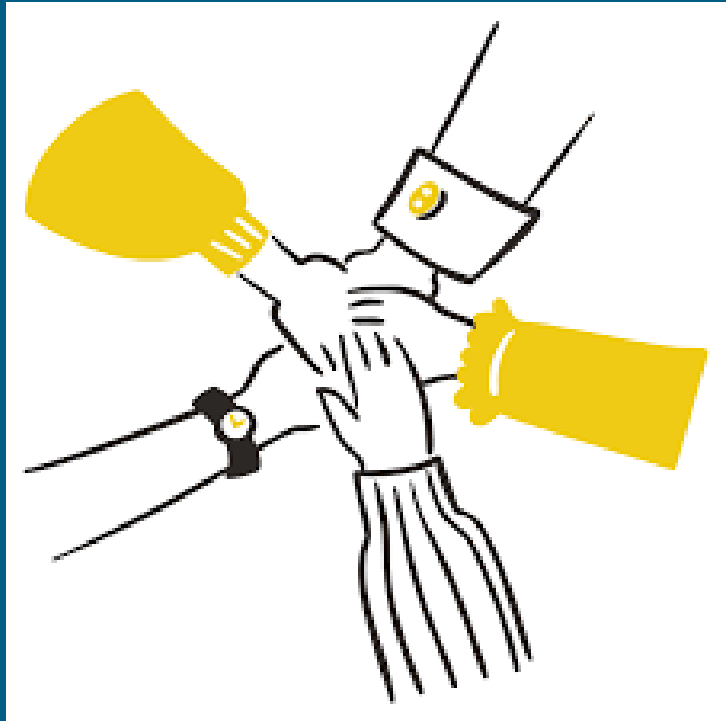
HOW WE WORK TOGETHER

- 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

WELCOME AND AGENDA

1. Introductions/Ground rules – Melissa
2. Service Updates - Melissa
3. Update from Regional Family Representative Meetings
4. Coffee Break
5. Information on Entitlements – Mairead O’Keefe
6. Break out session – Transitions – information sharing and peer support
7. Conclusion of meeting

GROUND RULES



EAST LIMERICK CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE

New Starter

Ged – Head of Discipline in Social Work

Discipline Managers and Clinical Specialists are currently being recruited for across the region.

Webinars for those currently on the waiting list to be seen will commence in Autumn 2026.

Current & Upcoming ELCS Initiatives

Cycling Group	Social Communication Group
Emotional Regulation Group	Early Bird Parent Programme
Hydro	Indoor Rowing Group

EAST LIMERICK CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE

- East Limerick Children Services is operated by Avista in partnership with the HSE.
- We currently have **873** children accepted to our service.
 - 133 children are currently on the waiting list
 - We are currently scheduling children referred in **September 2023 for initial contact.**
- There are 3 sub-teams at ELCS – 0-9 yrs, 9-18 yrs and St. Vincent's School (SVS) Team 

Team	Current Staffing	Current Vacancies
0-9 yrs team (Spraoui)	10 (8 full time, 2 part time)	4.1 WTE Nursing, OT, Psychology, Social Work, SLT 1 mat leave
9-18 yrs team (Sonas)	7 (4 full time, 3 part time)	3.9 WTE OT, Psych, Social Work, SLT 2 mat leaves (including 1.4 WTE Psych)
SVS Team	2 (Part time)	2 (1 full time and 1 part time) SLT & Psych 1 mat leave

There are 2 Therapy Assistants and 1 Psychology Assistant who are currently being recruited for.

REGIONAL HSE MID-WEST PARENT REP MEETING UPDATE

- Date of Meeting: 9th June 2026
- Facilitator: Kieran Murphy



Limerick East Family Representative Group (FRG)

Key Updates

Recent Developments

- Genio Review findings shared
- SNA allocation Circular discussed from Dept. Of Education and Youth

Strategic Focus

- Prioritise a small number of action areas
- Support service improvement & co-design
- Focus on measurable outcomes for children/families

Training & Support

- HSE co-design training deferred
- Continued focus on induction and governance support for new reps

Current Actions & Issues

- Improve feedback loops and communication – regional what's app
- Monitor SNA Allocation Circular 2026/27
- Regional Family Network Coffee Morning planned for 3rd week of September
- Regional family reps to gather data on staff/service use ratios

Next Meeting
16 September 2026



ENTITLEMENTS PRESENTATION

Mairead O'Keefe

Clinical Specialist Principal Social Worker

BREAKOUT SESSION

Transitions

Discussion Prompts



Think about a transition that has gone well for your child. What helped? Who supported you and your child?



What small transitions in your child's day are easy? Which ones are more challenging? Why do you think that is?



What strategies, routines or supports help your child manage transitions?



When thinking about bigger transitions (such as starting preschool, primary or secondary school), what are you looking forward to? What are you worried about?



What information or support would be most helpful to you and your child during a transition?



What advice or tips would you share with another family who is preparing for a transition?

Every transition is a step forward. 



With the right supports, our children can go far. 



THANK YOU!