

Family Forum Minutes Thursday 25th September 2025. Wicklow Primary Healthcare Centre	
Who was present: Participants 	
Chair: John McCusker, Family Representative: Barbora Svecova CDNM: Olive Gormley Minutes: Ashling Doyle	
What happened: Agenda 	
Introduction	John introduced Olive, Barbora & Ashling to the parents. John gave a brief summary of the agenda for the evening, asking parents present to write their queries on the question sheets provided, so they could be addressed at the end of the meeting.
Family Forum Facilitator update	
CDNM Introduction & update	Olive welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through some housekeeping. Olive informed the parents that the purpose of the Family Forum is to get input and feedback from families and bring back any suggestions for consideration to a regional level. Olive gave a brief overview, - Staffing in Wicklow near full capacity - Waitlists supports available - Request for feedback for service improvements
Family Representative	Barbora began the session with a 10-minute sound-based relaxation technique She then asked for the parents to introduce themselves and give feedback on what has lead them to attend the Family Forum.
Topics of interest arising during the meeting:	Queries re school transition and school supports: 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
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	We concluded the session with Barbora introducing the new Facebook Group. This parent lead group is designed to bring families together, giving them an ongoing opportunity to connect, find resources and ask questions. We invited everyone to join here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/568834146272901 Next Family Forum – Date, time and location TBC
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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's available to families from other countries with English difficulties in preschool/school?	Please see the Topic of Interest section above. Please link in with your school and preschool for information and advice on supports that can be availed of in educational settings.
Are there interpreters for school?	This should be discussed with your school, as there may be local procedures in place.
What is Hanen?	There are a number of Hanen programs run through the CDNT that provide training to parents and early educators on how to develop communication skills and language.
Is there help for completing forms, e.g. social welfare forms?	Your Key Contact or Social Work may assist and support in helping you to complete forms where applicable.
Can we avail of Private therapists?	Yes, you can seek a private therapist, however we do not recommend/endorse any specific private practitioners.
What age can I apply for an AON?	To be eligible for an Assessment of Need (AON), a child must have been born on or after 1 June 2002. A parent, legal guardian, or personal advocate can apply. Additionally, young people aged 16 or 17 can use AON independently.

Table 3

Feedback <i>Families were asked to provide written feedback on the meeting</i>	
I liked	I did not like
- The opportunity to not feel alone. It was very comforting to be surrounded by people who understood. - Information for resources. - Meeting other families and discussing cases and resolving issues. - Listening to other parents and their stories. - Hearing other stories and the opportunity to speak about daily struggles, knowing a lot of other people are going through difficult times. - The sound therapy and freedom to discuss issues.	

Feedback <i>Families were asked to provide written feedback on the meeting</i>
I would like more information on
- The services I can avail of. - Clubs & groups for autistic children of different ages. - Parent coaching & classes for children on the waiting list. - The services provided once in the system. - More information on Workshops - I would like to know more about clubs for children with CDNT - What should we do while on the waiting list. - Help with recognising my child's difficulties, guidance with using supports