



## Keeping you informed

### About the programme

The programme 'Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People' aims to achieve a national unified approach to delivering disability health services, so that there is a clear pathway to the services they need for all children regardless of where they live, what school they go to or the nature of their disability or delay.

Children should receive the health services they need as close to their home and school as possible. Some children may have their needs met by their local Primary Care services. An early intervention and a school age team will look after all children with more complex needs in a defined geographic network area, regardless of the nature of their disability. These teams will be supported by specialist services when a high level of expertise is required.

The programme also involves our partners in the education sector to ensure we are working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for children.

The Health Service as a whole has to operate within the funding available to it and this is a major challenge for all stakeholders, including the HSE, voluntary service providers, services users and their families. We need to make the best possible use of the resources we have, and if we work to get the structure right we will have strong foundations to build on.



Joint Initiative  
between MCA &



## HSE Social Care Division – Disabilities: Competency development for working with children with autism

Middletown Centre for Autism (MCA) and the HSE Social Care Division - Disabilities are embarking on a project to facilitate Children's Disability Network Teams in accessing MCA training programmes in return for HSE/HSE funded staff signposting parents/carers to MCA's Parents Training Programme and where possible, providing venues for training events.

**Objectives** of this collaborative project are to:

1. Optimise parental uptake of MCA training programmes
2. Develop competencies of Children's Disability Network Team staff working with children with autism
3. Promote collaborative working between Education and Health staff by providing opportunities for training and networking together

**Memorandum of understanding (MOU):**

**MCA will:**

- Open all publicised training events i.e. those for parents, for education staff and joint events for parents and education staff to Children's Disability Network Team staff, pending capacity i.e. applications accepted after parents/education staff places confirmed
- Send Newsletters approximately every 6 weeks to designated staff to make available for all staff and parents as appropriate .
- Guarantee 10% of training places at any event for Children's Disability Network Team staff where Disability Services provide the venue free of charge

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- provide catering for events, where necessary

**Children's Disability Network Team staff will:**

- Advise parents of children with autism in their service of MCA's training events as appropriate
- Provide venues, where possible, that cater for 30-100 people (dependant on course requirements), free of charge, for MCA training events. The style of seating and suitability of venues will be agreed between the provider of the venue and MCA staff
- Have access to learning support materials and courses provided through MCA's Virtual Learning Environment
- Request their Line Manager to email MCA at [admin@middletownautism.com](mailto:admin@middletownautism.com) to inform in advance the name(s) of staff who will be applying online. This acts as confirmation that the applicant is a member of a Children's Disability Network Team, or will be upon reconfiguration of services .
- When MCA have received the staff name (s) from the line manager, the participant can book a place online at [www.middletownautism.com](http://www.middletownautism.com). They will get a confirmation or rejection depending on numbers and timing, and
- not be expected to make bookings or intervening on parents' behalf. The role is purely an information signposting role to disseminate information to parents/carers who may benefit from it and to encourage participation.

**National HSE Social Care – Disabilities will:**

- Include information about MCA and upcoming courses, as provided by MCA, in the regular *National Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People* bulletin which is circulated widely to staff in disability services and families
- Add link to [www.middletownautism.com](http://www.middletownautism.com) on the micro site currently in development for Children's Disability Services on [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)
- Add information on MCA on the pages for the *Progressing Disability Services for Children* programme on [www.hseland.ie](http://www.hseland.ie) .

**MCA and HSE Social Care – Disabilities National Office will:**

- Run this initiative from May 16th to October 31st<sup>th</sup> 2016 and review during that time for its efficacy and sustainability
- If deemed to be meeting needs of both parties, the initiative will be fully rolled out and reviewed annually thereafter

The terms of the MOU are subject to review at any time that either party request for same.

## Mayo County Childcare and Mayo Early Intervention Service hold an early years inclusion seminar

Mayo County Childcare Committee and the Mayo Early intervention service held a very successful seminar in Knockranny House Hotel, Westport on Saturday 5th March 2016. The seminar was entitled "Early Years Inclusion Day" - Practical ways to include all children.

Dr Geraldine French, the noted specialist in early childhood education gave an inspiring key note address to begin the day. Over 120 early childhood care and education practitioners then attended 3 workshops for the rest of the morning. These workshops aimed to show practitioners, practical ways to include children in their everyday play school settings. The workshops provided guidance on puppetry, a multi sensory approach and equality and diversity. The workshops were delivered by Carmel Balfe of Little Gems Puppets, Michelle Fahey, Annette Jordan and Ann Halligan respectively. Each of these facilitators are experts in each of their respective fields. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive regarding the workshops. The facilitators professionalism and expertise was seen by all as they delivered thought provoking, insightful and hugely practical workshops.

Running simultaneously to the workshops and throughout the morning, the event also hosted 20 exhibitors.

These exhibitions again provided participants with practical ideas and ways to develop an inclusive ethos in play schools and all early years settings. The exhibitions included stands from Mayo Early Intervention Service—Parents Plus programme, toileting skills, Handwriting without Tears Programme, multisensory approaches to storytelling, Mayo County Childcare Committee, Music Generation Mayo, National Early Years Quality Development (Better Start), Mayo Travellers Support Group, Mayo Intercultural Action, Nexus, Wesco, Knockranny House Hotel—Spa Salveo, Mayo County Library, Connaught Creative Resource, Thinking Toys, Mindfulness, Artistscant Draw, Autism Service and MSLETB.

Throughout the day, participants could also view art work submitted by early years settings and play schools. This art work provided examples of inclusive practice happening on a daily basis through the county in the 120 early years services. Also services submitted photos which were compiled into a slide show and shown on screens throughout the hotel.



Left to right Ursula Murphy Mayo Early Intervention Service, Mary Conway Mayo County Childcare Committee, Yvonne Kerr, Mayo Early Intervention Service, Dr Geraldine French (key note speaker at event), Jim Power, Mayo County Childcare Committee.



The organisers from Mayo Early Intervention Service and Mayo CC stated " we are delighted with how successful today's event has been. We wish to acknowledge all the photos and art work submitted by the workers from all the early years services around the county. We also wish to acknowledge the fact that after a hard week's work, these workers have given up their Saturday to attend this event. This is just another example of the commitment and dedication which exists in the early years sector in Mayo. We also wish to acknowledge all the parents and agencies who attended today's event. Finally we wish to acknowledge Dr Geraldine French who delivered such an inspiring key note address. We really hope everyone who attended got something positive from today's event."

For any further information relating to inclusion practices in early years education and care please do not hesitate to contact Mayo CC (094 9047010) and/or Mayo Early Intervention Service (094 9060234).



# HemiHelp Professionals Conference 2016

Developments in the Management of Hemiplegia.

**Thursday 22 September 2016**

**Queen Alexandra College, Court Oak Rd, Birmingham, B17 9TG**

The aim of the Annual Professionals Conference is to update medical professionals working with children or adults affected by hemiplegia, on current and future developments in the field. This can include latest treatments, best practice and current research studies, amongst other things.

The conference will be of particular interest to Paediatricians, Neurologists, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Registrars, Support Workers, and any final year students wishing to increase their knowledge of the condition.

Draft programme & conference rates can be found at:

[http://www.hemihelp.org.uk/about\\_us/what\\_we\\_do/events/professionals\\_conference\\_2016](http://www.hemihelp.org.uk/about_us/what_we_do/events/professionals_conference_2016)