



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.

National Conference Autumn 2017

Working Together to Support Children and Families

Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People

The first **Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People National Conference 'Working together to Support Children and Families'** will be held in Autumn 2017 hosted by the Department of Health. The primary theme of the Conference is **PARTNERSHIP** and invitations to attend will be extended to service users and their families, staff in children's disability services and in other services and sectors, such as Education, who support children with disabilities.

This Conference will be a landmark event for the *Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People* programme, celebrating achievements to date, the development of Children's Disability Network Teams and the progress towards equity of access to services for all children with disabilities and their families, whilst acknowledging there is work still to do. It will be an opportunity for all to showcase good practice in working together and to explore innovative ideas.

See page 2 of this bulletin about a call for submissions to the Conference from staff in children's disability teams.

Middletown Centre for Autism

Middletown Centre for Autism (MCA) has been providing training, information assessment and learning support and research since 2017. Please see page 3 for details about their project with the HSE to facilitate staff from children's disability teams in accessing their courses.

National Conference Autumn 2017

Working Together to Support Children and Families

Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Dear Staff (in existing or planned Children's Disability Network Teams),

The first **Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People National Conference 'Working together to Support Children and Families'** will be held in Autumn 2017, hosted by the Department of Health. The primary theme of the Conference is **PARTNERSHIP** and invitations to attend will be extended to service users and their families, staff in children's disability services and in other services and sectors, such as Education, who support children with disabilities.

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Submissions are invited in particular on the following topics:

- ◇ AIM: partnership working with parent/Early Years Specialist/Health staff
- ◇ Disability, CAMHS and Primary Care Joint Working Protocols in practice
- ◇ Parent-led or young person-led initiative (supported by Health) encouraging networking, empowerment, resilience
- ◇ Health Services/County Council Inclusion Officer partnership model
- ◇ Effective practice in screening for ASD in a Children's Disability Network Team
- ◇ Planning together to support children at transition stages in Education

Submissions can also be made on other topics under the following Conference subthemes:

- Partnership between families and services
- Collaborative working between services/sectors
- Team working
- Promoting inclusion in the community
- Innovative practice in Children's Disability Network Teams

Please make your submission on the form attached with this bulletin completing all sections fully, and return to:

pdsconference@hse.ie by **close of business Thursday May 4th**.

Notification of the success of submissions will be sent by May 19th.

Middletown Centre for Autism



Middletown Centre for Autism has been delivering services since 2007. The Centre staff provide training, information assessment and learning support and research.

1. **Training** ; Middletown Centre provides a comprehensive training service for parents and educational professionals. This consists of:

- Multi Day (2, 3 and 4) training courses; - Full day sessions delivered across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland on a range of autism specific topics for both parents and professionals.
- Morning and twilight sessions; aimed at those parents and teachers who may not be able to attend a full day session. These sessions delivered on consecutive mornings or evenings over a five-week period and lasting 2-3 hours.
- A two day international Conference every two years, The Centre's next international conference will be in May 2017.

Middletown Centre for Autism (MCA) and the HSE Social Care Division – Disabilities, have recently embarked on a project to facilitate Children's Disability Network Teams in accessing MCA training programmes. The process for eligible staff accessing training is as follows:

Children's Disability Team Staff email admin@middletownautism.com to request a copy of the HSE Manager Confirmation Form. Once completed and signed by the relevant Line Manager a copy is returned to MCA. When MCA have received the staff name(s) from the line manager, the participant can book a place online at www.middletownautism.com. They will get a confirmation or rejection depending on numbers and timing. (this process is subject to minor changes).

2. **Learning Support and Assessment (LSA)**; this service works directly, on a referral only basis, with children with autism, their families and schools for up to 10 months. The service operates on a transdisciplinary model .

3. **Research**. The Centre's research division provides:

- a comprehensive follow-up for all children and young people who have been referred to the Centre's LSA service.
- a series of multi-media learning resources on the topics of Sensory Processing, Best Practice and Teenage Years. The resources are based on the learning support and training programmes provided by the Centre staff.
- quarterly research bulletins, which are free to download from the Centre's website;
- research that engages with local people and schools and takes this to an international stage
- a specialist research resource for both Departments of Education, providing research data and designing specialist tools for the development of educational policy for autism.

The Centre's referral work functions in tandem with its research and training work and the ongoing aim is to create a fluid model that is grounded in both research and practice that has the child and family at its core.



For further information on the Centre and to view its full training prospectus please visit www.middletownautism.com. It is updated annually.

In the interest of the environment, please print this bulletin in black and white.



Enable Ireland SeatTech

Seating Assessment & Equipment Solutions 2017

Enable Ireland SeatTech has delivered two for their accredited *Seating Assessment and Equipment Solutions* so far this year and four more are scheduled. Three of these will be part-subsidised by HSE, meaning a reduced course fee for participants of just €150. The course content of the HSE-sponsored courses is similar to the *SeatTech Seating Assessment & Equipment Solutions Level 1* course, but with a specific focus on adults or paediatrics. They must be applied for through the AOTI application process detailed at:

<https://www.aoti.ie/event.aspx?contentid=9665>

NB: It is important to note that the AOTI-sponsored courses are not limited to just AOTI members.

The schedule of planned 2017 courses is outlined below:

- April 24, 25, 26 – Level 1, AOTI-sponsored: Paediatric focus
- May 4 – SeatTech Annual Equipment Evaluation Day
- May 22, 23, 24 – Level 1, AOTI-sponsored: Adult focus
- Jun 19, 20, 21 – Level 1, AOTI-sponsored: Paediatric focus
- Oct 2, 3, 4 – Level 2 – SeatTech

Our 3-day *Level 2 Seating Assessment & Solutions* course costs just €395. The hands-on nature of this training means that we need to limit spaces to just 18 trainees. Places on this course will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Given the high number of people who have taken our recent Level 1 training courses, it is anticipated that there will be strong demand for the SeatTech Level 2 course run later in the year. Bookings for this course will open in May 2017, and early booking is recommended.

The *Equipment Evaluation Day* on 4th May is a unique event in that it offers people the opportunity to view and critique the full range of products from Ireland's main suppliers in a specific number of equipment categories. This year the selected categories are:

- Manual Wheelchairs – Adult Active
- Toilet / Shower / Bath chairs
- Buggies
- Night Positioning

The event will take place at Enable Ireland Sandymount, and is free to attend. For further information, or to have your name added to our mailing list, please contact seatech@enableireland.ie.

We can also tailor training to local needs where an area or region block-books a course to be delivered locally. Please let us know if this is of interest to you. Again, you can contact us at seatech@enableireland.ie, or learn more about our service at <http://www.enableireland.ie/services/seatech>.



3rd International Conference

on

Paediatric Spasticity, Orthopaedic, and Postural Management

When: Friday 28th April 2017

Where: Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork, Ireland

6 CPD Points

The conference will focus on encouraging team building between hospitals, agencies and network/primary care teams to find a consensus on the optimum care of various Paediatric disability conditions through standardised assessment and integrated care.

<http://www.enableireland.ie/events/conference-paediatric-spasticity-orthopaedic-and-postural-management>

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