0-17 YEARS

CYPSC
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEES
Kerry

SUPPORT PATHWAYS

for Children & Young People with Additional Needs in Kerry

Information Booklet for Parents and Caregivers

2024

INTRODUCTION

This booklet provides information on services and supports for children and young people aged 0-18 with additional needs.

We hope this booklet can support parents to access the right service at the right time for their child / young person with additional needs and help you navigate what is often a complex journey.

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QR CODE INFO

Scan this QR code for a complete list of all contact details, resources, useful links and forms contained in this information booklet

How to scan a QR code

1. Open the camera app on your phone.
2. Hold your phone over the QR code so that it appears in view.
3. Tap the notification that appears to open the link associated with the QR code.
4. This will bring you to the list of all contact details, resources, useful links and forms contained in this information booklet

REFERRAL PATHWAYS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORTS

General Practitioner (GP)
SEE PAGE 6

AND/OR

Public Health Nurse (PHN)
SEE PAGE 6

AND/OR

Assessment of Need (AON)
SEE PAGE 10

Child with non complex needs

Primary Care Service (PCS)
SEE PAGES 6 & 7

Transfer between services if and when child's needs change

Child with complex needs

Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT)
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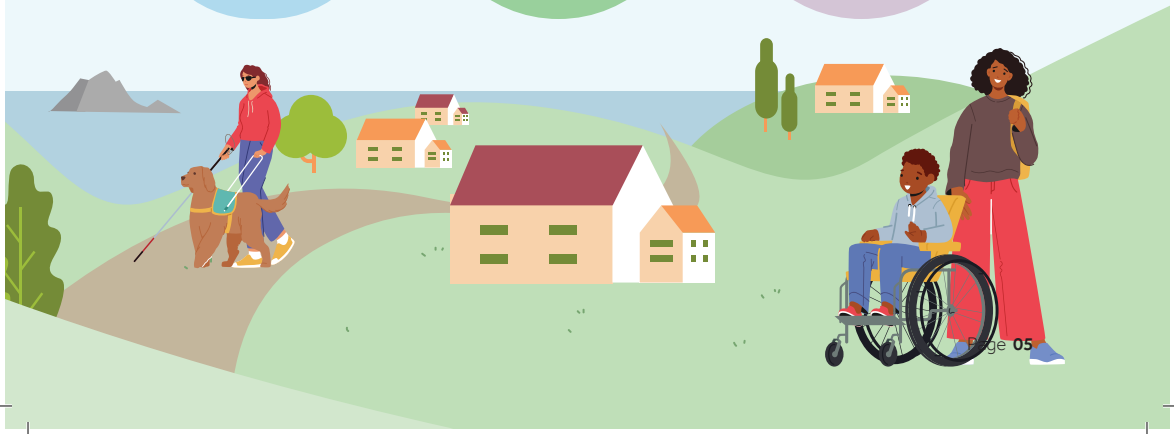


HEALTH SUPPORTS

General Practitioner (GP)

In Ireland, a GP (your local doctor) is often a first point of contact if you would like to access specialist primary or secondary disability or mental health services. The GP can refer you to other health professionals (e.g., in Primary Care Services and/or Children's Disability Network Teams). Your GP can also make a referral to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) if you have concerns about ADHD or significant anxiety/ mental health difficulties.

Make a regular appointment with your GP to discuss your concerns.

Public Health Nurse (PHN)

Can provide supports to children with a disability throughout their childhood years and can make a referral to specialist primary or secondary disability services. You can make a regular appointment with your PHN to discuss your concerns. Contact your PHN through your local Health Office.

Find your local Health Office.
www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/kerry

Continence Care Provision

All children aged four and over who are not potty trained due to a disability are entitled an assessment and may be provided with nappies from the HSE.

Contact your local PHN

Tralee Primary Care Centre	066 710 4830
Killarney HC	064 667 0743
Killorglin HC	066 976 1276
Listowel Primary Care Centre	068 56100
CHN1: northkerry.chn@hse.ie	
CHN2: westkerry.chn@hse.ie	
CHN3: southkerry.chn@hse.ie	

WHAT ARE PRIMARY CARE SERVICES (PCS)?

Primary Care Services are delivered through the Community Healthcare Network structure which is a foundational step in building a better health service and shifting towards Primary Care and community-based service provision. The Community Healthcare Network structure enables a better service for those who use our health and social care services and for staff delivering them.

Primary Care Services provide a suite of therapy services which include Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics, Podiatry and Social Work.

If your child's *needs are noncomplex* and they have a mild or moderate impact on your child's life, their needs may be met by the relevant Primary Care health professionals. GPs can now send Children Service Referral forms directly into the relevant CHN. Referrals for Primary Care Services can be made via:

The National Children Services Referral form
https://assets.hse.ie/media/documents/Childrens_Services_Referral_Form.pdf

WHAT HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ARE IN PRIMARY CARE SERVICES (PCS)?

Speech and Language Therapist (SLT)
Speech & Language Therapists (SLTs) provide assessment, diagnosis & therapy for children with a wide range of speech, language, and communication needs in addition to feeding, eating and drinking difficulties. SLTs work within the multi-disciplinary primary care team and with stakeholders in a wider context e.g. school personnel.

Occupational Therapist (OT)
Occupational Therapy for children and young people focuses on developing the skills for life. OTs aim to enable children to perform day to day tasks and activities at home, at school and in the community. Their goal is to help each child to achieve their own potential in a meaningful way.

This could include:

- Self-care
- Play
- Sensory processing that impacts on function
- School skills - writing and organisation

Physiotherapist
Helps the clients to achieve maximum range of movement and physical ability.

Psychologist
Supports children with mild to moderate psychological difficulties, for example, emotional or behavioural difficulties, issues with toileting, sleeping or food.

Primary Care Social Worker
Will support you by offering emotional, practical, and social support.

Dental
The Primary Care Dental Service provides dental treatment to eligible children, medical card holders, adults and children with special needs and others in the care of the HSE at various locations throughout Cork and Kerry. Children under 16 years of age are treated in HSE dental clinics and adults are treated by private dental practitioners contracted to the Health Services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS). Services in Kerry are based in Tralee PCC, Killorglin HC, Ardfert HC and Killarney HC.

Dietetics
The Community Nutrition and Dietetic Service (CNDS) can help service users to better understand how food can affect their health. Dietitians are the only qualified and CORU regulated health professionals who assess, diagnose, and treat dietary and nutritional problems.

Podiatry
Podiatrists specialise in the assessment, Management and Treatment of all disorders adversely affecting the Foot and Lower Limb, whether Congenital or Acquired.

WHAT ARE CHILDREN'S DISABILITY NETWORK TEAMS (CDNT)?

If your ***child's needs are complex*** and they have a significant impact on your child's life, your child will be seen by the Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT). If your child's referral to CDNT is accepted, your child may be seen by some or all health professionals from the interdisciplinary Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) (e.g., a Psychologist and a Speech and Language Therapist).

The Interdisciplinary Team is a team of professionals who work ***together*** to meet your child's needs with a ***joint*** care and support plan. CDNT is a family centred service. This means that the team will work with you to set and achieve goals for your child and your family. They will create a support plan called the **Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)** and will support you to use everyday activities to achieve the identified goals.

If you do not know your child's needs, you are advised to apply for the Assessment of Need (see page 10).

WHO CAN MAKE A REFERRAL TO PRIMARY CARE SERVICES (PCS) AND/OR CHILDREN'S DISABILITY NETWORK TEAMS (CDNT)?

- Your **General Practitioner (GP)** or **Public Health Nurse (PHN)**
- Any health or education professional (e.g., a teacher, Speech and Language Therapist (SLT)
- Occupational Therapist (OT), Physiotherapist, Psychologist)
- Parents/guardians
- Assessment Liaison Officer following the Assessment of Need process

All referrals need a signed consent by parents/guardians.

A referral to Primary Care Services (PCS) will ask the referrer to specify what services the child needs (e.g., psychology, speech and language, occupational therapy).1

Ask at your local Health Office for a copy of a referral form.

Find your local Health Office
www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/

Find your local Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT)
www2.hse.ie/services/disability/children-services/services/find-a-cdnt/

Ask at your
Local Health Centre

WHO CAN MAKE A REFERRAL TO A PAEDIATRICIAN?

- Your **General Practitioner (GP)**
- A health professional (e.g., Occupational Therapist)
- Some private paediatric clinics accept self-referral

A **Paediatrician** is a medical doctor who is trained to treat a broad range of childhood illnesses and diseases, for example, breathing or growth problems.

Your child may be referred to a paediatrician for more specialised assessments. They might explore any underlying reasons for your child's presenting needs such as genetic testing.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE REFERRAL TO A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL?

You will receive a letter inviting you to attend an appointment with an allocated health professional. Each health professional your child will see may:

- Spend time with your child and observe your child in play
- Administer certain tests and tasks (e.g., ask your child to point to pictures, do puzzles, play games with them, etc.)
- Ask you and/or other important people in your child's life (e.g., a teacher) questions about your child's learning and development

Before your child is seen by a public health professional in Ireland, you may be invited to attend a group programme for parents (e.g., a parenting course, a course on supporting language development, etc.)

It is a good idea to prepare for an appointment by writing down why you are concerned and any observations you have.

WHAT IS AN ASSESSMENT OF NEED (AON)?

Email: aon.chockch@hse.ie

If your child has a disability or you think they may have a disability you can apply for an Assessment of Need. Under the Disability Act 2005 all children with disabilities in Ireland have a right to:

- An independent assessment of their health needs,
- An assessment report,
- A statement of the services they will receive,
- Make a complaint if they are not happy with any part of the process.
- Parents can apply themselves directly for an Assessment of Need; you do not need to be referred by a medical practitioner. It is recommended that you apply for AON at the **same time** as you refer your child to Primary Care/ Children's Disability Network Team.

Do not wait for the AON process to be completed before you refer your child for support.

To apply for an Assessment of Need (AON), contact your local **Assessment Officer** or ask for an Assessment of Need (AON) application form and post this to your local Assessment Officer.

You can do this at your local Health Office. After you send in your application you will receive a letter confirming its receipt and the Assessment Officer will contact you for more information about your child.

The AON is not a diagnostic process, i.e., your child will not receive a diagnosis of their disability, instead you will receive a statement of your child's needs ('***assessment report***') and recommendations for what services are needed to meet these needs ('***service statement***'). The allocated **Liaison Officer** will then make appropriate referrals to these services on your behalf.

The AON process will usually engage a team of health professionals, typically a Clinical Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapist and/ or Occupational Therapist, but some children will be assessed by one health professional. The Assessment Officer will decide whether your child needs a team assessment or an individual assessment.

The AON is a ***separate*** service to CDNT / PCS.

If you are confused about how the public health services are organised, ask at your local Health Office.

PRIVATE ROUTE: PRIVATE SPECIALIST HEALTH SERVICES

Accessing private assessments/ support for your child can be costly. Health insurance companies offer individual policies for children from as little as €35 per month; these policies allow you to claim up to 75% of the cost of private therapies back. You can also claim 20% tax back on health expenses via your annual Med 1 form.

Private assessment costs may range from €450 to €2,000+. There may be waiting lists too, but they are generally shorter than public services. You can ask for a screening instead of a full assessment, this will be cheaper and may give you some recommendations, however, a screening will not provide a diagnosis.

To find a **private clinic** in your area (google search, ask other parents, join Facebook groups and ask there). If you have private health insurance the provider may have a paediatric clinic. A clinic may be able to offer a **full multidisciplinary assessment.**

Find a **private health professional** (check that the professional is registered with a professional body in Ireland, for example:

CORU
www.coru.ie

Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists
www.iaslt.ie

Independent Speech Therapists of Ireland
www.isti.ie

Association of Occupational Therapists in Ireland
www.aoti.ie

Irish Association of Counselling & Psychotherapy
www.iacp.ie

Irish Association of Humanistic & Integrative Psychotherapy
www.iahip.org

Be aware that many health professionals will need other health professionals to confirm or rule out certain diagnoses, so you are likely to be asked to see more than one professional. Thus, for complex needs, it may be more beneficial to find a multidisciplinary clinic, though a single professional may give you some helpful recommendations in their area of expertise.

Further guidance and support
www.asiam.ie
www.dyspraxia.ie
www.dyslexia.ie
www.adhdireland.ie

SUPPORTS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM SUPPORT GROUPS

DCA Warriors
Aims to improve the quality of life of families affected by disability by providing support and information to members. The group also supports those needing assistance with applications for financial supports (Disability Allowance, Carers Allowance/Benefit) and/or with special educational issues.

Autism Mamai Ireland
Support group for parents of Autistic children. A place to chat and ask for advice.

@fussireland
An advocacy group founded by the parents of neurodiverse and disabled children - a place to learn and access information.

SUPPORTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Family Carers Ireland
Provides supports and advocacy for family carers. Members can avail of its services including Carer Groups, Counselling, Freephone Careline, Training and Legal Advice, and Emergency Scheme.

For details and to contact:

National Family Carers Ireland
freephone Careline
1800 240 724

Family Resource Centres
These offer a range of programmes and supports for children and families in their local areas.

Find out what is available in your community and the wider area. Ask also about other local Community Centres.

Your nearest family resource centre
www.kerrychildrensservices.com/service/family-resource-centres

PARENTING SUPPORT AND PROGRAMMES

Various parenting supports and programmes (e.g. Parents Plus, Incredible Years, Strengthening Families) are offered by organisations in the community. Some of these may be specific and/or beneficial for families with children with additional needs (e.g. Parents Plus Special Needs Programme, Parents Plus ADHD, The NVR Programme).

Local Family Resource Centre
www.kerrychildrensservices.com/service/family-resource-centres/

Parenting section on the CYPSC website
www.kerrychildrensservices.com/parenting-courses/

More information about parenting support programmes
www.barnardos.ie

RESPITE SUPPORT

Respite is taking a break from caring while the person you care for is looked after by someone else.

Useful websites
www.jackandjill.ie
www.lauralynn.ie
www.familycarers.ie

Respite Supports in Kerry

Respite Services are available for children and young people with disability aged 0-18 years whom **satisfy the access criteria for Cork Kerry Community Healthcare Disability Services Standard Operating Procedure.** Children must have a diagnosis one of the following;

- A mild, moderate, severe or profound intellectual disability
- Who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Complex Physical and Sensory Disability
- Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)

Children and young people may be referred to services by any of the following routes/professionals with parental consent:

- Childrens Disability Network Team (CDNT),
- Health and social care professionals,
- Hospitals
- Assessment Officers

Referrals should be made to the:
HSE Disability Services, Community Services Building, Rathass, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Further information, email:
✉ rfcs.4@hse.ie
or contact one of your above referees.
Children's Services Referral Form
www.assets.hse.ie/media/documents/Childrens_Services_Referral_Form.pdf

At present there are three types of respite service provision available via this respite forum;

1) **Overnight respite service provision:** The Arches, South Kerry and Abhaile, North Kerry

2) **Outreach service provision:** A number of service providers engage with Disability Services Kerry to provide outreach services to children and their families within the community.

3) **Afterschool clubs:** There are 3 afterschool clubs in Kerry;
   - Saidbhin Care, Caherciveen
   - Home from Home, Ballydowney, Killarney,
   - Fabric Tralee, Tralee.

LOCAL SERVICE DIRECTORY

www.kerrychildrensservices.com/services-search

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND MAKING A COMPLAINT

Information on the rights of your child:
The Ombudsman for Children
www.oco.ie/itsyourright
Children's Rights Alliance
www.childrensrights.ie

If you think your child has been treated unfairly by a public body or an organisation funded by the government, you can make a complaint to the Ombudsman for Children. This service is free and independent. `

Online Complaints Form
www.oco.ie/online-complaint

The **HSE Your Service Your Say** can facilitate your feedback or complaints about HSE services.

✉ yoursay@hse.ie
✆ 1800424555

Online Complaints and Feedback Form
www2.hse.ie/services/forms/your-service-your-say

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION SUPPORTS

FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Contact a Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO)
www.ncse.ie/seno-support-service

VISITING TEACHER SUPPORTS FOR PRESCHOOL, PRIMARY & POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL

Visiting Teachers for Deaf/Hearing Impaired, Blind/Vision Impaired
Support teachers in supporting the learning of children with sensory impairments are available across all educational levels, from preschool to and including post-primary.

Visiting teachers are qualified teachers with particular skills and knowledge of the development and education of children with varying degrees of hearing loss and/or visual impairment. They offer support to children, from 0-18years. Each visiting teacher (VT) is responsible for a particular region and is allocated a caseload of students.

Visiting teachers
www.ncse.ie/contact-a-visiting-teacher

Each referral should be made on the standard referral form and must be accompanied by an up-to-date audiology or ophthalmology report, as appropriate.

PRESCHOOL SUPPORTS

All children in Ireland are eligible for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and National Childcare Scheme (NCS). These schemes provide free (ECCE) and/or subsidised (NCS) childcare places for children.

List of participating services
www.kerrycountychildcare.com/childcare-providers-kerry/childcare-providers-directory/

Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) in Early Childhood Care and Education

Your child's preschool service provider can apply for targeted supports under this model, for example, additional assistance in the preschool room, specialised equipment or minor alterations, and/or therapeutic supports.

www.aim.gov.ie

Any equipment that children receive through AIM will transfer to school with them. Children with additional needs can apply for one extra year in preschool if they are not ready for school. They can also apply for an over age exception to continue their preschool education. AIM's supports will also be provided during this additional year.

Some children may also access autistic-specific Early Years education outside of the ECCE scheme, if recommended on the child's report.

There are two main types:

1. **Early Intervention Classes** – these are usually located within or attached to a national school.
2. **Private autism-specific preschools** which are usually funded through the Home Tuition Grant.

Places in these preschools will only be funded for those children who cannot access a suitable place in an Early Intervention class.

Contact a Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO)
www.ncse.ie/seno-support-service

Home Tuition

The Home Tuition Grant is available to Autistic children aged between 2 ½ years and 5 years of age who cannot find an appropriate early intervention placement within the State Education system.

The Department of Education will sanction Home Tuition for children who are unable to source a suitable place so that the child can get early intervention from a sanctioned organisation such as a specialist autism preschool who have a direct payment agreement with the Department of Education or from suitably qualified Teacher/ Tutor who can work with the child in their own home.

Children with a diagnosis of autism can access 10 hours of home tuition per week from age 2.5, and from age 3 a place in Early Intervention Class or 20 hours of home tuition until school entry.

Diagnosed Autistic children who attend a local ECCE preschool can also avail of 5 hours home tuition a week. 15 preschool hours + 5 hours Home Tuition = the 20 hours that Autistic preschool children are entitled to.

Contact your local SENO for further information
www.ncse.ie/seno-support-service

PRIMARY AND POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL SUPPORTS

Access to Special Needs Assistant (SNA)

SNA stands for Special Needs Assistants. They play an important role in assisting the teacher to support students with special educational needs who have significant care needs. Your child's school allocates access to SNA. Discuss with your child's Principal.

Access to Special Education Teaching

This is allocated by your child's school based on his / her learning needs. Discuss with your child's school.

National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)

Access to this service is allocated by your child's school. Discuss with your child's school.

Assistive Technology

Your school can apply for assistive technology equipment for your child to use at school (e.g., laptops, iPads, audiology equipment). Applications for assistive technology must be based on a professional recommendation for same. Discuss with your child's school.

Summer Provision

This is funding for parents/guardians to engage a teacher/ SNA to provide tuition or care support as appropriate in the child's home during the summer. All students in special schools and special classes in primary and post-primary schools are eligible. Some students in mainstream schools with special educational needs are also eligible.

Apply through your child's school by completing a Grant Claim Form

School Transport

If your child has a disability and attends a special class or special school the SENO can apply for special transport arrangements for your child, including bus escorts and safety harnesses. Discuss with your child's school.

Reasonable Accommodation at Certificate Examinations (RACE) scheme

Under this scheme post-primary students with disabilities may receive special arrangements while sitting state examinations (e.g., assistive technology, access to a scriber, exemption from aural part of the exam, etc.). Discuss with your child's School Principal and/or **SEN Coordinator in School.**

Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)

Is a third level alternative admissions scheme for school leavers whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education. DARE offers reduced points places to school leavers who, as a result of disability, have experienced additional educational challenges in second level education.

DARE is for school leavers with a disability under the age of 23. School leavers with physical and sensory disabilities (hearing and/or vision impairment) are prioritised under the DARE scheme.

An applicant who is who is eligible for DARE will be given priority when allocating reduced points places.

Applications are made through CAO
www.accesscollege.ie

Ask about DARE in MTU Kerry Campus, email:
✉ accessKerry@mtu.ie

The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)

Is a third level alternative admissions scheme which offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers who are resident in the Republic of Ireland and are under-represented at Higher Education due to their socio-economic circumstances.

HEAR is for school leavers under the age of 23. An applicant who is who is eligible for HEAR will be given priority when allocating reduced points places.

Applications are made through CAO
www.accesscollege.ie

To ask about HEAR in MTU Kerry Campus, email:
✉ accessKerry@mtu.ie

An applicant who is eligible for both DARE and HEAR will be given priority when allocating reduced points places. DARE and HEAR applications are made through CAO.

Transition to Adult Services
Adult day services are HSE funded programmes to provide day services supports to people aged 18 and over, with intellectual disabilities, autism, or people with complex physical disabilities.

The programmes assist people to make choices and plans and to be an active, independent member of the community. In order to access a HSE day service funded placement, a referral should be made to your local Day Service Opportunity Officer.

You can contact:
Cork, Kerry
HSE Disability Day Services,
Floor 1, Blackpool,
Cork, T23YY57

021 492 7100
CKCHDayservices@hse.ie

For further information including access to a referral form
www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/newdirections/

SPECIAL SCHOOLS / CLASSES AND SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

Contact your local **Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO)** to enquire about a place in a special school and/or special class (this includes Autism class located in a mainstream school).

Your local SENO
www.ncse.ie/seno-support-service

Special classes and contact details
www.ncse.ie/special-classes

If you have difficulty finding a school place for your child, contact:

Educational Welfare Officer (EWO)
www.tusla.ie/services/educational-welfare-services

AFTER SCHOOL AND SOCIAL SUPPORTS

Many community organisations run after-school programmes and social groups that may be specific and/or beneficial for children with additional needs.

Local Family Resource Centre
www.kerrychildrensservices.com/service/family-resource-centres

Childcare Providers Directory
www.kerrycountychildcare.com/childcare-providers-kerry/childcare-providers-directory

Kerry Libraries

Have a collection of resources for children (and adults) with learning difficulties and disabilities. These can be borrowed free of charge as part of the Toys, Technology and Training initiative (TTT).

Your local library on
www.kerrylibrary.ie

See also:
www.asiam.ie
www.middletownautism.com
www.sensationalkids.ie
www.thinkingtoys.ie
www.autismassistancedogsireland.ie

Kerry Diocesan Youth Service

KDYS is community-based youth work organisation committed to serving all young people in a safe, fun, and positive environment, through the provision of youth spaces, services, mentoring, training and ongoing opportunities for their holistic development.

Youth centres and clubs in Kerry
www.kdys.ie/kdys-youth-centres

FINANCIAL SUPPORTS

Websites:
www.citizensinformation.ie
www.welfare.ie
www.revenue.ie
www.mabs.ie

Visit:
- Local INTREO centre
- Local Citizens Information Centre

Contact:
Community Welfare Officer (INTREO)

Responsible for the day-to-day running of the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme including Additional Needs Payments.

For information
www.citizensinformation.ie

Carers Support Manager

provide support to family carers through and beyond their care journey by phone, online or in-person appointments to provide individualised information, supports and guidance.

Local Carer Supports Manager and your local centre
www.familycarers.ie

DCA Warriors Facebook Group
fb @ DCA Warriorsw

Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA)

A monthly payment for parents of children who require substantial care, over and above the care that would usually be required by children of the same age.

You can apply for it without your child having a diagnosis (e.g., while waiting for a diagnosis). DCA is not means-tested (this means that e.g., you can receive both Carer's Allowance and DCA payments).

Info on the application process visit DCA Information on Gov.ie
www.gov.ie/en/service/30fac9-domiciliary-care-allowance

If your child is in receipt of DCA then s/he is automatically entitled to a non-means tested medical card.

Apply here:
https://www2.hse.ie/services/schemes-allowances/medical-cards/other-types-of-medical-card/domiciliary-care-allowance/

Carer's Allowance

A weekly payment to people on low incomes who care for a person who needs support because of age, disability, or illness. Carer's Allowance is means-tested.

To apply:
Application form for Carer's Allowance (CR1) (pdf).

Get this form from:
- Local Intreo Centre or
- Social Welfare Branch Office or
- Citizens Information Centre

Carer's Benefit

A weekly payment to people who leave work to care for a person who needs full time care. You must have paid sufficient PRSI contributions from your employment to receive this benefit. You can get Carer's Benefit for a total of 104 weeks for each person being cared for. Carer's Benefit is not means-tested.

To apply:
Application form for Carer's Benefit (CARB1) (pdf)

Get this form from:
- Local Intreo Centre or
- Social Welfare Branch Office.

Carer's Support Grant

Paid once a year in June. Awarded automatically if you receive DCA, Carer's Allowance or Carer's Benefit.

CARERS GP VISIT CARD

If you get carers benefit or Carers Allowance, at full or half rate, you can visit your GP for free.

To order an application in the post.
0818 22 44 78

INCOME TAX CREDITS AND RELIEFS

Incapacitated Child Tax Credit

www.revenue.ie

Dependent Relative Tax Credit

Tax credit for people caring for relatives.

www.revenue.ie

Home Carer Tax Credit

Tax credit for married couples or civil partners where one spouse or civil partner works in the home caring for a dependent person.

www.revenue.ie

You can claim **VAT refunds** on aids and appliances including ICT equipment purchased to manage disability (e.g., an iPad).

You can claim a range of tax reliefs in connection with a purchase or use of motor vehicles under the Disabled Drivers and Passengers with Disabilities Tax Relief Scheme.

Tax Relief Scheme
www.ddai.ie

Families may be entitled to a reduction on the amount of income tax they have to pay on their earnings.

OTHER

If you are in receipt of Carer's Allowance and/or other disability related payments you are also entitled to other financial supports including **Household Benefits Package, Free Travel Pass** and/or **Medical Card** that gives you access to medical services, prescription medicines and hospital care for free.

Housing Adaptation Grant

Financial assistance to make changes or adaptations to your home (e.g., making it wheelchair-accessible, adding a ground-floor bathroom).

Housing Adaptation Grant
www.gov.ie/en/service/3f186-housing-adaptation-grant-for-people-with-a-disability/#apply

Fully Funded Energy Upgrades (formally known as Warmer Homes Scheme)

If you are in receipt of one of the following welfare payments: DCA, Carers Allowance (and live with the person you are caring for), or Disability Allowance (for over six months and have a child under seven years of age), and **own and live** in your own home which was **built prior to 2006** - you will meet the three criteria.

Apply for the Fully Funded Energy Upgrade Scheme
www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/fully-funded-upgrades-for-eligible-homes/

Many places offer free, or reduced fee, entries for carers with a Family Carer Membership card (e.g., cinemas, Tayto Park).

Free or reduced fee entry
www.familycarers.ie

Advice on financial planning for the future of a child with disabilities (including establishing a trust)
www.financialwellbeing.ie

CYPSC

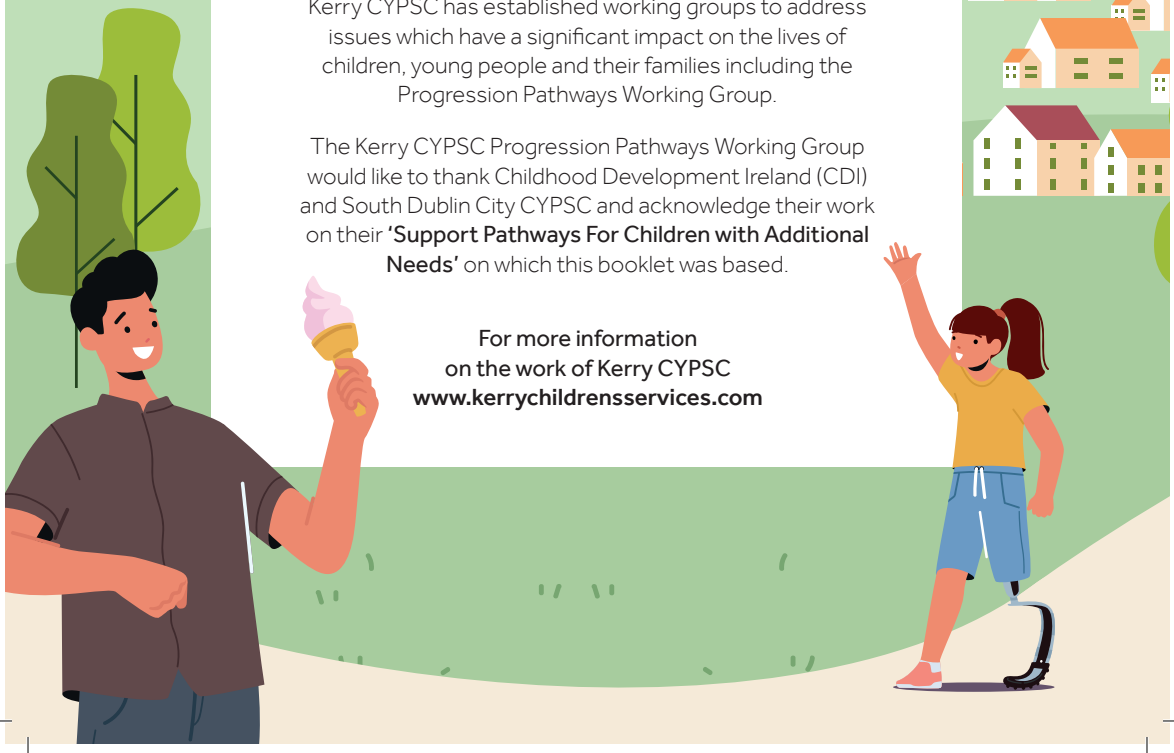
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEES

Kerry

Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) are a key structure identified by Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people in every county in Ireland. The overall purpose is to improve outcomes for children and young people through local and national interagency working.

Kerry Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) was established in September 2010 and brings together all statutory and community & voluntary organisations which provide services and supports to children, young people and families in the county.

Kerry CYPSC has established working groups to address issues which have a significant impact on the lives of children, young people and their families including the Progression Pathways Working Group.

The Kerry CYPSC Progression Pathways Working Group would like to thank Childhood Development Ireland (CDI) and South Dublin City CYPSC and acknowledge their work on their **'Support Pathways For Children with Additional Needs'** on which this booklet was based.

For more information
on the work of Kerry CYPSC
www.kerrychildrensservices.com