St. Gabriel's Foundation
Children's Disability Network Team

St. Gabriel's Treehouse
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Reporting from Family Forums to Family Representative Group

In Person meeting 14th Sept 2026

Attendees:

- Family Network Representatives- Karen Power & Kate Lynch
- Independent Facilitator- Libby Kinneen
- Family members
- Children's Disability Network Manager(CDNM)- Nicola Haran Breen
- Team Administrator – Marion Barnes
- Team admin.-Melissa McCarthy

1. Welcome & Introductions – Nicola
2. Who is in the room – first attendance ?
3. Update on CDNT/feedback CDNM – Nicola
4. Feedback from Family Regional Group – Kate & Karen
5. Toileting handout and brief discussion facilitated by NHB
6. Parent feedback & discussion/break out rooms separated by age category
7. What you want from next family network meeting
8. Planning next Family Forum & review
9. Next meeting 09/12/2026 - online
10. Conclusion of meeting- 120 mins

1. Welcome & Introductions – Nicola
   Families welcomed to meeting, structure & aim of working collaboratively families & team, sharing feedback & information-If parents wish to discuss their child, families advised on how to contact CDNM or relevant clinician outside of this forum- Nicola

2. Discussion on who is in attendance-Libby

3. Update on CDNT/feedback-Nicola

   - Newsletter Autumn edition shared with families.

- St Gabriel's Summer Programme
- Regional business case- requesting additional resources over next 3 years for under resourced CDNT's in Midwest. Parent query on how funding is allocated across regions.
- Waitlist Initiative- offered to families on waitlists & plan to do again-currently planning same to roll out Sept. onwards
  Inviting families to webinars on sensory processing, emotional regulation and sleep for both younger and older children/young people, toilet training, avoidant eating .
- 10% of families on the WL availed of the webinars / talks – any spaces not filled were opened up to those active on the caseload.
- The team is currently facilitating and planning to run the following groups in Autumn'26: All About Autism, Understanding Autism, Gestalt Language Processing, Hanen More Than Words, Splash.
- Entrance to services talk 11th Spet2026. These will be offered quarterly to families referred to the Treehouse CDNT.
- Current metrics on number on caseload-1127
- 2 intakes per month per clinician
- Current waiting times with current recurrent resources: Initial Team assessment, currently seeing children from Nov.2023 and for Autism Assessments currently seeing children from April/May 2023
- Current staffing update
  New staff commenced, senior occupational therapists x 2, senior psychologist. No backfills for maternity leave.
- IFSP's explained to families
- Youth club planning phase – Southcity & treehouse team – identified location – Henry Street

4. Feedback from Family Regional Group – Kate & Karen

- Kate & Karen Family Representatives gave feedback from recent regional family representative meeting.

  <u>Topics covered in the meeting:</u>

  - Structure of Family Network Meeting.
  - Mid West Family Representation Group.
  - Regional Coffee Morning – in planning phase.
  - Group asked if there was any topics /message that group wanted to be brought to Family Regional group.

5. Occupational Therapy(OT) handout on Toileting. Would like group/training for older children specifically sensory around toileting & taps & flushing

6. Parents feedback & discussion/break out room

Parents of children ages 12+:

- Could we move towards reintroducing Key/Link workers.
- What happens for over 16's who are accepted on to the waiting lists. If there any supports available to the, e.g. AON? Nicola explained these parents are call to advised timelines & possibility of discharge before being opened on caseload.
- Supports for whole school approach for Secondary schools.
- School request for Support "SRFS" Explained. All schools have a copy emailed to them & any completed forms must be co signed by parents

Parents of children ages 6-12:

- Could we have a document for parents to record topics that parents would like discussed on the day or possibility of emailing to Treehouse team in advance. This can be used on the day or for future agenda's.
- Leave more time for discussion. Intro to be limited to 10 mins.
- Improve Intro To Services Booklet to include flowchart. Mairead & Juile volunteered for this to meet with Family reps.
- Sensory Interoception.
- Criteria for Youth Club.

Parents of children ages 0-6:

- Group Q&A sessions with clinicians for general topics.
- NECS Talk (This would be a separate talk outside the Family Network meeting
- Separate SENO talk
- Parents encouraged to find out who their SENO is
- Coffee morning – Could Treehouse facilitate an informal coffee morning for parents for peer support.

Families advised to access mwcds site regularly as information shared on site re: groups, camps, clubs etc.

What worked well:

- Identify topics for discussion.
- Liked having input on ideas.
- Felt lines of communication is open.
- Learning from other parents.
- Facilitators are very open to discussion

- Breakout groups by age

What could we do differently:

- More time for discussion/ focus groups
- Name badges
- Allow 2 hrs for meeting
- Room set up – Classroom set up not favourable – Circles are better

8.Planning next Family Forum & review – possible topics Sensory Issues & Disregulations

9.Dates for Next Meetings to be confirmed:

- 09.12.2026 @7pm on-line

10.Conclusion of meeting- thanked families and team members for attending,