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Introduction

Background:

- Additional Senior Paediatric Occupational Therapy (OT) ECC Post successfully recruited and commenced in January 2022.
- Significant waiting list and waiting times for Paediatric OT service across CHN 8 South Wicklow and CHN 7 North Wicklow – 3 years plus in January 2022

Aim:

- Review of service referral profile and service delivery model within the Wicklow Paediatric OT service to implement a stepped model of assessment and intervention to support timely access to early intervention within the Wicklow Primary Care Paediatric OT service

Sláintecare.

Project

Objectives

- Shift of service delivery model from assessment/reports to intervention based on identified needs.
- Stepped model of care implemented including screening, parent training, group intervention and intensive 1:1 input
- Develop a clear, needs based pathway for Paediatric OT clients in Wicklow
- Improve access to timely, appropriate intervention for clients
- Support opportunities to develop multidisciplinary team working for client cohort.

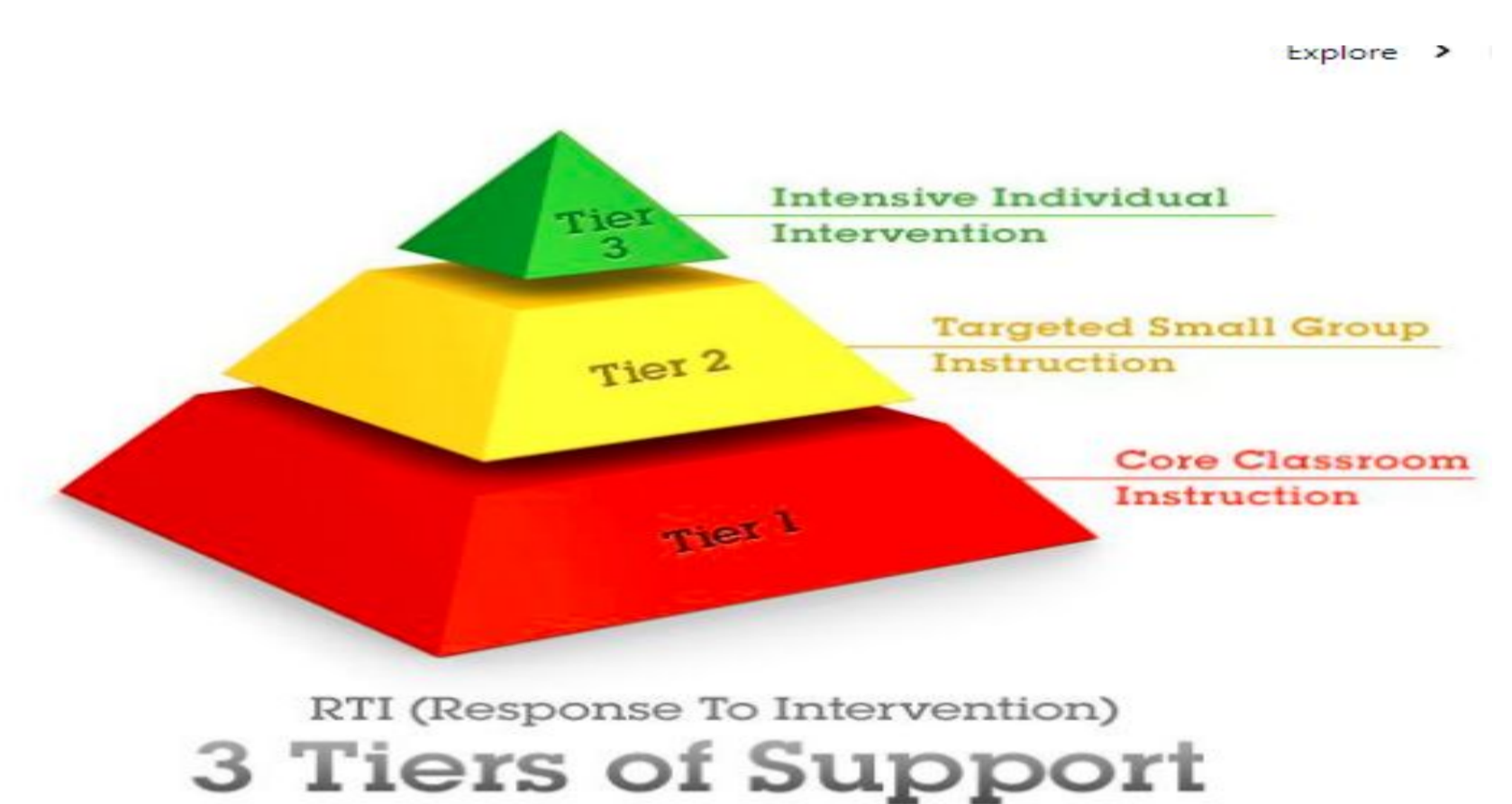


Project Development

- Attendance at AOTI Conference in September 2021 – introduction to stepped model of care implemented in CHO7 (Dublin South Central and Kildare)
- Additional Senior Paediatric OT post recruited via Enhanced Community Care Funding in January 2022
- Links with colleagues in Dublin South Central and Kildare to review existing stepped model of care projects for Paediatric OT clients.
- Review of Wicklow service and development of clinical pathways following best practice guidelines

Progress to Date

- Implemented in Q1 2022 – review of existing waiting list and questionnaire sent to all clients.
- Followed up with screening assessments for all clients who returned questionnaire.
- Clients included in most appropriate pathway – Tier 1: parent training, Tier 2: group intervention, Tier 3: 1:1 intervention, School visit, MDT assessment
- Waiting list reduced to approx. 13 months as of end June 2023 across Wicklow
- Additional capacity for assessment and intervention tailored to meet needs of Paediatric OT clients



Opportunities

Past:

- Build on work of colleagues in CHO7 following shared learning at AOTI Conference
- Additional ECC post enabled review of service
- Experience of the existing and additional team members recruited

Present:

- Shared Learning across Paediatric team in Wicklow and OT team in CH East
- Increased capacity within the team with the support of additional funding

Future:

- Further reduction in waiting list to support timely access
- Develop and refine group options offered within PC OT
- Continue to develop MDT working opportunities

Challenges

Past:

- Extensive waiting list for service pre Covid
- Increased waiting time to access service due to impact of Covid and staff redeployment
- Initially only 1 WTE post across Wicklow

Present:

- Progressing Disability Services implementation has resulted in significant increase in referrals
- Additional Public Health Nurse developmental clinics resulting in additional identification and referral of clients

Future:

- Clinical, administrative challenges
- Audit of savings re time/efficiency

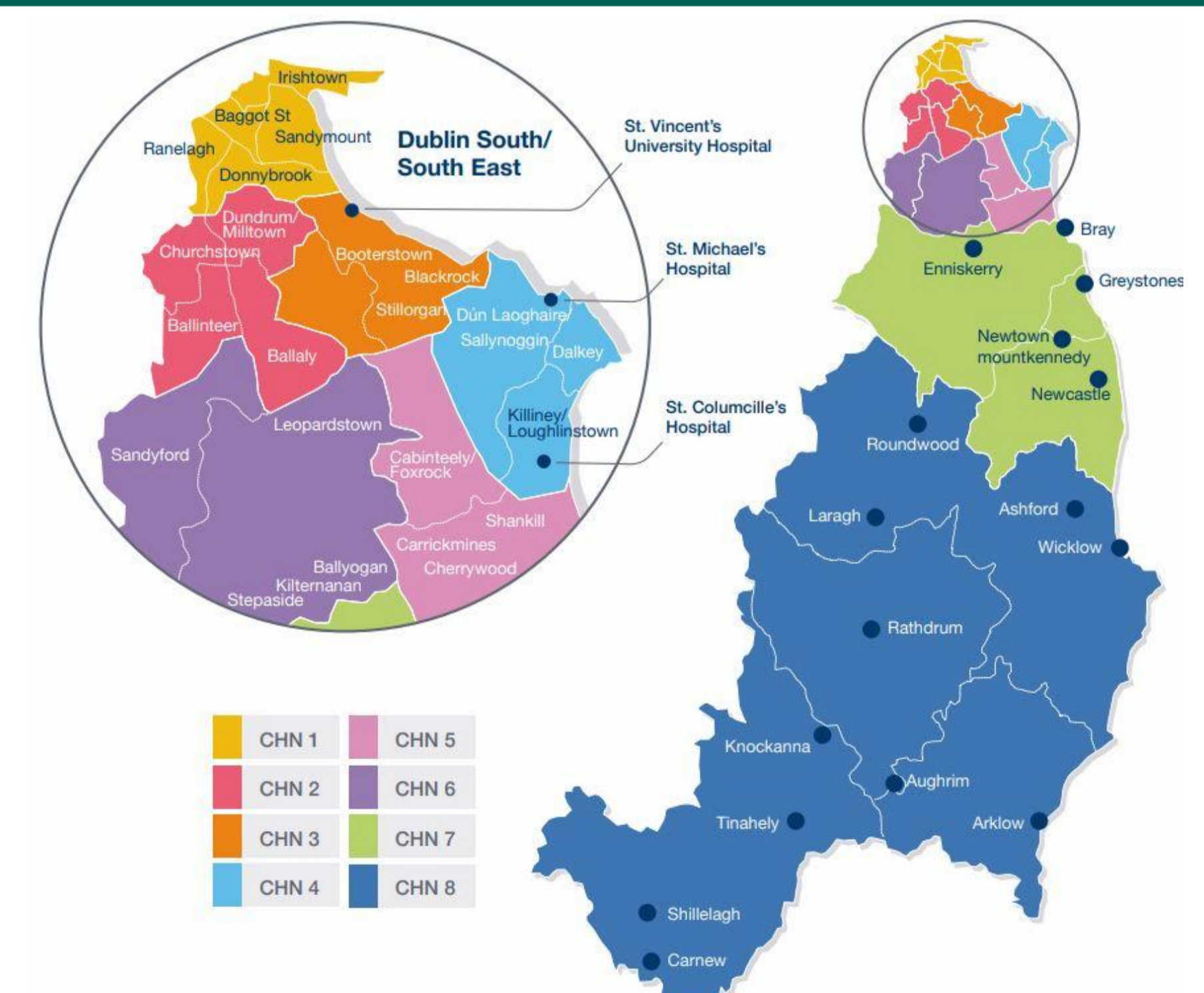
Next Steps in Community Healthcare East

Scale and Spread:

- Project underway across CH East to review and standardise clinical referral pathways for Paediatric clients
- Shared Paediatric OT stepped model of care with OT colleagues across CH East and with Paediatric MDT via established team meetings.

Impact:

- Improved access to timely, local service with reduction in waiting time from +3 years to approx. 13 months
- Increased opportunity for MDT working with comparable waiting times
- Improved staff morale and further opportunity to build workforce capacity with evidence based service delivery.



www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/community-healthcare-networks

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