

North East Inner City Initiative Programme Implementation Board

<b>Location: U10 Facility, Ballybough Community Centre, Ballybough, Dublin1.</b>
<b>Time and date:</b> 8am, 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
<b>Attendance:</b> Chair – Michael Stone, Chief Superintendent Paddy McMenamin (An Garda Síochána), Superintendent Paul Costello (An Garda Síochána), Paddy Murdiff (NICCC), Mary Keenan (DoT), Joy McGlynn (Tusla), Jim Walsh (DoH), Feargal O’Rourke (PwC), Mary Cregg (DES), Karl Mitchell (DCC), Conor Rowley (DCYA), Donal Cassidy (HSE), Noel Hand (DEASP), Ursula Donnellan (DCC/Programme Office), Fergus McCabe (NICCC), Clare Butler (DoT/Programme Office), Michael O’Riordan (Programme Office).
Paschal Donohoe T.D, Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure & Reform joined the meeting after other business had been completed for an update from the Board on progress.
<b>Apologies:</b> Brendan Kenny (DCC), Noel Wardick (NICCC).

The Chair welcomed Fergus McCabe to the meeting.

**Minutes of previous meeting:**

**Proposed:** Mary Keenan (DoT)

**Seconded:** Paddy Murdiff (NICCC)

**1. Community Update:**

- It was noted that the Christmas tree lighting celebrations on Buckingham Street on 12<sup>th</sup> December was well attended. 2020 will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Home memorial.
- Community Groups are to meet with TUSLA around the Meitheal process in January.
- Ethnic Policing Forum – the community rep reported that he had attended a meeting of this group. It is mainly comprised of leaders of various religious groups and felt that it might be a group to engage with in terms of establishing contact with ethnic residents living in the area.

**2. Sub group reports**

**Group 1 – Crime and Drugs**

- A weekend dialogue involving 12 local young people, 5 youth workers and Gardaí, facilitated by Community Action Network (CAN) took place in the Cavan Centre on the 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> November. The focus of the dialogue was to discuss a range of issues regarding Gardaí and young people in the North East Inner City. This weekend was based on respect and listening to what the other person had to say. The weekend was deemed very positive by all who attended and they are exploring ways to build on the existing process and expand same to other young people and youth worker groups
- 20 Gardaí have completed training in using a case management approach. A system is being put in place to enable this approach to be used. The coalition reps welcomed this approach but would like

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to see it integrated with the Executive Leadership group's plan for the Liberty Park area that is currently in development.

- The group had a very informative presentation from the team working on the Drugs Intimidation initiative on the work that has been undertaken to date.
- The operation in Liberty Park will continue into 2020 as will the high visibility initiative. The Chief Superintendent reported that there is good buy in and support from the community on both these operations and that residents are working closely with them.
- Fitzgibbon Street Garda Station – progress has been made in relation to the redevelopment. The Chair reported that the contractor will commence on site on 6<sup>th</sup> January.
- Nominations are still being accepted for the Garda Youth Awards.
- The Chair reported that he has received positive feedback from the community in relation to the current garda operations, these comments were seconded by the community reps.
- Community Safety Partnership – community reps attended a meeting with Department of Justice and Equality (DoJE) and Department of the Taoiseach (DoT) officials in relation to this. DoJE are currently developing a paper in relation to supporting a Community Safety Partnership. The proposal will be developed in line with *A Policing Service for the Future* – the Government approved Plan to implement the *Report of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland*. It was agreed that consultation with all relevant stakeholders is an important part of the process and ensuring support and buy-in from all.

The coalition reps welcomed the ongoing discussions and while they remain positive about the process, final endorsement cannot be given until the actual document is produced. They also expressed the view that the establishment of an appropriate community safety structure is urgent and essential.

- Board members were encouraged to read the recently published report "*Building Community Resilience*" - a link to the report was circulated to PIB members.

### **Group 2 – Education, Training and Employment**

- Shortlisting for the Intercultural Development Coordinator position has been completed and interviews are scheduled for mid-January 2020.
- It was reported at the subgroup meeting that there are a number of students in secondary schools in the area with very low level of English language skills. The Programme Office to follow up with schools to ascertain the exact position.  
The coalition reps noted the importance of ensuring the ongoing provision of adequate support for English language development in local schools is maintained.
- Social Impact Plan – low response in relation to identifying the key priorities for implementation for the plan. The subgroup chair will convene a small group to identify recommendations for implementation.
- The NEIC Work Experience Programme has been very successful to date.
  - Christmas cards have been issued to all participating host companies
  - Thank you cards will issue to hosts from students in January
  - A careers event has been organised in Larkin Community college for 9<sup>th</sup> January.
  - Learning points (e.g. provision of lunch by hosts etc.) from 1<sup>st</sup> round of placements have been discussed with hosts for 2<sup>nd</sup> round of placements.
  - A further summer work placement has been secured.

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- February/March placements – some places still need to be sourced.
- P-TECH
  - Feedback to date from all involved – schools, students and companies – is very positive.
  - The steering group has been established and the first meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> December.
  - It was agreed that evaluation of the project is an important aspect and a process needs to be initiated as soon as possible.
- Pilot Social Employment programme
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Departmental stakeholders re future of programme was held on 10<sup>th</sup> December.
  - It was noted that the Pilot SEF programme was *not* an activation measure but rather a programme to underpin services in the NEIC.
  - There was agreement in principle that there will be no hard stop to the programme.
  - The participants see their positions as jobs and that it is giving real meaning to their lives.
  - There are distinctions between workers in different sectors, so it was agreed that the different sectors will be looked at independently.
  - There is no permission or leeway to increase beyond the current 55 posts. Vacancies can be filled if they arise.
  - It was noted that recruitment of participants for CE schemes is proving very difficult at the present time. The future of some schemes is very tenuous.
  - The Chair requested that DEASP consider using a degree of flexibility when considering requests for participant extensions and ratios of supervisors to participants.

### **Group 3 – Family Wellbeing**

- The subgroup will receive a presentation on Youth Mental Health at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December.
- The subgroup will also consider submitting a proposal in relation to Community Case Management.
- Childcare provision review – Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) are looking at this.

### **Group 4 – Physical Infrastructure**

- The U10's facility in Ballybough will be run by Crosscare and they will provide an afterschool group there. Discussions are also in train with local volunteers who want to run a club for u10's in evenings.
- Work has been completed in the Ballybough Community Centre to facilitate ease of access for the over 10's youth groups and to avoid issues that previously presented.
- A meeting with the City Architects has identified a number of projects that are currently in train – the subgroup will give consideration and prioritise a number for inclusion in a funding submission.
- Housing update:
  - Ballybough Road – the units have been allocated and tenants are currently moving in.
  - Mary Mansions – Due for completion Q1 2020
  - Oaklee Development, Poplar Row – due for completion Q2 2020.
- Progress is ongoing in relation to the greening strategy with some projects having been recently completed – Belvedere Place plaza, James Joyce Street and green wall at Sheriff St.
- Premises have been secured for the Five Lamps Arts festival group and the Drugs Related Intimidation Initiative team on Amiens St. The Intercultural Development Co-ordinator will also be housed at the Amiens St location.
- Engagement is ongoing in relation to other projects, including:

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- Charleville Mall – streetscape, paving, lighting and biodiversity.
- Facade improvements at Sherriff YC – funding secured through sports capital grant.
- O’Connell’s school hall – feasibility study currently being undertaken.
- Sports Hub – looking at potential locations
- Mountjoy Square Festival – further information was provided in relation to this proposal
  - It is not a commercial event
  - It is an attempt to encourage people to come to the North East Inner City and experience that it is a safe and vibrant area.
  - Citizens associate the name Mountjoy with the prison.
  - Proposing a 3 day event – 3<sup>rd</sup> day will have a full focus on community groups
  - Discussions have taken place with Mountjoy Historical Society and they are fully supportive of the proposal.
  - Discussions have also taken place with the Gardaí and that have no objections.
  - The amount sought from the PIB is €130,000. This will be matched by a similar amount from Dublin City Council.
  - Any shortfall will be covered by Dublin City Council.
  - The event will be organised under full event licence regulations.

**Funding of €130,000 was approved in respect of this proposal from the allocated Budget for 2020.**

- Rutland Street School redevelopment will go to tender Q1 2020
- The community rep noted that the planting on James Joyce had added significantly to the streetscape. They also noted the need to continue to seek the development of vacant sites and asked for an update on Aldborough House and the convent lands. The Chair undertook to keep the Board updated on developments.

### **Group 5 – Substance use and misuse**

- A proposal has been received from Ana Liffey in respect of the Active Case Management Team – this will be considered at the subgroups meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> December.
- Youth Mental Health – it is imperative to ensure that the fastrack counselling proposal is in line with the national strategy “*Vision for Change*”. The HSE are prepared to participate on subgroup 3.
- The community rep welcomed the support indicated by the DoH rep for Youth mental health.
- There was a discussion on the role, work and input of the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce, (NICDATF). A report on the work of the NICDATF) will be brought to the next PIB meeting. It was agreed that the NICDATF Chairperson and Co-ordinator will attend also.
- ICON Community Participation Worker
  - Community rep understood that the funding has been agreed for a further 3 months for the community participation worker with ICON. If the position is required it should be funded.
  - The Chair advised that his understanding is that reports were requested from the group in relation to the health outcomes in terms of the work being undertaken by the worker in question but that they were not provided

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- The HSE rep advised that funding has been extended for 3 months to provide the NICDATF with time to develop a Strategic Plan. Currently there is no plan in place. It is the responsibility of the NICDATF and the HSE to ensure that there is a plan in place. It was agreed with the NICDATF and all funded projects in January 2019, that funding was being provided on the basis that there were clear measurable and deliverable outcomes in place.

### **Group 6 – Alignment and Integration of Social Services**

- Boston City Connects
  - Part of the subgroup meeting was a skype conversation with the Boston College team in relation to City Connects. During the conversation they demonstrated to the group how the *My Connects* IT system operates and the reports that can be generated for the coordinator. The feeling in the group was that the school principal's will need access to the reports also.
  - Work is ongoing in relation to developing a paper in respect of City Connects in the NEIC. It is expected this paper will be available in January 2020 for consideration.
  - All primary school principals have had phone conversations with Boston College.
  - Mary Cregg, DES, is leading an "in-schools" group re City Connects
  - Conor Rowley, DCYA, is leading an "out of school" group re City Connects.
  - There are questions in relation to the integration of services, in particular how community based services align with schools. The quality of services will need to be evaluated.
- The Executive Leadership group in association with the appointed researcher are working on developing an action plan for the Liberty Park area.
- City of Dublin Youth Services Board (CDYSB) – have undertaken a review of financial supports provided to Youth groups in the area. They have been requested to revise the report and represent to the subgroup.
- Dublin City Childcare Committee – will undertake a review of childcare services in the area to get a picture of the strengths and deficits that exist with a view to developing a plan. Possible provision of CPD programmes for those involved in the sector.
- The coalition reps support and agree with the need to align community social services with schools.

### 3. **Services for Jobseekers**

- A discussion in relation to the decision not to continue with funding for the job club service took place.
- The group were reminded that a Transfer of Undertaking Protection of Employment (TUPE) situation may exist. Discussion to be had to ascertain if workers have secured alternative employment.
- They were providing a service that they were not contracted to provide.
- DEASP might be open to receiving a proposal for a different type of service.
- The Chair requested DEASP to consider funding for 3 months to allow for a new proposal to be submitted.
- NEIC Programme Office to liaise with possible providers in relation to development of a new proposal.

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### 4. HSE Update

- The Stabilisation Unit is fully occupied.
- Work ongoing in relation to the rollout of Common Assessment tool to support case managers – to date 20 sites (both HSE and NGO) have engaged with the project. 60 staff have been trained – this is expected to be nearer 100 by end of 2019.
- 300 service users have engaged in the assessment process.
- An IT solution for case managers is being worked on by HSE.
- Evaluation – currently working with UCD in relation to evaluating the new services.
- A budget for the continuation of the services will be presented in January 2020
- HSE staff working closely with NICDATF in relation to the development of a Strategic Plan for the taskforce.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> January a conference entitled *Connecting for Life* will be held.

### 5. Budget for 2020

- The Chair advised that there was positive news on funding for 2020 - €6.5 million has been approved, the same amount as 2019.
- Chairpersons of sub-groups were requested to take a strategic approach to 2020 funding applications.
- The chair requested that subgroups present 1 or 2 well thought through proposals in the **early part of the year** to ensure that they can be fully delivered.
- The Chair reiterated that the process for approval of funding is:

**Proposal submitted to relevant sub Group for consideration**



**Recommendation for discussion at Budget group**



**Proposal presented for Approval at PIB.**

**The process outlined above is to be adhered to ensure governance and transparency.**

### 6. Discussion with Minister Donohoe

The Minister thanked the Chair for the invitation to attend the meeting. He also thanked all the members of the Board for their input and work on the Board.

Good progress is being made by the Board

He had a very positive visit to the stabilisation unit in Barrymore House. He also acknowledged that the feedback he received to date in relation to the work experience programme initiated by the Board has been very positive.

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He advised that there were 2 points that he would like to mention:

1. Structures matter – there is a need for the right structure to be in place and he feels the Board are achieving that. The Government will support the structures. The Minister acknowledged the independence of the Board.
2. The most important work is the invisible work and that is what is underway in the NEIC at present – it is working and it is very positive.

The Minister thanked the Chair for his time, energy and input to the Board and the process. The Minister also thanked the Gardaí for their work and noted that while there remains a requirement for a security response, other work that the Gardaí are involved in is equally important too.

The Chairperson thanked the Minister for his support. He thanked the Board for their ongoing support and efforts. He also thanked the community reps for their input on the Board and their support for the process.

He thanked the Minister for the independence provided to the Programme Implementation Board and noted the importance for people to see the states support for the process and that they haven't been forgotten. Finally he stated that the *Work Continues* and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

### 7. **AOB**

- NEIC 2019 Progress Report and NEIC Strategic Plan 2020-2022 to be launched after the PIB meeting. Both reports will be available at <http://neic.ie/downloads>
- The schedule of dates for the 2020 NEIC PIB meetings were circulated.
- The community reps committed to examining EU funding in the context of the NEIC strategic plan.

**Next meeting: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 @ 8.00am**

**Venue: Crinan Youth Project, 72 Sean McDermott St., D1.  
(Green Door directly across the road from Sean McDermott St. Swimming Pool).**

### Summary of agreed actions for next meeting:

<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>
Follow up with Schools re support for English Language	Programme Office
Chair and Coordinator on NICDATF to attend next PIB meeting	DoH
Follow up on proposal for Jobseeker support	Programme Office