

North East Inner City Initiative Programme Implementation Board

Location: Crinan Youth Project, 72 Sean McDermott Street, Dublin 1.
Time and date: 8am, 29 th January 2020
Attendance: Chair – Michael Stone, Chief Superintendent Paddy McMenamin (An Garda Síochána), Superintendent Paul Costello (An Garda Síochána), Brendan Kenny (DCC), Paddy Murdiff (NICCC), Mary Keenan (DoT), Joy McGlynn (Tusla), Jim Walsh (DoH), Mary Cregg (DES), Karl Mitchell (DCC), Conor Rowley (DCYA), Donal Cassidy (HSE), Noel Hand (DEASP), Ursula Donnellan (DCC/Programme Office), Noel Wardick (NICCC), Clare Butler (DoT/Programme Office), Michael O’Riordan (Programme Office).
Professor Joe Barry, Mel MacGiobúin and Gary Broderick from the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce (NICDATF) joined the meeting after other business had been completed and made a presentation on the work of the NICDATF.
Apologies: Feargal O’Rourke (PwC)

Matters Arising:

The Community Rep. requested it be noted that the report referred to in Group 5 – Substance Use, Misuse and Inclusion Health in relation to the *ICON Community Participation Worker* has been submitted to the HSE.

Minutes of previous meeting:

Proposed: Paddy Murdiff (NICCC)

Seconded: Mary Keenan (DoT)

1. Budget group

- Sub Group Chairs were asked to roughly cost their action plan and come to the February Budget Group with those costings so that a detailed discussion can be had on same and the allocation of the NEIC Initiative’s budget for 2020. The Group noted that of the NEIC Initiative’s €6.5m budget; €1m is ring-fenced for the Social Employment Fund (SEF). Sub Group Chairs were also reminded to be conscious of the break down between capital and current expenditure when costing their action plans.
- A further Departmental stakeholder meeting in relation to the Social Employment Fund is scheduled for March 2020.
- The proposals in the table below were approved for funding:

Sub Group	Project	Amount	Strategic Priority/Mulvey Action
2	Doodle Den (Early Learning Initiative)	€51,000	Action 4.1 (NEIC Strategic Plan)
3	U18’s Mental Wellbeing Therapeutic Counselling Support (YPAR)	€44,000	Action 8 (NEIC Strategic Plan)
	Total (January)	€95,000	

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- **Total Funds approved by the NEIC PIB to date for 2020 - €501,064**
- A funding proposal submitted by Subgroup 5 – Substance Use, Misuse and Inclusion Health, on behalf of Ana Liffey Drug Project (ALDP) to continue to provide an Active Case Management Team in the NEIC for 2020 having been discussed at length was not approved. Further information and clarification in relation to the proposal is to be sought from Ana Liffey and represented at the February PIB meeting.
- It was agreed at the Budget Group that a summary cover sheet would be drafted that denotes the separate phases in the approval process that subgroup secretaries would complete and attached to each funding proposal.
- The NEIC funding guidelines are being updated and will be circulated in draft to the Budget Group seeking observations.

2. Sub group reports

Group 5 – Substance use, misuse and inclusion health.

- The meeting focussed on discussing the proposal that were received in relation to funding. The proposals were aligned to the priorities set out in the Strategic Plan 2020 -2022.
- Continuation of services at Inclusion health hub (Action 15.2) – this was forwarded to the budget group for consideration.
- Addiction Assessment Hub, to monitor and enhance delivery of services for non-opioid problematic drug users (Action 15.4) – this was forwarded to the budget group for consideration.
- Continuation of Assertive case Management Team (Action 15.6) – a version of this was submitted to the budget group for consideration following meetings with the proposer. Following discussions at the Board meeting the Chair of SG5 has been tasked with engaging with the proposer to seek further clarification and to revert back to the Board at the February meeting.
- Funding for a recovery worker (Action 15.7) – the proposer was requested to liaise with the Treatment and Rehabilitation Working Group of the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce (NICDATF) given that funding was previously supplied for the training of recovery coaches. Proposal was not forwarded for consideration.
- Addressing the health needs of socially excluded groups (Action 16.1) – further clarification required. A meeting to be arranged with the governor of Mountjoy prison to discuss further.
- A proposal from the Community Awareness of Drugs (CAD) group will be considered at the next subgroup meeting.
- Consideration is being given to the holding of a seminar on substance use/misuse later in 20220.

Group 1 – Enhanced Policing

- Operation Canter is ongoing and is being well received by the community. Arising from Operation Canter, €140k in drugs has been seized (mainly in tablet form), €50k in cash has also been seized and 500 stop + search have been carried out.

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- The Liberty Park operation is ongoing and will continue for the foreseeable future. The Gardaí have received good support from the community and reported that that residents are working closely with them.
- Liberty Park research - the researcher is in place and has commenced work. A team of local residents has been recruited to undertake some door to door calling and research. Representatives from the Gardaí are due to meet with the researcher. It was suggested that Dublin City Council reps and the Gardaí should meet to discuss possible redesign of the park.
- The group had an explanation and overview of the process involved in restorative conferencing and its benefits.
- A soccer match involving members of An Garda Síochána and Sheriff Street residents took place on 22nd January. The Board were advised that soccer coaching is ongoing in Sheriff St with the hard to reach group for 4 nights a week, 2hours each night. This is proving to be positive in terms of engaging with the groups that gather on Sheriff St.
- An update was provided on bespoke training for probationer Gardaí assigned to the NEIC and it was agreed that it would be useful to explore whether teachers newly assigned to schools in the NEIC might also receive this training (as a joint initiative).
- Budget proposals for 2020 will be discussed at the next subgroup meeting.
- There were 30 nominations received for the Garda Youth Awards. The judging has taken place and the award ceremony will be held at 8pm on Saturday, 15th February in Croke Park.

Group 2 – Maximising Educational, Training and Employment Opportunities

- Interviews for the Intercultural Development Coordinator post will be held on 17th/18th February.
- A proposal submitted by the HSE in relation to the provision of additional SLT, OT and Psychology supports in schools, which was discussed at Subgroup 6 (Alignment of Services) has been shared with the Primary Principals' Network for observations.
- The Department of Education and Skills (DES) rep advised the group that the inspectorate is available to advise all schools in relation to supporting students with English as an Additional Language (EAL) needs. They also advised that resources are provided based on student profile and the outcomes of literacy and numeracy testing.
- The Chair advised that he was informed at a recent meeting that there are significant challenges in some local schools, which are being contributed by the number of children living in homeless accommodation in the area. Concern was expressed at the effect this situation may have on the education of all students in local schools.
- The DES rep did advise that they are currently considering the provision of supports for schools that have students attending from homeless accommodation situations. They also undertook to meet with the Assistant Chief of Inspectors to discuss the situation in the North East Inner City and report at the next meeting.
- The Chair noted that given that as significant percentage of those living in homeless accommodation situations, are living in the North East Inner City there needs to be an appropriate response in terms of education of children.
- The Dublin City Council rep undertook to provide the data in respect of the number of people currently in homeless accommodation in the Gardiner Street area for the next meeting
- Social Impact Plan – 3 priority items have been identified to progress. A tender will be prepared to identify a partner to assist with the implementation of these.

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- NEIC Work Experience Programme – There will be 141 placements during February, all have been secured. 114 placements required for March, approximately 40 still to be sourced.
- P-TECH
 - Ongoing development of the QQI Level 6 modules
 - 24 P-Tech teachers being funded to attend a Certification in Learning and Technology
 - The Steering Group has been established and held its first meeting
- The North Wall CTC will cease operations on 7th February and the building will be returned to Dublin City Council. The Community Training Centre provided training for 16 – 21 year olds. Correspondence has been sent to the Further Education section in DES and they are making contact with the CDET to get further information on the matter.

Group 3 – Family Wellbeing

- A meeting was held with the key stakeholders involved with Community Case Management. It was agreed that a model that deals with intensive family support was required. Some models exist but need to ensure that all groups are included. Currently a proposal in relation to the development of a commissioning plan is being prepared for consideration by the subgroup.
- A forum to bring providers in the mental health provision field in the NEIC together to discuss and clarify the issues is currently under consideration.
- Discussion ongoing in relation to Critical Incidents and how staff and groups are supported, particularly for smaller group that do not have access to funding to cover the additional costs for support that may be required.

Group 4 – Physical Infrastructure

- An initial meeting of an interagency working group involving Dublin City Council, Croke Park, Irish Rail, Waterways Ireland and a community representative was hosted by Croke Park to discuss the potential for collaboration in relation to improvement works along the canal and railway line. A further meeting has been planned.
- Work on phase 2 of the Royal Canal Cycleway is progressing well – it is envisaged it will open to the public for use in Q2 2020. Funding is in place for further phases of the cycleway. Timeline information on these will be provided at the next Board meeting.
- The Charleville Mall area has been identified as an area for public realm improvements. Discussions are ongoing with the city architects department to progress this.
- A number of funding proposals in relation to Sports, Community Events, Greening and the Arts were discussed and forwarded to the budget group for consideration.
- IBAL Report: Disappointment was expressed at the ranking afforded to the Dublin North Inner City area in the recent IBAL report. Despite increased efforts and provision of additional resources by Dublin City Council (DCC) the area was ranked at the bottom of the list and described as “*seriously littered*”.
- The Chair noted the significant efforts and resources that DCC have allocated to tackle the issues and thanked them for that. He also advised that he recently had a meeting with DCC reps following the publication of the IBAL report to discuss further efforts to tackle the situation. It is acknowledged that most of the illegal dumping is locally generated. The Chair noted that in his opinion the solution needs the support and involvement of the community, in this regard he asked the community reps to actively engage with local groups to develop and propose actions to tackle the issue.

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Group 6 – Alignment and Integration of Social Services

- A HSE rep has been nominated to join the group and will attend the next meeting.
- A proposal in relation to the provision of SLT/OT/Psychology was discussed at length. A number of clarifications have been sought from the proposer and they were also requested to liaise with school principals on the proposal.
- Integrated Services Delivery Framework (ISDF) – DCYA have developed a set of criteria for inclusion in the MyConnects system in relation to the City Connects programme. Services that best fit the criteria will be included on the MyConnects system in the initial phase.
- A facilitated meeting to discuss youth service provision and the funding requirements for youth services was organised by YPAR. A follow up meeting to explore integrated provision will be held in February.
- City Connects – Boston College have completed interviews with the primary school principals and are now in the process of contacting Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) teachers and School Completion Programme (SCP) staff to set up interviews. They will then look to interview representatives from the community and voluntary sector to get their perspective. This is part of the process of the development of a project plan.
It is envisaged that a proposal will be brought to the February budget group for consideration.

3. **HSE Update**

- The Stabilisation Unit is fully occupied. Feedback from referral groups and clients is positive.
- 150 service users are actively being engaged with by the case managers, along with a further 300 being seen through the common assessment process.
- Hepatitis C – Update given on project to eliminate Hep C from the clinics in the area.
- The HSE *Connecting for Life* conference in Croke Park was very well attended and very successful. It also provided an opportunity for all service providers to display the work that they are involved in.
- The *Soilse* project is in jeopardy as the leases on the premises they occupy are due to terminate. They are looking for alternative accommodation. The Board members were asked to advise of any suitable premises that they know of that may be available.

4. **Community Update**

- A discussion in relation to the decision not to continue with funding for the job club service took place.
 - Convent Lands, Sean McDermott Street: - the chair advised that a briefing had been given to local councillors in relation to a proposal for the use of the site for educational purposes. The briefing was positively received by the councillors.
The disposal of the site is a function of the councillors and will require the approval the full City Council.
Currently the proposal, while at a very early stage is for use for education, senior citizens housing and an appropriate memorial. The city council have engaged a group from UCD to

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engage with the various Magdalene survivor groups to develop a suitable proposal for a memorial.

- Buckingham Village – The owners have agreed to meet with Dublin City Council officials.
- Aldborough House – no progress to report.
- Community Safety Partnership – a further meeting with community reps. and both Department of the Taoiseach and Department of Justice and Equality officials has been arranged for mid-February.
- ICON Community Participation Worker position – the community rep reported that funding had been approved for a further 3 months by the HSE, through the NICDATF, and it would be reviewed at the end of that period.

The HSE rep advised that while funding had been provided for a 3 month period it was on the understanding that the NICDATF were to use that period to identify other sources of funding for the position. The HSE funding for the position will cease after the 3 month period.

The community rep expressed disappointment at this and would revert to the NICDATF for further clarification.

5. DEASP Update

- The number of people that got jobs from the Jobs Fair in Sheriff Street has risen to 7.
- 2 fulltime vacancies have been filled in Facebook and one person who was on a 6 month contract has been employed on a fulltime basis.
- 2 Job Fairs in the area are being planned for 2020.
- The DEASP rep expressed disappointment that there was a charge for the use of the hall for the recent Job Fair. It would be preferable to use locations where no charge for the space was involved to offset the costs of putting on these events.
- The Chair asked if live register stats for the area were available. The DEASP rep undertook to provide these at the next meeting.

6. A.O.B

- The Chair proposed the co-opting of Karl Mitchell, DCC as a member of the PIB. This was agreed by all present.

7. Presentation from the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol (NICDATF)

The Chair welcomed Professor Joe Barry, Chairperson NICDATF, Mel MacGiobúin, Coordinator NICDATF and Gary Broderick, NICDATF Board member and invited them to present to the Board on the work of the NICDATF.

- NICDATF are currently in the process of developing a strategic plan.
- The outcomes identified in the Murtagh report on the NICDATF, which was commissioned by the HSE and undertaken in 2018/2019 is being used to guide the development of the NICDATF strategic plan.
- The outcomes of the Murtagh report led to strengthening of governance structure within the NICDATF and the funded services and the cessation of funding of services without evidence of direct health outcomes. Resources are redirected to services with evidence of direct health outcomes.
- The NICDATF are currently seeking alternative sources for funding for services where funding has ceased.

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- 19 services receive funding from NICDATF.
- Services have been involved in a number of survey's over the past few years, including, Drugs Trends and Behaviours, Intimidation and Homelessness.
- One third of all drug related deaths in the state occur in Dublin's North Inner City.
- Drug trends are changing very rapidly
- Most users are involved in polydrug use.
- Treatment and Rehabilitation (T+R) has 20 projects (approx.) participating on it.
 - They have been actively involved with the HSE in terms of the rollout of the Common Assessment tool and the development of the Case Management approach (currently there are in the region of 300 people in the NEIC area being case managed – care plans are being developed for these people).
- Currently there are about 320 people in the NEIC area on methadone programmes.
- NICDATF are currently involved with an Educational programme in 2 local schools (funded by NEIC PIB), a Recovery Coach Development programme (funded by NEIC PIB) and held a conference on Intimidation (funded by NEIC PIB).
- Feedback from the PIB members included:
 - Funding needs to be directed to support appropriate health related frontline services.
 - Focus needs to be maintained on the delivery of services on the ground.
 - There is a lack of services to support people with alcohol related issues.
 - Offer for NICDTAF to present to the Dublin City Council Local Area Committee is still open.
 - There is a lack of awareness amongst local people as to what the NICDATF actually does – external communications appears to be an issue.
 - Current premises are not suitable – need a premises where their name is clearly visible and that people can access easily.
 - NICDATF do not produce an annual report – so therefore no awareness of what the outcomes or outputs from the funding supplied.
 - There is a need for clear KPI's and outcome/output targets for projects receiving funding.

The Chair thanked the NICDATF members for their time in attending the meeting and for the effort invested in developing the programme. He offered the support of the NEIC programme office staff to support and link with the NICDATF staff.

Next meeting: Wednesday 26th February 2020 @ 8.00am

Venue: Hill Street Family Resource Centre, Hill Street, D1.

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Summary of agreed actions for next meeting:

What	Who
Mary Cregg to report back on outcome of meeting with Assistant Chief of school Inspectors.	Mary Cregg, DES
Feedback on Numbers in homeless accommodation in Gardiner Street	Dublin City Council
Time line for next phases of Royal Canal Cycleway	Dublin City Council
Report on Live Register Statistics	DEASP
Meeting with Programme Office and NICDATF	Prog. Office/NICDATF