

North East Inner City Initiative Programme Implementation Board

Location: Hill Street Family Resource centre, Hill Street, D1.
Time and date: 8am, 26 th February 2020
Attendance: Chair – Michael Stone, Chief Superintendent Paddy McMenamin (An Garda Síochána), Superintendent Paul Costello (An Garda Síochána), Paddy Murdiffe (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), Feargal O’Rourke (PwC), Noel Wardick (NICCC), Ursula Donnellan (DCC/Programme Office), Michael O’Riordan (Programme Office).
Apologies: Clare Butler (DoT/Programme Office), Brendan Kenny (DCC)

Eileen Smith, Project Manager, Hill St Family Resource Centre presented a short overview to the Board on the work undertaken and services provided in the Centre. A key need identified during the overview was assistance with the development of a business plan for the centre. Feargal O’Rourke (PwC) gave an undertaking of support and assistance from PwC in the development of a business plan.

The Chair thanked Eileen for the presentation and wished the centre well in its work. The Chair also thanked Feargal for PwC’s offer of support to the centre in the development of their business plan.

Minutes of previous meeting:

Proposed: Donal Cassidy (HSE)

Seconded: Paddy Murdiffe (NICCC)

The Chair wished Clare Butler (DoT) well as she prepares to go on maternity leave and also acknowledged the significant and positive contribution she has made to the NEIC initiative.

1. Community Update

- Liberty Park project
 - Good progress is being made, 6 local researchers have been recruited to carry out the face-to-face piece of the work.
 - Questionnaires have been developed
 - Community rep expressed the opinion that this initiative is creating a positive dynamic in the area.
 - The community rep thanked the Wexford centre for the use of their premises.
 - While appreciating the merits of the initiative the Chair expressed disappointment at the make-up of the researcher team. The community rep advised that 8 replies were received to the advert for the researchers and that no lack of thought had gone in to the make-up of the research team by the project steering group. He added that this is a complex community that needs to be mobilised. The Chair stressed that the proposal presented and approved by the Board was geared towards encouraging young people and new faces to be involved in this work and providing an opportunity for them to develop new skills and identify potential community leaders. The Chair stressed that, for this reason a concerted effort was needed to attract and engage potential community leaders and an opportunity had been lost in this regard.

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- ICON Community Participation worker – a proposal has been submitted in relation to this and discussions are ongoing.
- Community Safety Project
 - Community reps attended a meeting with reps from Department of Justice and Equality (DoJE) and Department of the Taoiseach (DoT) on 12th February.
 - A detailed presentation of the plan was outlined at the meeting.
 - Discussions at the meeting were positive and the community reps welcomed the opportunity to be involved.
 - Community reps will now consult with their groups and revert within a month.
 - While discussions at the meeting were positive, concern was expressed at the area to be covered by the project (North Inner City) with 2 workers.
 - The community reps. reiterated that they are very keen to ensure that the structure agreed proves to be a success.
- Updates were requested in relation to the following:
 - Convent lands – DCC rep advised that a meeting with the local Councillors has been arranged for 3rd March, to commence work on the design of a project brief. Education and housing are still the items under consideration. DCC are also still awaiting feedback from group's representing the Magdalene survivors in relation to a suitable memorial.
 - Aldborough House – No update available.
 - Buckingham Village – Ownership is very complex – one grouping owns 55 units, one group owns 25 units and in addition there are also owner occupiers. Dublin City Council (DCC) reps have met the group that owns the 55 units. This group will contact other groups for a full meeting with DCC. DCC will undertake a clean-up of the basement area and follow up with regular checks. A price is being sought to paint the building.
 - Dublin City Community Co-op (DCCC) received funding to employ a worker to engage with the Roma community in terms of accessing training and employment. While this work is ongoing, a range of other challenges within the Roma community have emerged. DCCC would like to build on the work that has commenced and are considering developing a submission for consideration by the PIB to look at the emerging needs of the Roma community in the NEIC. The Chair advised that he would be interested in reading the proposal when available.
 - An update was requested on the Intercultural Development Officer position – the board was advised that interviews have taken place and the position has been offered to the preferred candidate.
 - A query was raised in relation to the formation of a new Government and if a risk assessment has been undertaken in terms of how this might affect the Initiative? The Chair advised that it is business as usual for now and when a new Government is in place, appropriate engagement will be made through the proper channels.
 - It was noted that in the 2020 Estimated Budget Requirement for Subgroup 1 there was no mention of funding for the Drug-related Intimidation Initiative. The meeting was advised that this was an oversight and a figure will be included.
 - The community reps supported the concept of an “Emerging Needs Fund” being included as part of the budget considerations.
 - The threat that the Covid19 virus might present in terms of disruption to the work of the various community groups was raised by the community rep. The Chair again advised that it is business

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as usual for now and that organisations and groups' should follow advice of the public health authorities.

- The regularity of Garda foot patrols was raised by the community reps. Reports are that Gardai are not as visible in the area as they were a few months previously. The Gardai reported that there is no relaxing of the resources in the area but that the route the patrols take does vary depending on reports received and displacement of anti-social activities.

2. Budget group

- Each Sub Group Chair outlined their strategic funding priorities for 2020.
 - As the total funding requirement exceeded the €6.5m available to the NEIC Initiative in 2020, the Group agreed to forward a paper capturing the essence of their discussions to the Chair of the Programme Implementation Board for his consideration.
 - Given the previous discussion on 2020 funding requirements, it was agreed to only consider urgent funding proposals. The Assertive Case Management funding proposal was discussed in this context. A number of queries on the submission were raised which J Walsh (DoH) undertook to clarify.
 - It was agreed that the Programme Office would consider offering guidance on reporting requirements for projects funded by the NEIC Initiative to Sub Group Chairs.
 - The Group considered the following documents to be agreed following discussion and amendment:
 - Dublin North East Inner City - Overview of Funding Process
 - NEIC – Funding Process and Governance
 - NEIC – Cover Sheet for Funding Applications
 - It was also agreed that the Dublin North East Inner City - Overview of Funding Process document would be published on neic.ie to provide clarity to the community on the NEIC funding process and to encourage funding applications from the NEIC community.
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- **Total Funds approved by the NEIC PIB to date for 2020 - €501,064**

3. Sub group reports

Note: Ms Roisin Quinn, PWC – attended all 6 subgroup meetings and outlined the planned process that will be used in developing action plans with the subgroup.

Group 1 – Enhanced Policing

- The subgroup meeting focussed on budget proposals received in preparation for discussion at the Budget Group.
- No submissions was received in relation to the Drug-related Intimidation Initiative – contact will be made with Ana Liffey in relation to this.
- Garda Visibility in the area - The Gardai reported that there is no relaxing of the resources in the area but that the routes the patrols take does vary depending on reports received and activity in the area.
- Planning is currently underway in preparation for the St Patrick's Day celebrations.
- Store Street hosted visitors from the Kenyan Police force.
- Superintendent Costello attend a multi-cultural seminar hosted by the Acts of Compassion Ministry. There was a discussion during the event on Hate Crime – the advice from the Gardai is to encourage victims to report such incidents.

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- AGS are very interested in working with the Roma worker in the Co-op and developing connections in that community.
- Community leaders – it is important for community leaders to work with the Gardaí. AGS are committed to working and supporting community leaders.
- An Garda Síochána Dublin Metropolitan Region North Central Area Youth Awards ceremony was held in Croke Park on Saturday 15th February. The event was very well attended. The Chief Superintendent thanked Croke Park for their continued sponsorship of the awards.
- A number of new probationer Gardaí were allocated to the DMR North Central Division but with promotions/retirements it resulted in no increase in Garda numbers for the Division.

Group 2 – Maximising Educational, Training and Employment Opportunities

- The group were advised in relation to a positive meeting that was held with DEASP reps and Community Training Centre reps re improving the recruitment processes to community training programmes. Further discussions directly between DEASP and the provider to take place.
- A discussion in relation to follow up by secondary schools with students who have left (either early school leavers or having completed State examinations). It was acknowledged that the 12 – 18 months after leaving school can be a vulnerable time and it was felt that some contact from the school in that period would be positive. Some good models exist in the area and it was requested that this item be raised at the Principals' Network meeting with the intention that all second level schools in the area will adopt this practice.
- Outline costings of funding proposals were discussed in preparation for the Budget Group meeting.
- An item in relation to the challenges faced by schools given the high number of children living in homeless accommodation in the area and attending schools locally was discussed. It was agreed that this would be raised for discussion at the Principals' Network meeting.
- NEIC Work Experience programme – 224 students across 6 secondary schools participated in 426 placements in 90 organisations. Some of the placements are to take place in March 2020. Additional work experience opportunities were accessed and are being offered to schools. The feedback from the work experience is positive. There are currently 2 surveys underway, one with students and one with companies to garner feedback on the programme with a view to improving and enhancing the offering in 2020/2021.
- Three priority actions have been identified in terms of the Social Impact Plan – the next step in the process is to develop a Request for Tender document. This is dependent on funding being available to progress the actions.

Group 3 – Family Wellbeing

- A HSE rep from the Mental Health provision section has joined the subgroup.
- The intensive family wellbeing initiative proposed by the subgroup was discussed.
 - It was noted that a memorandum of understanding between the various agencies involved would be required to ensure that the initiative did not come to a sudden stop when funding was exhausted.
 - It was clarified that participation can only be on a voluntary basis. The commissioned group would engage with the families to discuss participation.
 - As it is very intensive work, it is envisaged that between 5 to 10 families would be involved in this initiative.

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- Concern was expressed that the most challenging cases would not opt to avail of the support.
- The original idea was to second staff from a variety of agencies but this has not happened to date.
- The thinking behind state sector involvement was to challenge the perception that people don't trust state agencies.
- The state has an obligation to be involved in initiatives such as this – so a partnership approach between state agencies and the community and voluntary sector is what is required.
- The next subgroup meeting will be a joint meeting with subgroup 3 and subgroup 6.

Group 4 – Physical Infrastructure

- A presentation on homelessness in the area will be available for the next PIB meeting.
- A public consultation evening on the proposed redesign for Diamond Park is planned for Thursday 12th March @ 7pm in Rutland Street School.
- Representatives from Dublin City Council Parks and Landscapes services department have met with the consultant undertaking the research in relation to Liberty Park.
- Tree planting on Foley Street has been completed. A survey in relation to some greening initiatives on Sean McDermott Street has commenced.
- Discussions with the “Mud Island” group have taken place with a view to encouraging residents to getting involved with an “adopt a tree” scheme.
- A meeting is planned for mid-March with a range of stakeholders to discuss capital works in relation to the Charleville Mall area.
- A second meeting of the *Croke Park* public realm group – which includes, Croke Park, Iarnrod Eireann, DCC, Waterways Ireland, community reps and the NEIC to discuss opportunities for collaboration particularly in relation to biodiversity matters along the Royal Canal is scheduled for 28th February.
- Newcommen Cottage – work is expected to commence on site by May/June 2020.
- The sport and wellbeing programme continues.
 - A basketball camp during the recent mid-term break had 80 participants.
 - GAA academy and coaching activities continues on a weekly basis.
 - *Change for Life* programme continues to have good numbers participating in a wide range of activities in a number of locations across the area.
 - Soccer activity is ongoing in Sheriff St and engagement with this is good. Feedback from the local community is positive.
- School on Stilts – the preliminary works on the site are nearing completion. Heavy demolition is due to commence and is programmed to take 2 to 3 weeks.
- Royal Canal Cycleway – the latest project management reports indicate that the construction work is due for completion in Q2 2020. This will deliver 600m of linear park incorporating a 3m wide cycleway and 2m wide footpath between Sheriff St and the North Strand.
- The Chinese New Year event on Hill St in association with Hill St Family Resource Centre was held on 25th January and was attended by 4,500 people.
- The Five Lamps Arts Festival 2020 will be launched on Thursday 12th March – a range of events are planned between 28th March and 5th April.

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Group 5 – Substance use, misuse and inclusion health

- The group had a presentation from Dr Suzi Lyons, Health Research Board on deaths recorded in the National Drug Related Death Index (NDRDI) in the North East Inner City. The stats presented by Dr Lyons for the years 2012 to 2017 were as follows:
 - 61 poisoning* deaths among people who lived in the NEIC
 - 32 poisoning* deaths occurred in the NEIC where people did not live in the NEIC
 - 52 non-poisoning** deaths among people who used drugs and lived in the NEIC
 - 21 non-poisoning** deaths among people who used drugs occurred in the NEIC but who did not live in the NEIC
 - 62 non-poisoning deaths among people who were alcohol dependent and lived in the NEIC.

Note:

* **Poisonings** (overdoses) are deaths in the general population that are due to the toxic effect of one or more drugs including alcohol.

** **Non-poisoning deaths** are deaths among people with a history of drug dependency on non-dependent use of drugs whether or not the drug had a direct effect on the cause of death.

- Those who died were predominately male, with an average age of 42yrs, most had a prison record and with a history of homelessness and of injecting drugs.
- This is impacting negatively on families in the area.
- Points to a need to improve services.
- A representative from the National Family Support Network (NFSN) also attended the meeting to discuss and outline the effect this is having on families in the area.
- The subgroup chair met with the governor of Mountjoy Prison to discuss a proposal in relation to supporting prisoners in the immediate aftermath of release. The governor expressed support for such a project and the prison authorities would be prepared to support such an initiative. The subgroup chair will work to develop a proposal.
- A meeting with the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce was held as a follow up to their presentation at the January PIB meeting. A further meeting is scheduled.
- Active case management – the subgroup chair visited the An Liffey Drugs Project (ALDP). Following this meeting Ana Liffey will stand back from their proposal but will continue to provide support to the clients they engaged with. A new proposal was submitted by the HSE, following engagement with Ana Liffey, but some clarifications were sought by the subgroup.
- A proposal for funding to employ a Community Participation worker, was discussed at the subgroup – some clarifications were sought by the group. The subgroup chair met with representatives from the proposing group and gave the feedback from the group discussion to them. A revised proposal is expected to be submitted.
- A seminar is planned for 21st April. The theme for the seminar will be *Prevention and Education*. It is intended to involve the Department of Education and Skills and local service providers in the seminar. Invites will be issued to members of subgroup 2 and local schools.

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Group 6 – Alignment and Integration of Social Services

- The HSE general manager of primary care for the area has joined the subgroup.
- There was broad support from the subgroup for the proposal in relation to the recruitment of SLT/OT's to work with the schools. The subgroup recommend that the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) be involved with the psychological section of the proposal.
- A research proposal relating to Early Years was put on hold pending review by the relevant section in DCYA.
- Integrated Services Delivery Framework (ISDF) – DCYA are continuing with their appraisal of services for inclusion on the MyConnects system in relation to the City Connects programme in line with the criteria that has developed.
- 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 – significant work has been invested by Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Boston College, Department of Education and Skills, Boston College, Mary Immaculate College and school principals to develop the final proposal and funding requirements. To date this has proved to be a good model of interagency collaboration.
- A meeting is planned to develop the job specifications for the project manager and project coordinator roles.
- A number of meetings have been arranged with youth services in the NEIC to discuss the prospect of joint planning and delivery of services. The subgroup chair has requested a two page analysis of the needs of services in the area and the need to identify lead services in each category.
- Critical Incident Protocol - Dublin North Children and Young People Services Committee (CYPSC) are working with fur other CYPSC's to develop a county wide Critical Incident Protocol.

4. HSE Update

- All services supported through the PIB funding for the Inclusion Hub are working at capacity.
- Case Managers each have a full caseload, with some clients waiting to be included. Additional Case managers are under consideration.
- Work has commenced with UCD in terms of evaluation of services provided – Outcomes, effectiveness etc.
- The Common Assessment tool is being rolled out and used by services providers in the area. An IT replacement for the current paper based system is being looked at.
- An Occupational Therapist is to be recruited for the Inclusion Hub.
- Discussions are taking place within the HSE re the provision of a dietician for the area.
- A proposal has been submitted in relation to the Assertive Case management work. There is a need for a tender to be developed to take this work beyond 2020.
- Corona Virus – the reps undertook to keep the PIB updated in relation to the developing situation. He also indicated his willingness to take any questions member might have in relation to this matter.

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5. DEASP Update

- Currently in the process of developing a protocol with Mountjoy Prison in terms of DEASP supports for prisoners being released.
- The DEASP premises in Gardiner Street is being refurbished.
- DEASP are providing office space for the Dublin City Community Co-op Roma worker to meet and work his clients.
- Following a meeting with the Peter McVerry Trust and the HSE a case officer has been assigned to work with people in stabilisation settings.
- Following on from a meeting with the LYCS Community Training Centre a process is being developed to facilitate easier entry for young people to training.
- DEASP staff currently working with Technical University Dublin (TUD) In relation to recruiting for apprenticeships.
- National Jobs week starts on 2nd March
- A CE recruitment event will be held in Parnell St Intreo Office on 5th March – the stats indicate that there is a cohort of potential participants available.
- The Chair requested a report on Jobseeker / One Parent Family Payments / Disability Allowance / Carers Allowance statistics for the area (in comparison with national averages).

6. Principals' Network

- City Connects – Primary schools principals have been actively engaged with the ongoing planning work for City Connects
- Positive feedback has been received from school principals in relation to the additional educational psychologist supports that DES have allocated to the area.
- Currently there are 1827 students in primary schools in the area with an allocation of 181 teaching posts. Of the 181 teaching posts 53 are posts that may be used for language support depending on need.
- The DES representative met with the Assistant Chief of Inspectors and they have agreed to assign somebody to work with schools to ensure that resources provided are being used to best effect.

7. A.O.B

- A newsletter is in print and will be available for circulation in the near future.
- A list of short information videos that are available on the NEIC website (WWW.NEIC.ie) was circulated with a list of suggestions for new videos for production. Members were asked to contact the Programme Office with comments.

Next meeting: Wednesday 25th March 2020 @ 8.00am

Venue: To be confirmed.

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Summary of agreed actions for next meeting:

What	Who
Report on Jobseeker / One Parent Family Payments / Disability Allowance / Carers Allowance statistics for the area (in comparison with national averages)	DEASP
Feedback on Numbers in homeless accommodation in Gardiner Street	Dublin City Council
Proposal in relation to support for Roma population in NEIC	Community Reps.