

North East Inner City Initiative Programme Implementation Board

Location: via Videoconference
Time and date: 8am, 27 th May 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), Kate Levey (DCYA), Donal Cassidy (HSE), Noel Wardick (NICCC), Ursula Donnellan (DCC/Programme Office), David Leavey (DoT/Programme Office), Michael O’Riordan (Programme Office).
Apologies: Brendan Kenny (DCC), Noel Hand (DEASP), Feargal O’Rourke (PwC)

The Chair welcomed Kate Levey (DCYA) as a new member of the PIB as Chair of Subgroup 6. The Chair thanked Conor Rowley for his input during his time on the PIB and wished him well in his new role in DCYA.

Minutes of previous meeting:

Proposed: Paddy Murdiffe (NICCC)

Seconded: Mary Cregg (DES)

1. Principals Network/Schools Update

- The Department of Education and Skill’s (DES) rep reported that School Inspectors have engaged on a number of occasions in the last few weeks with each of the Primary School Principals. The Inspectors have reported that they are very happy with the efforts being made by the schools in the area to engage with pupils and with the teaching and learning approach that is being used.
- The school Principals have reported that they have noted an increase in how families and community groups are supporting each other.
- It was also reported that there is a cohort of students that have a low level of engagement and the Principals are concerned about this group. While training can be provided for parents to assist with their children’s engagement it is felt that is not the problem. The main issue being the home environment in which the children are residing, some of which are chaotic.
- Schools will continue to reach out and to engage all children.
- Live lessons are being provided each week with a focus on reading and maths.
- Some schools are holding live assemblies on line for pupils.
- The decisions taken in relation to the Leaving Cert exams has lifted some of the stress off students but not from teachers.
- On foot of the leaving Cert decision access to devices (laptops, tablets, etc.) is not as critical as beforehand.
- The DEIS grant was released early to schools by DES and flexibility has been afforded to enable them to use the funds to support the schools in the current situation.
- DES are currently working on developing guidelines as to how schools might re-open in September.
- Planning is currently underway within DES to enable School Completion and Tusla Education Support deliver both summer programmes and August provision. The aim is to have these plans available in mid-June.
- DCYA have developed a draft roadmap for youth groups.

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- The Chair noted the input from the DES rep and requested that contact be maintained with the NEIC Programme Office, particularly in relation to any support that may be required.

2. Community Update:

- The community rep echoed the content of the education discussion and noted the community concern in relation to the disengagement level among students.
- It was reported stress and levels in the community have increased because there appears to be more people outside not maintaining social distance. There is a fear among the community of a 2nd wave of the virus and the disruption that would cause.
- Concerns exist among the community over employment prospects and the loss of jobs following the easing of restrictions.
- ICON Community Participation worker proposal – on behalf of the Board of ICON, the community rep expressed deep dissatisfaction with the funding process in terms of its application and read the following statement:

ICON withdrew the application due to the process whereby they were subject to an additional and unnecessary layer of bureaucracy and evaluation by the budget subgroup. There has been no other application that was endorsed by a subgroup, only to have an additional ad hoc group established by the budget subgroup to review again.

The funding process is very clearly documented whereby the subgroups scrutinise the application and seek further information or clarity. ICON responded to all requests for information and resubmitted the application as requested. The formation of an ad hoc group to further review the application is not part of the remit of the budget subgroup nor has any other application been subject to the same treatment.

ICON has not been invited to present to the ad hoc group and discuss the application and the charge of duplication.

ICON feel the work outlined in the proposal is critically important and valuable and in no way a duplication of work being carried out by others and will be seeking funding elsewhere to ensure that this valuable work gets carried out.

The Chair of *Subgroup 5 – Drugs Use, Misuse and Inclusion Health* – noted that while the Subgroup had endorsed the proposal and the process at the budget group was fair, he was surprised to hear that ICON had withdrawn their proposal. He undertook to contact ICON to offer clarification on the process and bring the matter to a close.

- The Chair enquired if there was a plan in place from the community sector to re-engage in activities.
 - The community stated that no organisation had closed but they had adapted their services to operate with the Government guidelines. Groups, while they may not open to the public, are still providing services.
 - Co-op are rotating staff to enable staff to work in the office.
 - Childcare availability is an ongoing issue. Childcare providers and crèche's are awaiting guidance on how they can recommence operations.
- The meeting was informed that SWAN Youth Services Outreach Team had recommenced operations in tandem with Crinan Youth Project.

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- Concern was expressed as to how summer projects might operate – many of these projects are run by parents and it needs to be ensured they are in line with Government guidelines. The Chair offered support from the NEIC to ensure smooth implementation and compliance.
- A query in relation to observations from the community on the *Community Safety Proposal* was raised. The community rep suggested that a further meeting be organised by DJE and DoT to capture observations and feedback on the proposal.

3. Budget Group

- A number of funding proposals were presented for discussion and consideration by the Board. Below is a summary of the decisions reached on each proposal.

Subgroup	Project	Amount	Decision
Subgroup 2	Business in the Community Ireland summer work placement programme*	€3,137	Approved
Subgroup 4	The Green Ribbon	€120,000	Approved
Subgroup 5	NEIC Community Health Project **	€98,500	Approved
Total		€221,637	

* Given the challenges companies will face as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic the *BITCI Summer Work Placement Programme* was cancelled – the funding approved was in respect of preparatory work that had been undertaken by BITCI.

** The total cost of the *NEIC Community Health Programme* is €197,000. Healthy Ireland, *hi*, will fund 50% of the cost (€97,500).

- **City Connects** – Following a meeting with the Chair and the proposers of the initiative, a revised proposal – containing the clarifications and assurances requested by the Chair, was circulated to PIB members by email for their consideration. As there were no objections received and this proposal has been discussed **and agreed** at the PIB – the funding of €707, 449 was approved.

- **Budget Recommendations:**
Proposed – Paddy Murdiffe
Seconded – Karl Mitchell

Total funds approved by the NEIC PIB to date for 2020 - €5,279,447

To Note:

- €260,000 has been allocated by the HSE towards the cost of the Inclusion Health Hub (€636,500)
- Due to the COVID19 restrictions the “Off the Ball” programme will not now run in 2020 the funding (€10,000) has been returned to the NEIC budget.
- **Social Employment Fund:** There has been difficulty organising a meeting as not all the key stakeholders were available to attend due to COVID19 workloads. Another meeting will be scheduled to progress this matter.
- **NEIC Strategic Plan - Action Planning Process:** Each subgroup Chair has received their respective draft plan for consideration. Feedback has been requested from the subgroups prior to the June PIB meeting.

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4. Subgroup Reports:

Subgroup 6:

- City Connects
 - The Project Management Team is continuing with its work to progress the project
 - YPAR are assisting with the services alignment work for the MyConnects system.
 - DCYA are in the process of confirming some funding for this project for 2021.
- Concern was raised on a number of fronts in relation to the effects the COVID-19 restrictions are having on children and young people. It was agreed that the current situation should not stop people thinking innovatively in how to engage young people and devise activities for them.
- The importance of the EWO's and School Completion remaining in contact with students – particularly in relation to 6th class students transitioning to 2nd Level to ensure that everyone has accessed a place – was stressed.
- The SWAN detached outreach team have recommenced street work. The Crinan Youth Project are working alongside the SWAN team.
- A Youth Sector Guidance document to outline the pathway for reengagement by youth groups is expected to be issued by DCYA in the coming days.
- NEIC Strategic Plan – the subgroup members have received the draft action plan and it is for discussion at the next subgroup meeting.

Subgroup 5:

- The meeting focused on 4 proposals that had been submitted for consideration.
- It was agreed to submit 2 proposals to the budget group for consideration, one was not supported and further clarification is to be sought on another of the proposals.
- Concern was expressed in relation to the increase of people on the streets and an apparent lack of social distancing being practiced.
- Groups and individuals were encouraged to continue with regular hand washing and to maintain social distancing as recommend by the HSE.

Subgroup 4:

- The Green Ribbon operatives are back in work, subject to public health guidelines with a current focus on weed control. A funding agreement is currently being developed between Dublin City Council, DCC, and Sunflower Recycling Ltd. DCC will manage the project in accordance with the agreement.
- Work is advancing on the projects that have been approved.
 - Gloucester Diamond plaza – Tender process complete, work to start on site by end of June.
 - Summerhill Central Median – Tender closing date 4th June.
 - Sean McDermott St. - Tree planting design options are currently being considered. It is likely that this will be in two phases – 1). Buckingham St to Rutland St. 2). Rutland St to James Joyce St.
- Public Realm Plan – Work has advanced on a plan for the Charleville Mall area and this will be included in Dublin City Council's submission to the Department of Housing, Planning and local Government – Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF).
- Rutland St. School – Tender documents are being finalised.

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- COVID-19 Community Response – The Community Call response is being led by Dublin City Council via the Helpline 01 222 8555. The DCC rep thanked the Co-op and the Gardaí for their support and also the staff of Dublin City Council Central Area Office who have responded to the calls received to the helpline.
- The Dublin City Council rep is currently involved in a multi-agency group with a focus on initiatives to get the city to re-open.
- A pilot project of light activity and entertainment has been initiated in a number of Senior Citizens complexes and has been well received.
- Planning is under way with interested parties in relation to the production of reusable/washable face masks. The initial aim is to provide these to senior citizens.
- 3 new murals have been commissioned:
 - Ballybough
 - Clarks Bridge
 - Footbridge on North Strand Road.
 - Work will also be undertaken to revive some of the existing murals in the area.
- Sean McDermott St. Swimming Pool – The pool is currently closed due to maintenance issues with rising tiles in the pool itself. The swimming pool is unlikely to open again in 2020.

Subgroup 3:

- A request for proposals in relation to the Community Case Management initiative has issued to community and voluntary sector organisations. The closing date for submissions is the 22nd of June.
- It was reported that some families are experiencing difficulties in relation to home schooling. The Early Learning Initiative (ELI) have distributed some Learning packs to assist with this. Parents have expressed their thanks for the support.
- Concern was expressed in relation to the feasibility of summer programmes – it was felt that given the current COVID-19 restrictions it may not be possible for these to run this year.
- Two proposals relating to Mental Health were discussed but the subgroup felt more work was required on these before they could be recommended to the Budget Group.
- Critical incident protocol work is ongoing, Discussions are ongoing about moving this to the CYPSC.
- Referrals to Tusla had dropped by about 50% but are starting to rise again.
- Tusla's core critical services continue to operate

Subgroup 2:

- Following discussions at a previous meeting on how contact might be maintained with students who have left school re employment and training opportunities, wording used on a consent form by Mount Carmel was circulated. This will be circulated to the other secondary schools for consideration.
- A number of funding proposals were discussed, one was forwarded to the budget group for consideration and the remaining proposals were referred back for clarifications.
- It was agreed that a proposal would be developed by the Programme Office for consideration at the next meeting in relation to a continuation of the Childcare CPD Bursary.
- Intercultural Development Coordinator – a commencement date of 22nd June 2020 has been agreed with the successful applicant.

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- The draft Action Plan has been circulated to the Subgroup members for consideration and discussion at the next meeting.

Subgroup 1:

- The Gardaí continue to closely monitor activity in the identified areas and recent successes regarding searches carried out were outlined.
- Displacement continues to be an issue and District Plans are reviewed continually to address these issues. Operation 'Canter' remains fully active and resourced in the area.
- A number of issues raised by the community reps were discussed and noted by AGS for follow up action.
- An issue raised in relation to the sale of tablets in close proximity of the City Clinic has been dealt with.
- Checkpoints on O'Connell Street continue to encourage Social Distancing. The high footfall on O'Connell Street and the number of visitors to the G.P.O requires a Garda presence.
- Increased activity noted on the streets on days when DEASP payments are made.
- Bus and train stations will be policed to discourage large groups of youths making trips to beaches etc.
- A joint initiative between AGS, HSE, SAOL, Chrysalis and Boots pharmacy has commenced to develop a plan to support victims of domestic violence in the area. This interagency team will work closely together within each agencies own governance structures to provide an easy access, non-confrontational support system for those experiencing domestic violence. The aim is to use innovative ways to build awareness of supports available and work with each individual where they are at, to support and assist. Elements of the project are, increasing awareness of supports using social media, relationship building between the people needing support and relevant agencies and the training of professionals in the area of domestic violence.
- There has been a 30% increase in the reporting of domestic abuse.
- COVID-19 - Gardaí continue to support:
 - escorting the delivery of methadone with City Clinic staff.
 - delivery of food parcels to students of Larkin Community College.
 - collection of pensions (20/25 per week) and prescriptions.
- The Gardaí are operating the "4E" approach to implementing the COVID-19 restrictions - ***Engage – Explain – Encourage - Enforce***
- The contact details for reporting incidents are:
Phone – 01 666 8000
Email – dmr.northcentral.community@garda.ie

5. HSE Update:

- The HSE rep thanked the Gardaí for their ongoing support of the City Clinic.
- Support from all agencies, groups and PIB members has been very positive. The benefits of the NEIC PIB and how people involved have worked together has proved to be very effective in the recent weeks.
- The majority of HSE funded groups are very engaged and have adapted to the changed environment. A minority of services have not engaged. A series of meetings with projects is planned over the coming weeks to discuss how services will be delivered.

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- A focused meeting with the Chair and coordinator of the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce was held recently. Further engagement is planned.
 - Concern exists in relation to a new wave of COVID-19 and all groups etc. are urged to maintain social distancing and to continue with hygiene recommendations. HSE services remain on high alert in case of a second wave.
 - 24% of cases nationally have occurred in Dublin's North city and county.
 - The HSE remain vigilant There has been a big effort and commitment from community groups to assist with those who are homeless. This has resulted in a reduction in the spread of the virus in this grouping.
 - Concern remains in relation to the health of those in the migrant community. The appointment of the Intercultural Development Coordinator was welcomed as they may be able to assist in getting information out to this community.
 - The HSE is facing a challenge in reopening services and dealing with the backlog that has developed.
 - The community reps raised a query re the possibility of the use of rooms in the Primary Care Centre by local groups – The HSE rep advised that this is probably not possible due to social distancing as there is only one door for entrance and exit.
6. **Action Plans:** Draft Action Plans have been circulated to all the Subgroup Chairs. The PIB Chairperson asked that they be discussed at the next subgroup meetings and fed back to PwC for presentation at the next Board meeting.

Next meeting: **Wednesday 24th June 2020 @ 8.00am**
Venue: **TBA**

Summary of agreed actions for next meeting:

What	Who
Circulate HSE document - Creating a Plan for Resumption of Service Delivery	Programme Office
Circulate DCYA - I Youth Sector Guidance for Youth Organisations on Resuming Full Services after COVID-19	Programme Office