

North East Inner City Initiative Programme Implementation Board

Location: Dublin City Council Docklands Office + Videoconference
Time and date: 8am, 24 th June 2020
Attendance: Chair – Michael Stone, Chief Superintendent Paddy McMenamin (An Garda Síochána), Superintendent Paul Costello (An Garda Síochána), Paddy Murdoff (NICCC), Mary Keenan (DoT), Joy McGlynn (Tusla), Jim Walsh (DoH), Feargal O'Rourke (PwC), Brendan Kenny (DCC), Karl Mitchell (DCC), Kate Levey (DCYA), Noel Hand (DEASP), Donal Cassidy (HSE), Noel Wardick (NICCC), Ursula Donnellan (DCC/Programme Office), David Leavey (DoT/Programme Office), Michael O'Riordan (Programme Office), Niamh Kelly (PwC)
Apologies: Mary Cregg (DES)

The Chair welcomed Niamh Kelly (PwC) to the meeting to update on the Action Plans.

Minutes of previous meeting:

Proposed: Paddy Murdoff (NICCC)

Seconded: Karl Mitchell (DCC)

1. Action Plans:

February 2020:

- Reps from PwC met with all six Subgroups and acted as facilitators in creating Action Plans. Workshop outputs were compiled and Action Plans drafted.

March 2020:

- COVID-19 restrictions caused a pause on the plans. Some updates and changes were made to the tasks (no focus on timelines due to the virus).

May 2020:

- A decision was made to push ahead with the completion of the Action Plans. PwC asked to attend June Subgroup meetings to facilitate revising plans as necessary.

June 2020:

- Met with each subgroup to update their action plans due to the impact COVID-19 has had. Subgroup 1, 3, 4 and 5 plans have all been updated with revised timelines.

Next Steps:

- Subgroup 2 - requires updates in relation to DEASP actions. A meeting to discuss has been arranged.
- Subgroup 6 - requires a number of updates/clarifications. A new Chair for this Subgroup has recently been appointed – further discussions to be had at the June Subgroup meeting.

The Chair thanked PwC for their involvement to date and urged the Subgroup Chairs to progress the implementation of the actions agreed upon in their respective plans.

2. DEASP Update:

- The local offices remain busy with a focus on Job seekers payments and the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP).
- There continues to be a high volume of new claims for Job Seeker Payments being submitted.

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- Employment Services staff returned to their roles on the 8th June and are focusing their efforts on assisting PUP recipients to return to work.
- Employers are indicating that they have job opportunities available. There is, however, a steady stream of redundancy notices being notified to the Department – many from City Centre based businesses.
- A number of companies have advised of apprenticeship opportunities – DEASP employment services staff are working to fill these.
- A recent online recruitment event proved successful – 479 people attended (virtually), 130 submitted CVs of which 70 were forwarded to the company for consideration. Similar events are planned for the security, healthcare and construction sectors.

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	Fighting Words	€40,000	Approved
Subgroup 2	Coding and Robotics for Non-PTECH schools	€47,162.69	Approved
Subgroup 2	Childcare CPD Bursary	€24,900	Approved
Subgroup 2	Educational Guidance for Second Level Schools	€50,000	Approved
Total		€162,062.69	

- **Budget Recommendations:**
Proposed – Paddy Murdiffe
Seconded – Brendan Kenny

Total funds approved by the NEIC PIB to date for 2020 - €5,441,509.69

4. Subgroup Reports:

Subgroup 1:

- The Gardaí continue to provide a dedicated highly visible presence in Liberty Park and the surrounding area.
- Over the past month there were 44 arrests under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977 (33 under Section 15 and 11 under section 3). 22 public order offences were detected in the same period.
- During the time period since the last PIB, drugs to the value of €86,000 has been seized in addition to €3,800 in cash.
- Illegal drug dealing activity has displaced to Gardiner St/ Summerhill and Fitzgibbon St flats – AGS are aware of this and have a plan in place to tackle these areas.
- The vandalism of the Luke Kelly statue is an ongoing challenge. It is hoped the installation of CCTV and additional lighting will assist with stopping the vandalism.
- The proliferation of youths on electric scooters was raised by the Community reps., they are causing difficulties on paths and roads at present. There is no legislation in relation to these vehicles at present. Gardaí will continue to deal with the issue.

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- Drugs Related Intimidation Initiative – Outcomes are needed - currently very few referrals are being made to the Gardaí. A member of the National Drugs team has been invited to attend the next DRI Steering Group meeting to discuss drug related intimidation.
- There has been an increase in domestic abuse incidents. AGS has a pro arrest policy in relation to these incidents. A Protective Services Unit is currently in development in the area.
- Action Plan – there is a need to ensure that the action plan is in alignment with national policy on community safety. A member from the National Community Policing Office will be invited to the next Subgroup meeting to discuss.
- The contact details for reporting incidents are:
 - Phone – 01 666 8000 Email – dmr.northcentral.community@garda.ie
- The Chair expressed condolences to the Chief Superintendent and all members of An Garda Síochána on the recent tragic loss of their colleague Detective Garda Colm Horkan, RIP.
- The Chair urged further action from the Gardaí to stop the vandalism of the Luke Kelly statue.
- Fitzgibbon Street Station – while work has recommenced on site, the Chair asked that a focus on progress be maintained to ensure the completion of the refurbishment in as timely a manner as possible, on this very important project.
- Cycleway – Phase 2 (Sheriff St to Newcomen Bridge) is nearing completion, with an official opening planned for late July. The Chair asked that the Gardaí liaise closely with Dublin City Council to plan a suitable event to mark the occasion.

Subgroup 2:

- Engagement ongoing with DEASP re the capturing of data that can be used inter alia to measure the impact of the NEIC Initiative.
- There has been follow up with Principals in second level schools regarding obtaining consent of students to receive information when they have left school on further education / training / employment opportunities. Three schools have replied, and wish to be involved. Some community based groups have indicated that they would also like to be included. Further work to be undertaken on this.
- Concern was expressed in relation to a potential drop in engagement from students when schools reopen. There may also be a need for counselling services for students when schools return, owing to issues in certain homes (drug abuse/domestic abuse, etc.).
- For many students, it is imperative that there is a return to schooling in a more traditional way a.s.a.p. as it is felt that digital home-schooling is not working for all students.
- Disappointment was expressed that there was very little difference in funding received by DEIS and non-DEIS schools when it came to the distribution of funds to purchase IT equipment. It was stated that some DEIS schools only received an additional €300.
- It was noted that school management are concerned that career guidance is under resourced in schools in the NEIC.
- From contact with businesses it appears that the work experience programme will have to be scaled back due to COVID-19. It appears most businesses would not be able to facilitate work experience placements for the remainder of 2020, but may consider accepting students in Spring 2021. An alternative approach is currently being discussed – “Flash Mentoring”, contact will be made with relevant businesses to gauge possible support for this.

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- Adult Community Education - the consensus view of SG2 is that more needs to be done in support of adult community education.
- The Public Appointments Service (PAS) are developing a targeted youth appropriate pack for Career Guidance Counsellors and are keen to work with second level schools in the NEIC in developing the pack.

Subgroup 3:

- Youth Mental Health – Working with the Department of Health in relation to delivering on the actions set out in the plan.
- Community Case management (CCM) - 3 proposals have been received. These need to be evaluated prior to a decision being made. Subgroup 3 are aiming to have a recommendation for consideration at their July meeting.
- Currently looking at what is available in terms of Online Parenting Programmes, to gauge what might be possible to deliver.
- Tusla working with crèches and childcare providers to enable centres to reopen on 29th July

Subgroup 4:

- Public Realm Plan – it was confirmed that the Charleville Mall mini-plan had been included in Dublin City Council's overall submission under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF). The key projects that have been included are, the pavement along the canal, Charleville Mall library (façade, public toilets and access upgrade), D-Light Studios @ 46-49 North Great Clarence Street. The estimated cost is in the region of €20.5million.
- Diamond Park redevelopment – the Part 8 statutory planning process has been initiated. This will involve a public consultation process in relation to the proposals for the redevelopment.
- Rutland St. School redevelopment – it has been confirmed the procurement model for the main construction contract will be a two stage process. Stage one is due to commence by the end of June.
- Work has been undertaken to clean up and enhance a number of murals in the area in addition to commissioning some new works at selected locations. The first of these has now been completed at the former Annelsley Motors site on the Ballybough Road.
- A revised sport and recreation programme "*Operation Re-activation*" has been developed – the aim is to re-engage the local community in physical activity and events (within public health guidelines) in the coming weeks as restrictions are eased.
- There has been a noticeable increase in volume of discarded cans and bottles in recent weeks – Sunflower are examining various options and will prepare a proposal for consideration by the subgroup.
- The closing date for 2020 NEIC Community Grants is June 30th.
- The intercultural Development co-ordinator, Joy Eniola, started in her role on 22nd June 2020. The position is jointly funded, on a pilot basis, by the NEIC Initiative and the Department of Justice and Equality. Dublin City Council agreed to be the host employer for this post.

Subgroup 5:

- Addiction Assessment Hub – a steering group has been established within the HSE to develop a plan to operationalise the recommendations in the proposal.

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- Community Health Initiative – following a meeting between the HSE and the NEIC Programme Office a tender document is in development to secure a suitable partner to deliver this initiative.
- The Chair of SG5 advised the Board that he spoke with a representative from ICON and outlined the process in relation to their recent proposal that had been withdrawn, thus closing the matter.
- Drug and alcohol services – COVID-19 has had a major impact on drug and alcohol services in the NEIC, as elsewhere. While most services have continued to operate, there have been changes in how services are configured and delivered. Most services are now seeking to resume ‘normal’ operations, in line with the Government roadmap and public health advice. The challenge is to define what the new normal will be and to achieve this in a planned and appropriate manner. Decisions will have to be made about how best to provide services to meet the needs of clients, while minimising risks to staff and the community. SG5 in conjunction with the NICDATF and the HSE, will undertake a survey to ascertain the current status of drug and alcohol service provision in the NEIC and to identify issues and challenges for the future
- Concern was expressed at the subgroup meeting about 4 recent deaths in the area that appear to have links to drug use.

Subgroup 6:

- DCYA to support CDYSB, CDETb and YPAR in information gathering re youth services. CDETb and CDYSB do not have remit over all youth services in the NEIC.
A level of confusion exists among the group as to what was comprehended by the ISDF and the ‘Project Initiation Document’ referred to in the draft Action Plan. It was agreed that the reference to a PID should be understood as a document which sets out in detail the full plan for achieving integrated service delivery across existing youth services to include what actions are required by who and over what timeframe in order to achieve integration.
Regarding the reference to evaluation framework in the draft action plan, it was clarified that it refers to an evaluation of the integration process rather than the individual services.
- City Connects
 - An update was provided on progress to date.
 - Job Descriptions for the various positions are being developed and are due to be advertised.
 - YPAR are continuing to work on the mapping of services.
 - It is important for the ISDF and the City Connects pilot to run in parallel.
- Reopening of Crèches- there is a major focus in the Department to get crèches etc. reopened on 29th June in line with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. The COVID-19 restrictions have greatly impacted early year’s services. DCYA will review capacity and resources to complete the ambitions set out in Action 20 of the NEIC Strategic Plan.

5. Community Update:

- The Community rep noted that engagement with the Gardaí had been very positive throughout the COVID-19 restriction period.
- Liberty Park – A paper on the research being undertaken has been submitted for consideration to the Programme Office.
- Community Safety Partnership –
 - A follow up meeting with the Department of Justice and Equality, Department of the Taoiseach and NEIC community reps was held on 17th June to garner feedback - from the community - on

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the proposal paper that was presented earlier in the year on the establishment of a pilot Community Safety Partnership.

- Extensive feedback was provided by the community reps at the meeting.
- The meeting provided the platform for a very good discussion on the proposed pilot.
- The main concern, from the community, is the geographic area to be covered during the pilot and the challenges that presents.
- It was agreed that the Department of Justice and Equality would revert to the community reps with KPI's for the pilot Community Safety Partnership.
- The Community reps made a call for the school meals funding to be extended for the summer months.
- Return to the workplace planning is ongoing amongst community organisations. Organisations are incurring costs to enable them to return to the workplace. These costs are a cause of concern for some groups.
- Groups are also planning for a possible imposition of restrictions at a later stage of the year should there be a further wave of COVID-19.
- Drugs Related Intimidation (DRI) – A survey in relation to DRI in the NEIC has been issued by Ana Liffey – all are encouraged to complete and return.
- It was reported that there is a delay when people are applying for a Personal Public Services Number (PPSN). This is causing difficulty for people trying to access employment and Intreo services.
- A query was raised in relation to the availability of grants for Summer Projects from Dublin City Council for community groups.
- The community reps, on behalf of themselves and the NEIC community organisations, extended sympathies and condolences to the Chief Superintendent and all members of An Garda Síochána on the recent death of Detective Garda Colm Horkan, RIP.

6. HSE Update:

- Detailed plans are in place with drug and alcohol services to ensure resumption of services. Regular meetings are taking place with all services.
- Many HSE operated and funded services operated throughout the COVID-19 restrictions, with some additional services aiming to resume activities on the ground on 29th June.
- The residential stabilisation unit has had to reduce capacity from 10 to 6 to comply with social distancing within the bedrooms.
- The HSE in partnership with DRHE are continuing to provide shielding accommodation for vulnerable homeless adults.
- A meeting has taken place with the drugs taskforce following a number of recent deaths to discuss how to engage local people in the *Connecting for Life initiative*.
- In general the HSE are trying to scale up services while at the same time endeavouring to maintain COVID-19 response.
- Health inspections have been undertaken on accommodation premises on Seville Place as there have been a number of concerns raised in relation to them.
- Along with the roll out of the additional NEIC funded HSE developments, the HSE is also developing a weekly Dual Diagnosis clinic that will be run from our Inclusion Health Hub led out by Dr William Flannery, Consultant Psychiatrist.

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- The HSE Social Inclusion Service are working with all Task Forces in Dublin North City and County, along with HSE Stanhope Service and Dr Hugh Gallagher, GP Co-ordinator to ensure that there is greater collaboration in the delivery of the Community Alcohol support service which is funded by the HSE. This is a large piece of work that will enhance evidence based service provision.

7. **Business Update:**

- Businesses are slowly returning following the easing of restrictions with many still having significant numbers of employees continuing to work from home.
- Due to reduced numbers and ongoing restrictions the hosting of students for work experience on site for the remainder of 2020 will be a challenge for most companies. 2021 is probably a more realistic target.
- The proposal in relation to “Flash Mentoring” sounds positive and will be explored further in the coming weeks.

8. **Pilot Social Employment Fund:** While there has been a number of meetings arranged to discuss the future this Fund it has proved difficult to get consistency of attendance at the meetings from the relevant state actors.

The Chair stressed the importance of these workers, the work that is being done by them, and the positive impact they have made – which was particularly noticed during the COVID-19 restrictions. He urged all those at the Programme Implementation Board to ensure that full attendance is secured for the meetings to agree a strategy for the Pilot Social Employment Fund into the future.

Next meeting: **Wednesday 29th June 2020 @ 8.00am**
Venue: **Dublin City Council,**
Docklands Office,
Custom House Quay,
Dublin 1,
D01 KF84

Summary of agreed actions for next meeting:

What	Who
Circulate link to DEASP web-based Jobs event for information.	Programme Office
Follow-up on “Flash Mentoring” proposal	DoT/Business Rep.
Check with childcare providers re return to operation dates	Programme Office
Check with schools re Summer Provision	Programme Office