

North East Inner City Initiative Programme Implementation Board

Location: via ZOOM Videoconference
Time and date: 8am, 26 th August 2020
Attendance: Chair – Michael Stone, Chief Superintendent Paddy McMenamin (An Garda Síochána), Superintendent Paul Costello (An Garda Síochána), Paddy Murdiff (NICCC), Joy McGlynn (Tusla), Kate Levey (DCYA), Jim Walsh (DoH), Karl Mitchell (DCC), Noel Wardick (NICCC), Ursula Donnellan (DCC/Programme Office), David Leavey (DoT/Programme Office), Michael O’Riordan (Programme Office)
Apologies: Feargal O’Rourke (PwC), Brendan Kenny (DCC), Mary Keenan (DoT) Mary Cregg (DES), Noel Hand (DEASP), Donal Cassidy (HSE)

Minutes of previous meeting:

Proposed: Karl Mitchell (DCC)

Seconded: Paddy Murdiff (NICCC)

1. Community Update:

- Sean McDermott St. Swimming Pool – this is a valued facility in the area and a number of local organisations are enquiring as to when it might re-open. The DCC rep undertook to have a report for the next meeting.
- Pilot Social Employment Fund – this has proved to be a good success and the workers are providing very valuable support to groups in the community. An update on the future of the pilot SEF was requested as community groups are concerned they might lose the workers.
- Lourdes Youth and Community Services, LYCS – this group are looking for new premises. They are in the process of moving out of Connolly House as space is required to accommodate students from Marino College due to renovation works. While discussions are ongoing with the CDET on this matter the community rep noted the importance for this group of having a stable premises and asked members of the PIB to contact them if anyone knew of a suitable location that may be available.
- The community rep suggested that the Chair consider including a rep on the PIB from the new Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. The Chair advised that he does not intend to increase the size of the PIB he will ask that a rep from this department be included on Subgroup 2 – Maximising Education, Training and employment opportunities.
- The recent eviction in the Phibsboro area, while not in the NEIC area, was mentioned as a cause of concern by the community rep.
- Liberty Park – An Interim report has been submitted to the Programme Office and has been circulated. The research is progressing, there is a 65% return rate to the survey from the local authority housing complexes. The steering group are continuing to meet with the researcher to discuss how the consultation process can continue while ensuring the COVID-19 restrictions are maintained.
- Halloween “*Big SCREAM*” Festival

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- A process of engagement with local groups and youth services has been initiated by Dublin City Community Coop. (DCCC). There has been good engagement by all with this process to date.
- Time is being invested in the planning process but is proving difficult due to the COVID-19 restrictions.
- All involved are aware of the bigger social objectives of the “*Big Scream*” festival.
- There is a limit to the corporate risk the DCCC are willing to take.
- The issue of motorised scooters using the footpath and the dangers posed to pedestrians was raised. It was noted that it is particularly bad in the Summerhill area. The Garda rep advised that they would initiate action to deter this activity.

2. Principal’s Network

- The programme office has been in contact with all school principals to offer support, if needed, to ensure a safe return to school.
- Schools, in general, reported they had received adequate support from DES to enable them to return to school.
- Plans are well advanced in all schools to enable students to return.
- The Chair requested that contact be maintained with schools.

3. Subgroup Reports:

Subgroup 6:

- Action 17 – *Drive integrated service delivery in the youth sector* – this is on track to being delivered within the agreed timeframe.
- Action 18 – *City Connects Programme*
 - Programme Manager has been recruited. Interviews are ongoing for programme coordinators and will be completed by 28th August 2020.
 - Originally planned for these staff members to be located in local schools but due to COVID-19 regulations space is now at a premium in schools. There may be accommodation available in schools for the coordinators and the preference is to have the Programme Manager located in the area also.
 - 7 staff have been recruited by the HSE to provide Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy and Psychology services in the area – location and space are a challenge with this group also.
 - Ideally all these workers would be co-located.
- Action 19 - *Build on Executive leadership proposals I*- The Liberty Park research is underway and due to be completed in November 2020.
- Action 20 – *Ensure quality and uptake of early year’s childcare provision* – Discussions are ongoing with Early Years section in DCYA re progressing this action. A funding proposal is being developed by Dublin City Childcare Committee (DCCC) and is expected to be presented for consideration to subgroup 6 at its next meeting.

The Board were advised that Ms Bernie McNally is the A Sec. in DCYA with responsibility for early Years.

Subgroup 3:

- The subgroup discussed 3 proposals at its meeting:
 - Community Case Management (CCM):
 - 3 submissions were received in response to the tender that was advertised.

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- Following the evaluation process the EXTERN proposal was selected for progressing.
- This proposal was discussed by the subgroup – some concerns were expressed by the group members, in terms of sustainability, recruitment time and the voluntary aspect of family engagement.
- Despite these concerns the group agreed to forward the proposal to the Budget Group for consideration.
- As there was no scheduled Budget Group meeting in August the proposal was circulated by email to the group members for consideration. As there were some further areas for clarification raised, it was agreed that this proposal will be held until the next Budget Group meeting.
- Restorative Practice:
 - This proposal was returned to the proposers for amendment – the group felt it needed to reflect the impact that previous funding of this nature had over the entire period and plans for mainstreaming.
- Fast-Track Counselling:
 - The group were advised that funding provided earlier in 2020 has almost depleted.
 - There are still requests for a service and there is a concern on effect if provision was withdrawn.
 - YPAR have been requested to reconfigure the proposal and resubmit with costing to the end of the year.
 - Efforts are ongoing in relation to having this service mainstreamed.

Subgroup 5:

- Community Health Initiative – two submissions have been received in response to the tender document. The evaluation panel is due to meet in early September.
- Community Addiction Assessment Unit – the group had a brief overview on the CAU and it was confirmed the start date is 7th September.
- A survey of Drugs and Alcohol services in the area has been completed. A report will be available for the next meeting.
- The Stabilisation Unit has reconfigured and its capacity has increased from 6 to 9 beds. It was confirmed that all those receiving treatment are from the NEIC area.
- September is Recovery Month – a series of events are planned. The link to the calendar of events is <http://www.nicdatf.ie/recovery-month-calendar-2020/>
This link is available on the NEIC website.
- 31st August is International Overdose Awareness day – the theme chosen for 2020 is “*Time to Remember, Time to Act*”
- The subgroup chair advised that it may not be possible to progress some of the items in the Action Plan in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Subgroup 1:

- Operations Center and Cribbage are ongoing and will continue into the future.
- Action will be taken in relation to the motorised scooters on footpaths.
- Royal Canal Cycleway:
 - There is a Garda presence on the cycleway
 - CCTV is operational and the images being received in Store Street are of a high quality.

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- Despite the media reports, no incidents have been reported to the Gardaí.
- A recent attempt to damage one of the CCTV cameras was unsuccessful. The camera suffered no damage.
- Halloween – a collaborative, with Dublin City Council, to ensure a safe Halloween will commence in the coming weeks. The Gardaí and Dublin City Council request that all community groups discourage bonfires.
- A meeting with residents from the Ballybough area is scheduled for Thursday 27th August.
- The Chair thanked the Gardaí for their support in assisting schools to reopen.
- He noted his concern in relation to some recent attempts to intimidate workers going about their duties and asked that measures be taken to prevent this.
- He noted his concern in relation to Halloween and asked that all the relevant agencies and community groups work in close cooperation to ensure a safe festival for all.

- The contact details for reporting incidents:
Phone – 01 666 8000 Email – dmr.northcentral.community@garda.ie
- **Subgroup 4:**
- **Royal Canal Cycleway :**
 - A soft launch involving local groups has been deferred due to COVID-19 restrictions. An alternative to the planned event to be agreed and organised.
 - The cycleway was designed for free cycling but as this enables access for quad bikes, scramblers some redesign is being undertaken to prevent access for these devices.
 - Following discussions with design engineers and feedback from local residents some additional fencing will be installed along the route.
 - The target date for completion of these works is end of October 2020.
- **Litter /Dumping:**
 - Dublin City Council (DCC) have recommenced night collections in the area
 - Overtime for waste management crews has been approved to enable rubbish collections at weekends.
 - DCC are seeking further support from community groups to initiate local clean-ups.
- **Weeding:**
 - A contractor has been appointed to undertake a weeding process using an environmentally friendly hot foam wash method.
 - 29 extra streets in the NEIC have been added to the original programme for weeding.
- The official opening of the refurbished St Mary's Mansions is scheduled for 8th September 2020 which will provide 83 new homes
- A clean up of Railway St is planned with the replacement of some light standards and upgrading of lights in Liberty Park. Some street art and planting in this area is also planned.
- **Greening Strategy:**
 - 15 projects are underway
 - New green area has been installed at junction of Sean McDermott St and James Joyce St.
 - The schematic for tree planting on Sean McDermott St will be available in the coming days.
 - Contractor has been appointed to commence work on the Summerhill median.
 - Tree planting to commence on SpringGarden St. – *The Green Ribbon* will maintain the trees and associated planting.
- 10 playgrounds in the area have been upgraded.

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- Swimming Pool – an engineer’s report on the swimming pool has been commissioned by DCC. An update will be provided by the DCC rep for the Board members.
- Seville Place – a number of premises that had been a cause of concern have been vacated and are back in the ownership of the receiver. All the occupants were offered alternative accommodation. The HSE were on site to assist occupants when the premises were being vacated.

4. Funding Proposal

- A funding proposal from Sub Group 6 – *Creating an Integrated System of Social Work* was presented to the PIB members for consideration.
- The title of the application is “Young Leaders for Active Citizenship in North East Inner City” and the objective is to increase capacity of the participants to act as resilient active citizens/leaders with practice that is underpinned by inclusion, participation and equality. The programme will be delivered by the Community Action Network (CAN)
- The proposal had been considered and recommended by the Budget Group at its meeting in July 2020.
- The application was approved in the amount of **€40,350**.
Proposed: Joy McGlynn
Seconded: Noel Wardick
- The criteria for accessing the *Emerging Needs Fund* has been circulated to all the Community Groups by the Dublin City Community Cooperative. €27,651.03 has been allocated from the fund to local groups on foot of the applications submitted for community grants on the recommendation of the evaluation panel.

Total Funds approved by the NEIC PIB to date for 2020 - €5,570, 651.76

5. A.O.B

- It was noted by the community rep that there has been an increase in numbers of members of the Roma community calling to the office to access the DCCC Roma Programme. An appointment system for callers has been introduced. A number of people are accessing jobs though language continues to be an issue.

The Tusla rep noted that there has been increased reports of Roma families sleeping rough but they do not have confirmation of this.

The DoH rep advised that a series of posters targeted at advising the Roma community on access to public services has been produced and requested that it be circulated to the NEIC stakeholders.

- The Chair noted a number of positive litter and local clean up initiatives by community groups in the South Inner City and enquired of the community rep if it would be possible to organise similar in this area.

The community rep advised that Dublin City Council had written to the Dublin City Community Co-op on this matter. The groups in the South Inner City are all members of the coop. A meeting has been arranged with Co-op member groups to discuss similar initiatives for the North East Inner City.

Next meeting:
Venue:

Wednesday 30th September 2020 @ 8.00am
via ZOOM video link.

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Summary of agreed actions for next meeting:

What	Who
Circulate posters on access to public services for Roma	Programme Office
Follow-up on CCTV installation on Royal Canal Cycleway	DCC/Programme Office
Arrange meeting with An Garda Síochána	Programme Office/DCC/AGS
Update on Swimming Pool	DCC
Discuss Dept. further + Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science rep for SG2	Programme Office/ DoT