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| **Location: via ZOOM Videoconference** |
| **Time and date:** 8am, 26th May 2021 |
| **Attendance:** Chair – Michael Stone, Brendan Kenny (DCC), Chief Superintendent Paddy McMenamin (An Garda Síochána), Noel Hand (DSP), Paddy Murdiff (NICCC), Joy McGlynn (Tusla), Jim Walsh (DoH), Mary Keenan (DoT), Noel Wardick (NICCC), Donal Cassidy (HSE), Kate Levey (DCEDIY), Karl Mitchell (DCC), Mary Cregg (DE), David Leavey (DoT/Programme Office), Michael O’Riordan (Programme Office). |
| **Apologies:** Superintendent Paul Costello (An Garda Síochána), Feargal O’Rourke (PwC), Ursula Donnellan (DCC/Programme Office) |
| **Presenters:** Anne-Marie Brooks (DCEDIY), Mark Considine (DCEDIY) |
| **Observers:** Maria Tyrrell (Larkin Unemployed Centre), Sarah Kelleher (Lourdes Youth and Community Service) |

The Chair welcomed Anne-Marie Brooks (DECEIY), Mark Considine (DECDIY) Maria Tyrrell (LUC) and Sarah Kelleher (LYCS) to the meeting.

Anne-Marie Brooks and Mark Considine presented to the group on the National Childcare Scheme.

The rep from LYCS noted that all community childcare providers are concerned about the proposed business model. Concern was expressed that in accepting “sponsored” children, who generally had additional needs, providers would lose money. The rep from LYCS contended that the cost that has been set by the Department is below the base cost of childcare providers. As a result, LYCS may have to make a call on whether they will accept any additional sponsored children into their service.

The DCEDIY reps advised that there is an expert group working towards the development of a DEIS type model for early learning settings. Childcare providers can avail of the *Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme*, (EWSS), which can cover up to 50% of staff costs and provide for 50 of operating costs. Sustainability funding is available via POBAL and providers should consider making application for this to assist with costs.

The LUC rep advised that childcare services operating in the area typically have capacity for 40 children (FTE), and they are generally not very large services. The providers are focused on ensuring positive outcomes for children. Traditionally providers have relied on labour market programmes (Community Employment, Jobs Initiative, etc.) – this results in the full costs of services not being seen. The HSE Early Intervention Team currently have a large waiting list for services – this is matter of concern. Overall it is felt by community providers that the National Childcare Scheme model as currently proposed will not work in the NEIC.

The Chair asked the DCEDIY reps to engage with local community childcare providers, to consider the points that had been raised, and to work towards a solution that would provide for the best interest of children in the area.

The DCEDIY rep advised that there is a Sector Profile being undertaken at present and encouraged participation by all the community childcare providers in this process.

The Chair thanked the presenters for the presentation and the observers for their input.

**Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the April 2021 meeting were approved.

**Proposed:** Paddy Murdiff (NICCC)

**Seconded:** Mary Keenan (DoT)

1. **Community Update**

* The community reps thanked the DCEDIY officials for their presentation but noted that nothing that was said alleviates the situation of the community childcare providers who are two years dealing with this issue. The closure of any community childcare facility would have serious consequences. The Board was urged to consider how best to ensure that organisations do not close. Financial support from the Board should be considered to ensure continuation of these services. Some assurance was sought that no organisation will close in September due to the introduction of the new scheme.

The DCEDIY rep. advised that sustainability funding is available via POBAL and encouraged providers to make application to access these funds.

The Tusla rep. restated her concern if community childcare providers decide not to accept sponsored children into their services. These are the most vulnerable children and very much in need of support.

The Chair advised that he will raise the matter at the next NEIC Oversight Group meeting.

* The Liberty Park Residents Group met with reps from DCC and the NEIC Programme Office. It was a positive meeting and some steps on moving forward have been agreed.
* The NICCC convenors group had a very positive meeting with the Local Community Safety Partnership coordinator and the group were very encouraged by it.
* Local Employment Service – concerns were expressed that the model that may be proposed might prove challenging for the continuance of the service by the current provider. The community rep also advised the meeting that they did not accept the Attorney General’s advice that a tender process is necessary.
* The Healthy Communities Project continues to operate – a presentation will be made by the project coordinator to NEIC SG5 at its next meeting.
* Dublin City Community Coop have hired an Integration Coordinator – Bronwyn April. She will link with Joy Eniola, NEIC Intercultural Development Coordinator.
* Sean McDermott St. swimming pool - the refurbishment and reopening of the swimming pool continues to be a high priority for the community.
* NEIC Community Grants 2021 – the information on the scheme has been shared with all the coalition member groups.
* The DCEDIY rep advised the Board that there was a meeting and engagement with the YPAR early years group in relation to a proposal that was submitted to SG6. Some amendments have been discussed and a revised proposal is due to be submitted for consideration.
* YPAR Early Years Group – this group is keen to commence work on the development of a proposal for early years’ provision in the NEIC and have requested support from PwC in this regard.

The Programme Office advised that the request for support for YPAR had been forwarded to PwC and that further enquiries will be made on this.

* HSE Multi-Disciplinary Team – the community rep. queried if this team would be working during the summer months.

The Programme Office advised that the proposal that has been approved by the PiB for the HSE Multi-Disciplinary Team was based on this team continuing to operate through the summer months.

1. **Department of Social Protection update:**

* External contract services – it is envisaged that there will be a call for tenders for local employment service provision in the 2nd half of 2020. Currently there are two providers providing external contract services in the area on behalf of the Department of Social Protection - St Andrews/ICRG and JobCare.
* Construction Skills course – training programme started on 24th May.
  + 21 attended recruitment briefing
  + 10 started on the training programme.
  + It is planned to run 10 programmes in 2021.
  + Intreo Centre Parnell St – open daily from 10am to 1pm. An appointment is required to access the office in the afternoon.
  + Contacts with PUP recipients is due to commence at the start of June – initially with the U25’s. The LES are available to support clients when the information from the Jobseeker survey is finialised.
  + DSP Employer Engagement Team are engaging with employers to identify employment opportunities and inspectors are out visiting local businesses.
  + Job Seeker survey has been completed. Of the respondents:
    - 1% indicated that they had no formal education
    - 20% have 3rd level degree.
    - 40% of respondents are unemployed (23% in the last 12 months)
    - Driving, digital skills and construction skills are the highest areas of interest that respondents indicated they would like to receive training in.

The next step, in line with the SG2 action plan, is to engage with the CDETB re the provision of training.

* DSP are planning to hold a Jobs Fair in July/August – currently considering this as an online event.

The Chair noted the importance of ensuring that employment support services are maintained in the local area and that the groups currently providing good services are supported.

The Chair requested that the community reps ensure that the information on the construction skills programme is passed to community groups and to encourage local job seekers to participate on the training programme.

1. **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.

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| **Subgroup** | **Project** | **Amount** | **Funding Recipient** | **Decision** |
| **Subgroup 2** | Childcare CPD Training Bursary | €41,200 | Funding to be administered via the Programme Office. | **Approved** |
| **Subgroup 2** | Career LEAP | €79,697 | TCD | **Approved** |
| **Subgroup 4** | Green Ribbon | €146,000 | Funding to be administered by Dublin City Council for transfer to Sunflower recycling. | **Approved** |
| **Subgroup 5** | Community Aftercare programme to meet the critical health and social care needs of offenders upon release from prison. | €90,000 | TBC – after a commissioning process | **Approved** |
| **Total** |  | **€356,897** |  |  |

**Total funds approved by the NEIC PIB to date for 2021 - €5,118,593**

**Proposed:** Paddy Murdiff (NICCC)

**Seconded:** Joy McGlynn (Tusla)

* It was noted that the closing date for applications for the NEIC Community Grants scheme is 31st May 2021.

1. **Subgroup Reports:**

**Subgroup 1:**

* The designated Inspector with responsibility for the Drug Related Intimidation Reporting Programme has distributed an information leaflet on the programme to groups in the area. The leaflet has been followed up with contact by the inspector with the groups. This engagement will be ongoing.
* A dedicated and monitored email for notification of DRI has been established – [DMRNothCentral.dri@garda.ie](mailto:DMRNothCentral.dri@garda.ie)
* Community issues raised at the subgroup included – motorised scooters on footpaths, groups congregating. There will be a focussed placed on these issues.
* There were 40 drug incidents in the last month resulting in 43 arrests.
* A number of seizures have taken places in the last month resulting in the capture of cash and drugs.
* A conviction has been secured in relation to a fatal driving incident in August 2020.
* A charge has been brought in a fatal stabbing case that occurred in January 2021.
* The process of establishing a *Neighbourhood Watch* in the East Wall area has commenced.
* Discussions are underway to establish a *Business Watch* in the IFSC area.
* The Garda Youth Awards judging panel have completed their work – the recipients of the awards will be announced presently.
* Operations Cribbage and Canter are ongoing and continue to produce results.
* There were 70 public order incidents during the month that resulted in 300 arrests.

The DoH rep. queried if those involved in the public order incidents were from the area or people who had come in from other parts of the city. The Board were advised that they are local residents in the main.

The Chair noted that reports of on street dealing in the Rutland Street area are consistently raised by community reps. and at community meetings and requested that this issue be given some attention. The Chief Superintendent undertook to increase patrols in that area.

* The contact details for reporting incidents:

**Phone – 01 666 8000 Email –** [**DMR.northcentral.community@garda.ie**](mailto:DMR.northcentral.community@garda.ie)

**Subgroup 2:**

* **T**he potential for increased alignment of admission processes for the NEIC secondary schools will discussed with Principals at the forthcoming Principals’ Network meeting.
* The subgroup will have a presentation from the National Council for Special Education at its next meeting. This will include reference to the Social Inclusion Model pilot that is currently running.
* The Translation Service provision is being used by schools and is well received.
* A submission was made to the consultation process on SUSI grants regarding eligibility for grants for those participating on part-time courses. It was noted that the Citizens’ Assembly also recently recommended that policy change.
* There has been an increase in members from the Roma community in the *Business in the Community’s* “Time to Read” programme.
* Stats. received from the CV preparation service provider show that there is a month on month increase uptake of the service.
* DE recently announced an expansion of the summer provision for students – this will be highlighted at the Principals’ Network meeting and all schools in the NEIC will be encouraged to participate.
* It was noted that the NEIC Work Experience & Flash Mentoring Initiative was placed 2nd in the Best Education Outreach Award category at the Education Awards.
* P-TECH – the Chair enquired as to the possibility of expanding this initiative to the 3 secondary schools currently not included in the initiative. The DE rep. advised that costs for expansion would have to be considered as part of a submission in the 2022 budget estimates as they had been advised there would be no additional funding available via the PIB for the initiative.

The chair of the Budget group provided clarification – advising that the current schools costs is the responsibility of DE but that a funding proposal to expand the initiative would be considered.

The Chair requested this be looked at harder and quicker as there are lots of positives – for students, schools and the businesses involved.

The DE rep noted there are other challenges to be take into consideration and we don’t want to put additional pressure on students with additional subjects etc.

The Chair noted that from his discussions the other schools are very keen to be involved.

**Subgroup 3:**

* The Tusla rep. advised that their IT systems have been significantly impacted by the malware/cyber-attack on the HSE. The Tusla Portal which usually receives referrals is not operating and so referrals need to be made by telephone.  The number to call to make a referral is ***01-8567704*** and speak to a Duty Social Worker. This message has been circulated by the NEIC Programme Office to everyone on the mailing list.
* The Tusla rep thanked colleagues for their support during this challenging time and particularly the members of An Garda SÍochána and staff in the schools.
* The Early Learning Initiative (ELI), National College of Ireland are hosting the NEIC Restorative Practice Webinar on Thursday 10th June 2021 at 12 noon. The ELI have been supporting the roll out of restorative practice (RP) across Dublin’s North East Inner City for the last number of years. The aim is to support the community to develop positive interpersonal relationships and have the skills to resolve conflict restoratively. While a lot has been done, we are now taking stock and developing a strategy for the future. This webinar is part of the development of a strategy for the future.
* Despite a number of discussions, no progress has been made to access funding to sustain the Fast Track Counselling Initiative for young people. Budgets with the HSE have been agreed for 2021 and there is no room for movement in these.
* Parent Support Coordinator: The recruitment process for this position is underway.
* The Tusla rep expressed concern that if community providers were not going to accept sponsored children there would be no way that Tusla would be able to meet the demands and needs of children.

**Subgroup 4:**

* Communications strategy for SG4 - A report from Legacy Communications has been received and will be discussed at the June Subgroup meeting. The document is comprehensive and it was agreed to defer decision of the next steps until members have an opportunity to review and give full consideration to the contents.
* Healthy Communities – the subgroup received an update on the Healthy Communities Project and the key programmes currently underway i.e. Smoking Cessation ‘We can Quit’; Healthy Food and Social Prescribing. It was noted that the Healthy Communities Project is reporting into Sub-Group 5 but that updates will be provided regularly to SG4 under the Community Wellbeing heading.
* Community Arts Programme – The co-ordinator contract for services has been advertised with a closing date of 28th May.
* A funding application has been submitted to the Arts Council, Creative Place Award open call.
* Sean MacDermott St. Swimming Pool - the DCC rep. noted that there has been a lot of inaccurate information in circulation concerning the swimming pool. The pool requires extensive work to be undertaken on the pool and the building. A tender document for the works is currently being prepared. It is envisaged that a contractor will be on site end Q4 2021, works to complete early Q2 2022.

Until the works have been completed and the Sean McDermott St swimming pool re-opens, an agreement has been reached to accommodate school and other previous user groups in the Markievicz Leisure Centre. Details of this arrangement will be circulated to all relevant groups.

* Intercultural Ambassadors Launch **–** The NEIC Intercultural Ambassadors induction programme has been completed. The a media launch that was planned for Friday 21st May to coincide with [UN World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development](https://www.un.org/en/observances/cultural-diversity-day) but was cancelled due to inclement weather will take place with Lord Mayor of Dublin Hazel Chu, in Mountjoy Sq. Park at 9:30 a.m. on Friday 28th June.
* As part of the ***City Recovery*** initiative a number of sites are being considered for the installation of public toilet facilities. The Chair requested the DCC rep to include some locations in the NEIC as part of this plan.
* Royal Canal Cycleway - The Chair asked for an update on the next phase of the cycleway. He noted the need to maintain a strong focus on the positive aspects on cycleway from Sheriff St to the North Strand. The DCC rep. agreed to forward an update to the Chair.

**Subgroup 5:**

* Community aftercare programme for offenders – There is a lot of support from the Irish Prison and Irish Probation Services for this proposal. The Health Services element will be picked up by the HSE; and the case manager and counselling services components will be commissioned. The first 4-6 weeks post release is the critical period of time in question for getting people mainstreamed into the existing support services to create a continuity of medical care that may have been established while in prison. The counselling aspect is specific to the services and goal orientated rather than a therapeutic relationship, which could be subsequently referred on to other services.
* Healthy Communities Project - the subgroup will have a presentation on the work undertaken to date at its next meeting. The Dept. of Health have launched its *Healthy Ireland Action Plan*, one of the initiatives is to roll out a Healthy Communities Program nationally and this will start with a focus on disadvantaged areas. We will be looking to align the NEIC project with this.
* Anti-Stigma Proposal - A pilot Anti-Stigma Training Programme took place in February 2021, the evaluation of the pilot which was carried out by Professor Catherine Comiskey and her team in Trinity College will be launched on the 14th June. The training programme aims to support services to become more aware of the impact of stigma, and in particular drug-related stigma, and to take practical steps towards becoming Anti-Stigma Services – a proposal to implement this in services in the NEIC will be considered by the subgroup.
* Drug deaths prevention – a proposal in relation to preventing drug deaths is being considered by the subgroup.
* HRB review of drug treatment services for people who are homeless – the review endorses a case management approach similar to that being implemented in the NEIC. The good work that has been undertaken with those that are homeless during the Level 5 lockdowns was acknowledged.

The Chair advised that he intends to raise the high level of homeless accommodation in the NEIC area and the pressure it causes on services at the NEIC Oversight Group meeting.

The Tusla rep. noted that this area has the highest level of children in care, the highest level of referrals to Tusla and the highest number of people in care plans – all of which puts pressure on services.

**Subgroup 6:**

* The research for the *NEC Youth Service Alignment Plan* is ongoing, an update will be available for discussion at the June SG6 meeting. The engagement with all youth service providers has been positive.
* City Connects – recruitment of the approved two additional coordinator posts and one post to replace a coordinator who is returning to their school post, is underway.

1,633 students have been reviewed to date as part of the Whole Class Review process.

96% of Parental Involvement Forms have been returned, the remaining 4% are being actively followed up.

* Following a meeting with YPAR and DCEDIY in early May and number of changes to the original proposal have been agreed. A revised proposal is expected to be submitted for consideration by SG6 at its June meeting.

The proposal is to undertake a piece of research to scope the current services to children (antenatal to 5years) and supports in the North East Inner City and carry out a comprehensive analysis of the demand and supply, its current resource needs and service capacity deficiencies. On the basis of this review, the research will identify gaps and opportunities to enhance service and supports to children within the NEIC area.

* The DCEDIY rep. expressed concern that local childcare providers may decide not to accept sponsored children following the introduction of the New Childcare Scheme.

The Chair noted that this is a very emotive issue and that the PIB will play its part to resolve the issues that have been raised.

* The DCEDIY noted that a presentation on City Connects is being prepared for the June PIB meeting. The Chair noted that he would like the City Connects manager to deliver the presentation and that 20 mins will be set aside at the meeting for it.

1. **Communication and Social Media update:**

* 35 items were posted to the NEIC website during April, these included:
  + Generation Tech – COVID-19 Tech help for older people;
  + The Cavan Centre Day Trips Programme 2021;
  + The NEIC Sports and Wellbeing Summer 2021 Programme;
  + Regularly updated information on COVID-19 Drop-in Test Centres;
  + Online Parenting Courses;
  + An invitation for applications for both the NEIC Parenting Programme Co-ordinator and the NEIC Community Arts Co-ordinator posts; and
  + Details on the expansion of summer provision for pupils with complex special educational needs.
* Website stats for April
  + 2,266 visits to the website - 75% are new users which is a 33% increase in performance at the same point in 2020.
* A new contract has been agreed with Together Digital to produce 6 videos and run 6 competitions throughout 2021. A meeting was held with Together Digital to discuss future video content roll-out.
* The next video will mark the 80th Anniversary of the North Strand bombings and will be available on Friday May 28th.
* A meeting was held with Together Digital to advance work on the website redesign.
* The [*NEIC Communications and Engagement Survey*](https://www.surveymonkey.com/summary/KU9nI1xEtHtOuPM469qK6Xaq2wMuexzaTo2Yk4UXvpakwvGXXILBogbfGNCs4fQO?ut_source=dashboard) has now issued to all members of the PIB and subgroups – all were encouraged to complete the survey.
* A new NEIC Newsletter is being delivered to all homes in the area. It includes features on:
  + The Local Community Safety Partnership
  + The Healthy Communities Project
  + Mud Island
  + SWAN Youth Services
  + The NEIC Flash Mentoring and virtual TY work experience programme

1. **AOB:**

* The 2021 Community Grant scheme is advertised and open for applications. The closing date for applications is 31st May 2021.
* PwC are providing some assistance*, pro bono*, on branding and communications.

The Chair advised that there may be a need to fund the cost of some communications pieces and that he would keep the PIB advised on this.

**Next meeting: Wednesday 30th June 2021 @ 8.00am**

**Venue: ZOOM**

**Summary of agreed actions for next meeting:**

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| **What** | **Who** |
| Circulate copy of DCEDIY presentation on the National Childcare Scheme to the PIB members. | Programme Office |
| Circulate details re the use of the facilities for swimming in Markievicz Leisure Centre to all schools and user groups. | DCC/Programme Office |
| Provide update on Phase 3 of Royal Canal Cycleway. | DCC |