

## North East Inner City Initiative Programme Implementation Board

<b>Location: via ZOOM Videoconference</b>
<b>Time and date:</b> 8am, 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2020
<b>Attendance:</b> Chair – Michael Stone, Chief Superintendent Paddy McMenamin (An Garda Síochána), Superintendent Paul Costello (An Garda Síochána), Paddy Murdoff (NICCC), Brendan Kenny (DCC), Joy McGlynn (Tusla), Jim Walsh (DoH), Mary Keenan (DoT), Noel Wardick (NICCC), Feargal O'Rourke (PwC), Donal Cassidy (HSE), Ursula Donnellan (DCC/Programme Office), David Leavey (DoT/Programme Office), Michael O'Riordan (Programme Office).
<b>Apologies:</b> Kate Levey (DCEDIY), Karl Mitchell (DCC), Mary Cregg (DoE), Noel Hand (DSP)

### **Minutes of previous meeting:**

**Proposed:** Joy McGlynn (Tusla)

**Seconded:** Mary Keenan (DoT)

### **1. HSE Update:**

- All HSE Services are open and operational.
- Dedicated COVID-19 teams have been recruited.
- Recent increase in COVID-19 numbers will put additional pressure on services.
- A major focus for the HSE in 2021 will be the rollout of vaccination programme. This may have an impact on services locally.
- The HSE winter plan is in place with relevant contact numbers etc. A copy will be forwarded to the Programme Office for circulation to all stakeholders and for uploading on social media platforms.

FastTrack Counselling – it was noted that support for Over 12's is provided via Crosscare through Teen Counselling. Those under 12 are supported via a panel of counsellors. Crosscare have been approached with the aim of them dealing with all referrals. When a reply is received a proposal to divide the cost between HSE Primary Care, HSE Mental Health and Tusla will be developed. Interim funding may be required from NEIC PIB and, if so, a submission will be made to the Budget Group.

### **2. Community Update:**

- Santa's Tour of the NEIC, a part of the "*The BIG Cheer Festival*", took place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec and proved to be a great success. The community rep thanked An Garda Síochána, for their support at the event.
- A report from the programme director of "*The BIG Cheer Festival*" has been received and will be circulated to the PIB members. Over all the Festival has been a success and very well received by the local residents.
- Local Community Safety Partnership – it was noted that the posts to support this pilot project have been advertised by Dublin City Council. The community are awaiting an announcement on the appointment of the Chairperson.
- Healthy Communities Initiative – Ms Catherine Heaney, is the successful candidate for the Programme Coordinator position and will take up position in January 2021. The community worker

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positions have been advertised and interviews have been completed. Appointments are expected presently.

- The *Liberty Park Action Plan* (final report) has been circulated to the PIB members. The next step is to agree the elements of the report for implementation.
- Sheriff St – A clean-up day was held on 9<sup>th</sup> December organised jointly by the Dublin City Community Coop and the North Wall Community Development Programme – photos of the day will be circulated to the PIB members.
- The Dublin City Community Coop indicated they are very willing to support the HSE in the dissemination of information re the rollout of a vaccination programme
- The community reps thanked the Chair and the PIB members for their support during 2020.

### **3. Business Update**

- PwC continue to assist some local community groups with the development of their business and strategic plans and other group with the applications for charitable status. The meeting was advised that PwC have developed two teams around these area and are available and willing to assist other groups involved in similar tasks.
- Preparation for a virtual TY programme for students in the local schools is ongoing and a meeting with TY coordinators and other relevant parties has taken place.
- The Flash Mentoring programme is ongoing.
- PwC will engage with the Subgroup Chairs in January to discuss and agree strategic priorities for 2021.
- The engagement of a programme manager is to be considered.

### **4. Subgroup Reports:**

#### **Subgroup 6:**

- The December meeting was dedicated to progressing Action 20 to produce a proposal to address some of the issues affecting the early year's sector in the NEIC. The meeting took the form of a consultation and included a range of providers and those with a good knowledge of the issues.
- The meeting provided a forum for an engaged discussion among the attendees – a number of priorities were identified and the YPAR 0-5 working group are to produce a proposal for consideration by the subgroup members.
- City Connects – the GDPR issues have been resolved which will enable the whole class reviews to determine student needs and associated referrals for services to commence in January.
- The interim IT system that is in place allows the programme to progress but the focus now shifts to the development of a permanent IT structure.

#### **Subgroup 5:**

- The Recovery Academy in the process of finalising arrangements with the host groups for the two Internship participants.
- The group had a presentation on the HSE's Alcohol Plan for the area – a team is being recruited and hopefully will be in place in the near future.

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- Drug Treatment Court – this is an alternative to prison. Agreement has been reached to enable the Case Management Team located in the Inclusion Health Hub to link with the Drugs Treatment Court in relation to residents of the NEIC or people who are homeless in the NEIC.
- SAOL are developing a training programme in relation to the stigma attached to addiction.
- The subgroup Chair has a meeting planned with the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce (NICDATF) for January 2021 to discuss progress on the various drugs projects/services that are funded. It was noted that no progress has been made to date by NICDATF on locating a new premises.

### Subgroup 4:

- The groups' regular meeting was suspended in place of a discussion on how to better communicate the work that is being undertaken by the group.
- Representatives from Media Consult and LEGACY attended to discuss how to develop and implement a more structured and targeted communication strategy.
- Among the items that will need to be communicated to the residents include the redevelopment of Rutland Street School and the development of a sports hub.
- A proposal will be prepared for consideration by the group in January 2021.
- The PIB Chair asked that consideration be given to widening the SG4 discussion to develop a proposal for communication for the NEIC Initiative as a whole.
- It was noted that the tree planting on Sean MacDermott Street is ongoing. All trees, with one exception, have been planted. Discussions are ongoing with one resident on the outstanding tree pit.
- The community reps commented that the planting on the Summerhill median is a big improvement on what was previously in place.

### Subgroup 3:

- There was a reduced number of participants at the December meeting as it was held at the same time as the SG6 discussion on early years and some of the members attended that.
- The City Connects programme manager attended and gave an overview of the programme and the work undertaken to date. It was noted that City Connects does not want to overlap Meitheal. To combat this the City Connects staff have met Meitheal workers and undertaken training in the process. The City Connects initiative was welcomed by the subgroup members and the opportunities it will provide for young people.
- Tusla will include the Ballybough U10 proposal into its existing SLA with Crosscare. It is envisaged that the service will be operational in February 2021.
- Community Case Management (CCM) – the issue with the preferred bidder to deliver the CCM has not yet been sorted. A decision will be made in January 2021 if whether we can proceed with this bidder or if we should move to one of the other bidders.
- A key objective for the group will be focus on parenting and build on the existing good supports that exist in the NEIC at present.

### Subgroup 2:

- Andrew Torrance, Department of Education, NEIC Education Initiatives Manager has joined the group.
- As previously noted the DPIA for City Connects has been finalised and agreed. Information letters and leaflets for parents are being prepared for issuing after the Christmas break.

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- A meeting regarding strengthening labour market opportunities for people leaving addiction services took place with the Chairs of SG2, SG5 and the DSP rep. The aim is to provide a job coach wrap-around service to link with existing supports for people leaving addiction services. A proposal is in development.
- CV service – DSP are working with the Local Employment Service to devise a way to deliver this support.
- A secondary school principal has been identified to join the subgroup.
- The Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science have indicated that they will appoint a representative onto the subgroup.
- Lourdes Youth and Community Service (LYCS) – funding has been confirmed by the CDETB to enable them to secure new accommodation.
- The subgroup Chair and Prog. Office rep attending a meeting with VHI to discuss the possibility of them providing some wellbeing support in the area. The VHI indicated that there may be a possibility of some clinical support being provided. A follow up meeting will be held in January to discuss further.
- The City Connects programme manager gave a presentation on the programme which was positively received. Concern was expressed by some members of the subgroup about the availability of after schools activity places.
- Action Plan – there was positive movement on action 3.1. While the employer survey element has been completed the jobseeker survey was delayed. DSP have advised that St Andrews are going to take on this piece of work. When completed the next phase will be connecting the findings of both surveys.
- The DSP rep confirmed that contact will be made by the Dept. with Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) recipients to enquire re their training needs etc. This process will be managed centrally by DSP rather than locally.  
The Chair expressed his concern re PUP recipients meeting and urged that this engagement be undertaken as soon as possible.

### Subgroup 1:

- AGS rep thanked the community reps for their comments and thanks.
- There has been ongoing engagement and patrolling with the City Centre shops reopening. Footfall in the city was estimated at about 80% of previous years.
- Overall it was reported that December has been a quiet month.
- There was a focus on community interactions during the month with the Community Support Van being deployed regularly throughout the area. Compliments were given to Dublin City Council for their *Winter Wonderland* light display in Mountjoy Square.
- A communications resource package has been put in place. Two Inspectors Charlie Armstrong and Emer Curran have been tasked with providing regular and improved communication throughout the area.
- Island Quay – investigations into the incident are ongoing good progress was reported on the investigation.
- Christmas Eve – there is a plan in place to deal with scramblers/quads/scooters in the area.
- New Year's Eve – a plan will be in place to deal with New Year's Eve given that regular organised events will not take place this year due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

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- Most categories of crime have seen a reduction in 2020 in the area. Drug and Public Order offences have increased.
- A query was raised in relation to the Adult Caution for possession of cannabis that has been introduced.

It was noted that the Adult Caution scheme was extended to include four more offences:

- simple possession of cannabis for personal use,
- trespass likely to cause fear,
- casual trading such as selling hats or scarves at a match,
- breaching a barrier at an event

People arrested for these offences can now be given the option of admitting the offence and accepting an Adult Caution.

It means the act will not be recorded as a criminal offence and will not have any detrimental effect on Garda vetting or visa applications.

The scheme is designed to give **first time minor offenders one chance** to avoid damaging their reputations or future prospects.

The DPP is looking to extend this to cover other drugs.

- The AGS rep noted that events such as the *BIG SCREAM* and the *BIG CHEER* increases the “feel-good” factor with people and there is a noticeable increase in positive interactions with residents and particularly young people.
- The community rep advised that the increased patrolling in the Summerhill area has calmed things down considerably. He thanked the Gardaí for their efforts.
- The contact details for reporting incidents:  
**Phone – 01 666 8000 Email – [dmr.northcentral.community@garda.ie](mailto:dmr.northcentral.community@garda.ie)**

### **5. Communication and Social Media update:**

- A new Christmas video has been released and is available on the website. It features members of Belvedere Youth Club and a rap that they created with local poet John Cummins over a number of weeks.
- If any member of the PIB has a suggestion of idea/suggestion for a future video they are encouraged to contact the Programme Office.
- Data from the Social Media channels has been received but it was reported that it is very technical and further explainers are required prior to it being circulated.
- It is intended to circulate the “2020 in Numbers” infographic from the 2020 NEIC Progress Report to NEIC residents in January 2021.

### **6. Progress Report Launch:**

- The 2020 NEIC Progress Report is due to be launched at 3pm on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> in the LAB, 1 Foley Dublin 1.
- This will be a virtual event and attendees will be invited to join via a ZOOM link.

**Next meeting:            Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 @ 8.00am**  
**Venue:                    TBC**

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

<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>
Circulate the HSE Winter Plan	Programme Office
Circulate "Big Cheer" report and pictures of Sheriff St Clean-up day.	Programme Office