

North East Inner City Initiative Programme Implementation Board

Location: via ZOOM Videoconference
Time and date: 8am, 27 th January 2021
Attendance: Chair – Michael Stone, Chief Superintendent Paddy McMenamin (An Garda Síochána), Superintendent Paul Costello (An Garda Síochána), Paddy Murdiff (NICCC), Joy McGlynn (Tusla), Jim Walsh (DoH), Mary Keenan (DoT), Noel Wardick (NICCC), Feargal O'Rourke (PwC), Donal Cassidy (HSE), Kate Levey (DCEDIY), Karl Mitchell (DCC), Mary Cregg (DE), Noel Hand (DSP), Ursula Donnellan (DCC/Programme Office), David Leavey (DoT/Programme Office), Michael O'Riordan (Programme Office).
Apologies: Brendan Kenny (DCC)

Minutes of previous meeting:

Proposed: Paddy Murdiff (NICCC)

Seconded: Mary Keenan (DoT)

1. Community Update:

- Local Community Safety Partnership – it was noted that the posts to support this pilot project have been advertised. Noel Wardick (Dublin City Community Coop/NICCC) will be a community rep on the interview panel. The appointment of the independent Chair is awaited by the community in general.
- Healthy Communities Initiative – the programme has commenced. The Programme Coordinator started in her position on 11th January. The 3 community workers, all of whom are local to the area, stated in their roles on 26th January.
- The *Liberty Park Action Plan* (final report) has been circulated to the PIB members. A meeting is to be arranged between the steering group and the programme office to consider elements for implementation.
- A number of recent incidents involving anti-social behaviour was a concern for the community.
- Drugs Related Intimidation – it was noted that while the report made for bleak reading, it was welcomed by the community and they look forward to the relevant recommendations being implemented.
- The work of the local community groups and services continues but due to the COVID19 restrictions, on a remote basis.
- A number of Co-op members are due to meet with Minister O'Gorman to discuss concerns in relation to the National Childcare Scheme.
- The community reps reported that there appears to be an increase of the use of crack cocaine in the area.

2. Budget Group:

- John Cole (DCEDIY) joined the Budget Group as Chair of SG6.
- There was a general discussion re indicative funding requirements for each of the subgroups in 2021.
- It was agreed that a meeting to discuss services for 7 to 10 year olds in the NEIC, to include the relevant SG Chairs and interested community reps will be organised.

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- It was agreed that text illustrating the fact that more than just the €6.5million operational budget is required to operationalise the NEIC initiative. It was proposed that the fact that the Programme Office staff are seconded (with their salaries covered by their parent organisations) would be included in the Programme Office section of the 2021 NEIC Progress Report.
- A breakdown of all sources of funding for City Connects to date and for 2021 was requested
- Two 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 3	Fast track Counselling for U18s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim funding for 3 months 	€19,750	Approved
Subgroup 3	Parenting Coordinator - Approval sought to invite expressions of interest	€60,000	Approved
	Total	€79,750	

Total funds approved by the NEIC PIB to date for 2021 - €1,619,914

Proposed: Paddy Murdoff (NICCC)

Seconded: Kate Levey (DCEDIY)

3. DSP Update

- Employer survey – low level of engagement at present. Survey will be completed when COVID19 restrictions are eased.
- Job Seeker survey – this is being undertaken by St. Andrews LES. Engagement is via email and phone calls.
- Potential job vacancies in Dublin Port that had been notified to the PIB have not materialised to date, despite follow up efforts by DSP staff.
- Community Employment (CE) – a meeting with Minister Humphreys and the Minister of State O’Brien to discuss CE is planned
- A recruitment campaign for 4 CE projects in the NEIC, using short videos of the projects, was launched prior to Christmas. 750 individuals were contacted, 195 viewed the videos, 12 enquiries were received and 7 people indicated interest in participating. The recruitment campaign will continue.
 - The Chair expressed concern that only 7 expressions were received out of 750 individual that were contacted. CE schemes provide very valuable community services and the level of vacancies continues to be a concern.

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- The community rep noted that local organisations are very dependent on community employment for staff. He further noted that it is not viable, particularly for childcare providers, to be so dependent on CE participants. He queried the possibility of expanding the 30 hour initiative.
- The Board were advised that the immediate focus was on trying to get the existing SEF positions installed on a sustainable basis.
- The DSP rep noted that participation on CE is on a voluntary basis and that the community groups have a part to play in encouraging participation.
- It was noted that, in 2019, DSP convened a group to consider the social inclusion support strand. The report from this group was never published.
- The Chair undertook to have this item included on the agenda for next NEIC Oversight meeting.
- A bespoke arrangement has been put in place regarding the activation of jobseekers in the NEIC. Additional resources have been allocated to St. Andrews LES to enable them to undertake this work.
- DSP have also provided St Andrews LES with additional resources to undertake Individual Placement and Support (IPS) for people recovering from addiction.
 - The DoH rep noted that IPS is more than just activation – it utilises a similar approach to that taken in *Housing First*. A meeting has been organised for Friday 29th Jan with St Andrews LES to progress.
- Funding has been secured by DSP to enable St Andrews LES to run Construction Skills Programmes.
- PPSN– applications have moved totally online via *My Welfare* – this has caused some difficulties. Applications are currently being processed in 7 working days.
- PUP recipients – engagement with PUP recipients was due to commence in mid-January, but due to the increase in both PUP applications and PPSN applications the start date has been deferred. It is hoped to commence in mid-February.
- The DSP office in Gardiner St. is closed due to COVID19 – the public are being redirected to Kings Inn St.

4. Business Update

- A virtual TY work experience programme for students in the local schools is in development by PwC. Meetings have taken place with local schools to discuss and agree the programme. A meeting with TY coordinators and other relevant parties has also taken place. Discussions are progressing with other businesses to collaborate on delivery of the programme. It may be possible to share the virtual work experience module with civil and public service organisations – further follow up to take place on this.
- A meeting with subgroup Chairs and PwC staff has been arranged to commence process of developing Action Plans for 2021 under the NEIC Strategic Plan 2020 – 2022.
- The Flash Mentoring programme is ongoing.
- Following a request from the Chair, the business rep agreed to assist with the search for a suitable candidate to replace the current Local Drugs Taskforce Chairperson who is stepping down after 10 years in the role. The business rep requested a summary of the requirements for the role to be forwarded to him.
- A request was made for the business sector to consider funding the Coordinator role for the NEIC Work Experience and Flash Mentoring Programmes in order to put it on a sustainable footing. Further details of costings, etc. to be forwarded.

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5. Subgroup Reports:

Subgroup 3:

- Parenting Support – some progress has been made but this will remain a priority for 2021.
- Youth Mental Health – actions outstanding in mainstreaming of the fast-track counselling and the session on pathways into mental health services needs to take place..
- Community Case Management – pathway now clear to engage EXTERN to deliver the service. Due to current COVID19 restrictions it is not the right time to start this initiative. Start date will be time dependent on easing of COVID19 restrictions. The intervening time will be utilised to bring agencies together to discuss and agree referrals parameters and process.
- Restorative Practice (RP) - consideration required as to how to proceed. PIB has funded training for groups for a number of years and Belvedere YC has received some philanthropic funding to be an RP hub.
- 7 to 10 year olds – indications are that additional provision for this group will be required. Further discussions on current provision and supports and possible enhancements are required.

Subgroup 2:

- There are 3 new members on the subgroup: Andrew Torrance, Department of Education, NEIC Education Initiatives Manager; Stacy Cannon, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science; Liam Newell, Principal, O'Connell's Secondary School.
- The DPIA for City Connects has been agreed. Information packs and letters are being issued to parents to sign and return.
- Follow up with school principals is ongoing in terms of their “wellbeing ask” prior to reengaging with the VHI on the matter.
- COVID19 issues:
 - The Principal reps acknowledged the support the schools received from Dublin City Council during the 1st lockdown.
 - The support and help provided by the City Connects coordinators in the current lockdown was acknowledged.
 - Non-engagement continues to be an issue.
 - A need for laptops/tablets to enable distance learning was identified – engagement ongoing with all schools to establish the number and types of devices needed. **Following discussion, the Chair agreed that the *Emergency Process in the NEIC Funding Process and Governance Procedure* can be used to process the funding ask from schools to meet this emerging need.** If approval is forthcoming for the proposal, the funding will come from the *Emerging Needs Fund*.
- CV service – a service is now available via the Inner City Renewal Group LES. Due to the current restrictions the service is being delivered remotely.
- Action Plan – the Jobseeker Survey has commenced.
- Social Employment Fund posts – a meeting has been arranged for 29th January with the relevant Departments to discuss.

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Subgroup 1:

- Pat Smith, Dublin City Council has joined the group.
- Operations Cribbage and Canter remain a priority for AGS.
- Subgroup members were asked to submit proposals that may require funding for consideration by the group.
- Recruitment for a Roma youth worker with the MOST Garda Youth Diversion Project (Bradóg Youth Project).
- Work on Fitzgibbon Street station has stopped due to the COVID19 restrictions.
- The Drugs Related Intimidation report was published on the 26th January. The recommendations in the report will be considered by the subgroup. The subgroup Chair thanked the Ana Liffey Project and in particular the staff that worked on the project and developed the report for their efforts. He also thanked the members of the DRI Steering Group for their support and input over the last 16 months.
- A number of recent incidents in the area are currently under investigation.
- There was an 18% increase in offensive weapons seized during 2020 compared to previous years.
- It was noted that there has been an increase in domestic abuse reporting.
- The Chief Superintendent undertook to maintain a highly visible presence.
- Community issues raised-
 - E-bikes/E-scooters continue to cause problem – legislation is in preparation in relation to these.
 - Restrictions on youth services means that there is a very little face-to-face interaction with young people. Concerns were expressed that anti-social behaviour will increase as the evening get longer and young people will want to be out and about.
 - Crack cocaine use is on the increase – it was reported that there were 31 incidents involving crack cocaine. The use of this drug is accompanied by an increase in levels of violence.
 - Activity in a premises on Amiens Street is a cause of concern. The Gardaí are aware of this issue and action has resulted in successful searches of premises and the arrest of suspects.
- The community reps noted that Drugs Related Intimidation (DRI) goes to the heart of the NEIC Initiative and enquired what happens now that report has been published.
 - The Chair of SG1 advised that the subgroup will examine the recommendations and proposals developed for implementation.
 - The DoH rep noted that DRI is a national issue and is included as an action in the National Drugs Strategy.
 - The community rep stated that there needs to be a strong consensus created that this it is not acceptable behaviour.
- The contact details for reporting incidents:
Phone – 01 666 8000 Email – dmr.northcentral.community@garda.ie

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Subgroup 4:

- Representatives from LEGACY Communications presented an outline of a proposed approach and next steps toward the development of a communications plan. This will include a series of short workshops with target groups to define the broad objectives. It will involve the community in how we communicate and how we design the communications.
- Rutland St. School – stage 2 tenders were issued to 5 contractors. The closing date for receipt of tender submissions is 5th February 2021.
- Greening Strategy – the 2020 funded projects are substantially complete. A draft list of proposed projects was presented to the subgroup for discussion. The list was agreed in principle and will proceed to costing for presentation to and consideration by the Budget Group.
- Sport, Recreation and Wellbeing Programme – a range of programmes continues to be delivered virtually, due to the current restrictions.
- ExWell Medical - are engaged to deliver a 3 month pilot programme beginning in February 2021. This will provide medically supervised exercise classes for people with chronic illnesses. Participants must be referred from a GP in the area. All GP's in the area have been contacted and advised of this programme. Classes will be run in Sean McDermott St. Church car park outdoors and they have a level 5 exemption to do so. A report will be provided at the end of the pilot to gauge the exact benefit to participants.
- Sean McDermott St Swimming Pool – Dublin City Council engineers are developing a tender document. Discussions are ongoing with Swim Ireland re taking on an expanded role when the pool reopens.
- IBAL report – Litter continues to be an issue. Dublin City Council (DCC) continue to work on initiatives to improve the situation. DCC staff are currently working closely with residents in both the Ballybough and Sherrard St areas.
- Intercultural Development Coordinator – the selection process for the Intercultural Ambassadors programme has been completed. The learning programme will commence on 28th January 2021.
- Local Community Safety Partnership - 30 applications were received for the co-ordinator post and 104 applications for the administrator post. These are currently being shortlisted.
- Royal Canal Cycleway – the next phase of the work is due to go to tender in the near future.
- Nominations for new reps from An Garda Síochána and Cluid to the group have been received. The nominees will be invited to the next subgroup meeting.

Subgroup 5:

- SG5 is losing its HSE rep. due to a change in role. A replacement will be sought.
- Passerose Mantoy, Chrysalis has joined the subgroup. She leads the case management team in the area and will provide an NGO perspective to the group.
- NEIC Case Management team – engagement with clients continues to be good.
- Healthy Communities project – programme coordinator and 3 health workers have been appointed. The team will be invited to present to the subgroup in the near future.
- Dual Diagnosis – the two awareness workshops provided in January were fully booked. Two further dates for April have been circulated. The Train-the-Trainer programme for March is fully subscribed.
- North Inner City Drugs Taskforce – succession planning for a new chairperson is ongoing.

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- Two proposals were received for consideration:
 - Prisoner Transition Hub
 - Recovery hub.

The group requested further clarifications on both proposals from the proposers for its next meeting.

- Individual Placement and Support programme - the support provided from DSP for this service was acknowledged. A group was nominated to meet with representatives from St. Andrews to progress this initiative.

Subgroup 6:

- Due to the transitions in the Department of Children, Disability, Equality, Integration and Youth, John Cole will take on the role of Chairperson of Subgroup 6 with Kate Levey remaining as a member of the Programme Implementation Board.
- City Connects - a funding proposal for 2021 is being finalised. The Chair asked that the proposal show the contributions coming from DE and DCDEIY.

6. HSE Update

- All focus is currently on working to reduce the number of COVID-19 cases.
 - 2020 it took **223** days for 45,000 positive cases to be recorded.
 - 2021 it took only **21** days for 50,000 positive cases to be recorded.
- Currently there are very high numbers of cases being recorded in North Dublin.
- The HSE are dealing with a high number of outbreaks across North Dublin.
- Vaccine – rollout is focussing on Nursing Homes and frontline staff.
- Testing – the HSE are only testing symptomatic people at present.
- A recruitment process to replace staff that have left has commenced.

7. Communication and Social Media update:

- A report has been produced on traffic on the NEIC website and has been circulated to the PIB members.
- Hard copies of the 2020 NEIC Progress Report have been posted to the PIB members, all subgroup members and the members of the Oversight Group.
- An infographic “2020 NEIC in Numbers” has been printed and will be delivered to all homes in the area.
- Discussions are underway with *Together Digital*, Media Consult and LEGACY Communications to discuss enhancements to the NEIC website and social media platforms and develop a coherent communications and engagement strategy.

Next meeting: Wednesday 24th February 2021 @ 8.00am
Venue: TBC

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Summary of agreed actions for next meeting:

What	Who
Forward details of requirements for Chairperson role of NICDATF to Business Rep. to assist with identifying potential candidates.	Programme Office
Details of costings for NEIC Work Experience coordinator to be forwarded to Business Rep.	Programme Office
Include the NEIC SEF on the agenda for the next meeting of the Oversight Group.	Chair/ Programme Office