

North East Inner City Initiative Programme Implementation Board

Location: via ZOOM Videoconference
Time and date: 8am, 27 th October 2020
Attendance: Chair – Michael Stone, Chief Superintendent Paddy McMenamin (An Garda Síochána), Superintendent Paul Costello (An Garda Síochána), Paddy Murdiffe (NICCC), Joy McGlynn (Tusla), Kate Levey (DCEDIY), Jim Walsh (DoH), Mary Keenan (DoT), Karl Mitchell (DCC), Noel Wardick (NICCC), Mary Cregg (DES), Noel Hand (DSP), Donal Cassidy (HSE), Ursula Donnellan (DCC/Programme Office), David Leavey (DoT/Programme Office), Michael O’Riordan (Programme Office)
Apologies: Brendan Kenny (DCC), Feargal O’Rourke (PwC), Joy McGlynn (Tusla),

The Chair opened the meeting by noting the sad passing of Fergus McCabe, RIP. Fergus will be remembered as a doer, an activist, a campaigner, a mentor and a friend to many who gave great service to the North inner city for many years. The Chair also noted the contribution that he had made to the NEIC Programme Implementation Board during his time as a member. A minutes silence was observed in his honour.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh anam dílis.

Minutes of previous meeting:

Proposed: Paddy Murdiffe (NICCC)

Seconded: Donal Cassidy (HSE)

1. Community Update:

- Convent Lands – a presentation was made by “CoLab” on potential uses for the site.
- Concern was raised that 2 funding applications that had been submitted for consideration to SG2 were forwarded to the Migrant Ethnic Committee (MEC), and clarification was sought as to whether this was in line with the NEIC funding process.

The meeting was advised that the members of SG2 agreed that the 2 proposals should be forwarded to the MEC to seek their comments/feedback on the proposals in order to enable SG2 to make a more informed decision on the proposals. The MEC members were not asked to make a decision as to whether the proposals should be recommended for funding or otherwise – this decision in relation to recommending support for the proposals was made by the members of SG2 in line with the agreed NEIC funding process. Permission was sought and received from both proposers prior to the proposals being circulated to the members of the MEC.

- Local Community Safety Partnership – there has been no update received on progressing implementation to date. The community rep requested to be advised as soon as there is an update available.
- Some community organisations are struggling to secure suitable space in which to run their activities. Board members were asked to advise if they knew of vacant space available for leasing or if they had spare space that could accommodate a local group.
- Jigsaw – the community reps queried the position re Jigsaw establishing in the area.

The meeting was advised that Jigsaw had been approved for funding of €50,000 in March 2019 that this was still available but that the lease on the premises that Jigsaw had identified on Summerhill

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has not been finalised to date. There is regular follow up between the Programme Office and Jigsaw on this matter.

- Liberty Park Plan – the final report is due to be presented in early November. A recent meeting with Dublin City Council parks department to align the proposals and the council’s plan for the area was very positive.
- Halloween – there is apprehension in the community in relation to Halloween. The COVID-19 level 5 restrictions has severely curtailed the range of activities that are possible to deliver. A range of online activities, including - bingo, talks, family treasure hunts, raffles, etc. have been planned.
- National Childcare Scheme – concern remains among community based childcare projects on the effect that the implementation of this scheme will have on the projects. It was queried whether a similar idea to “DEIS” status for schools in disadvantaged areas be applied to childcare providers in these areas be considered.
- It was noted that there is no clarity as yet regarding funding for the Dublin City Community Coop’s Roma Project after the initial 2 year period. This funding is due to cease at the end of 2020. The Chair stressed that it was important that this issue be addressed as a matter of urgency.

2. **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	NEIC Faith Communities Together - Adapting and responding to the pandemic as needs emerge (<i>funding recipient : ACET</i>)*	€10,100	Approved (subject to clarification)
Subgroup 2	Act of Compassion Mental Health Webinars - (<i>funding recipient: Voice of New Communities Drugs & Alcohol Network Ltd.</i>)*	€3,000	Approved (subject to clarification)
Subgroup 2	Overcoming the Digital Divide - (<i>funding recipient: LYCS</i>)*	€11, 693	Approved
Subgroup 3	Counselling Services (<i>funding recipient: OASIS</i>)*	€26,000	Approved
Subgroup 3	Parenting Training (<i>funding recipient: SAOL</i>)*	€2,450	Approved
Subgroup 4	Playground Improvements 2020 (<i>funding recipient: Dublin City Council</i>)	€50,000	Approved
Subgroup 4	Sheriff YC Refurbishment works - contribution (<i>funding recipient: : Dublin City Council</i>)	€28,000	Approved
Subgroup 5	Outdoor Facility (<i>funding recipient: SAOL</i>)*	€5,940	Approved
Total		€136,733 (€58,733 from the Emerging Needs Fund)	

* This funding will come from the Emerging Needs Fund.

Community Case Management Pilot Project – a note was submitted from the Chair of SG3 advising that the meeting with EXTERN and the various statutory agencies requested at the September PIB meeting was held on 6th October 2020. It was agreed that that further work was required on the Memorandum of Understanding and the Data Sharing element of the arrangements between the four statutory agencies. Work has started on this and further meetings are required for the data sharing agreement and Terms of Reference for the Governance Group to be agreed.

To enable the process with Extern to commence it was proposed to provide funding as follows:

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- €40,423 from 2020 Budget, via Tusla SLA
- €444,650 from 2021 Budget, paid on a monthly basis via Tusla SLA

The proposal as outlined above was approved by the Programme implementation Board.

- **Budget Recommendations:**

Proposed – Kate Levey, (DCEDIY)

Seconded – Paddy Murdiff, (NICCC)

- The Chair asked that the remaining funding be allocated by the Budget Group for approval at the next PIB meeting.

The Chair of SG4 advised that they have a number of capital projects for consideration – repairs to Sean McDermott St swimming pool, Diamond Park refurbishment, DLight studio refurbishment – these might also assist in a rebalancing of the capital v current spending as recommended by Department of Community and Rural Development.

The community rep noted that the Sean McDermott St swimming pool is a very valuable resource for the community.

Total funds approved by the NEIC PIB to date for 2020 - €5,944,074

- **Emerging Needs Fund** - The process re the administration of the Emerging Needs Fund has been listed for discussion at the next Budget Group meeting.

- **Discussions re future funding of specific projects:**

- Detached Youth Work Team (SWAN) – A possible pathway via UBU funding will be investigated by DCEDIY rep.
- Fast Track Counselling (YPAR) – A response from the HSE to the correspondence from the PIB Chair is awaited.
- Doodle Den (ELI) – The group were advised that this project has been proposed for inclusion in Tusla’s funding for 2021. The group will be advised when a decision is reached.
- Restorative Justice (ELI) – working is ongoing on developing links to support this work on an ongoing basis which would not involve NEIC funding going forward.

- **Budget 2021** – The PIB members were advised that the NEIC Initiative was allocated funding of €6.5 million for 2021, with €1 million of this allocation ring-fenced for the Social Employment Fund pilot (SEF).

The Chair welcomed the news and thanked all the local public representatives for their support. He noted that continuation of funding at this level is a good reflection on the work of the Programme Implementation Board and recognition of the work being undertaken by the subgroups.

The Chair urged the subgroups to consider the work plans for 2021 and to get the key projects approved early in 2021.

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3. Subgroup Reports:

Subgroup 6:

- Strategic Plan Update:
- **Action 17** - *Drive integrated service delivery in the youth sector*
 - Preparatory work has been completed following a consultation process which involved significant relationship building.
 - The next step is the development of an alignment plan for the area.
- **Action 18** - *Scope and develop City Connects Programme*
 - The programme manager and the 3 coordinators are in position.
 - The coordinators school clusters have been agreed.
 - Class reviews will commence in November.
 - The Programme manger attended the subgroup meeting and gave the group an update of work to date.
- **Action 19** – *Build on Executive Leadership proposals*
 - The consultation report produced by the researchers was circulated to the group for information.
 - The final report is due in mid-November.
- **Action 20** – *Ensure quality and uptake of early year’s childcare provision*
 - Concerns were raised at SG6 that the National Childcare Scheme could adversely affect vulnerable children and adults.
 - It was reported that POBAL are holding consultations on this topic – the outcome of these discussions is awaited.
 - A proposal from the Dublin City Childcare Committee that had previously been discussed with the subgroup will be reviewed prior to being resubmitted for re-consideration.
- A presentation from the researchers on the After Schools research report will be held on Wednesday 4th November via video conference. Members of subgroups 2, 3 and 6 will be invited to attend.
- It was reported that places in secondary schools had been found for all the pupils transitioning from primary school.
- With the new responsibilities assigned to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) – the funding issue for the Dublin City Community Coop’s Roma project as raised by the Community Rep is relevant to the newly aligned Department. The DCEDIY rep. will follow up on this.

Subgroup 5:

- **Action 15** – *Scope and enhance the model of care for people who use and misuse drugs and alcohol.*
 - It was reported that funding has been secured via the Dept. of Health allocation in Budget 2021 to secure the long-term future of the Inclusion Health Hub and the services attached to it, namely
 - Stabilisation Unit
 - Homeless case management team
 - Addiction case management team

The HSE rep thanked the NEIC PIB and Jim Walsh, DoH, for the support and providing the platform to develop and trial services for vulnerable group.

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The PIB Chair thanked both Donal Cassidy, HSE and Jim Walsh, DoH for the innovation and work that that has gone into development and running of the Inclusion Health Hub and for securing long-term funding for this initiative.

- Addiction Assessment Hub – assessment have commenced with individuals who have non-opioid addictions.
- Community Health Project – Dublin City Community Coop are the preferred bidder following the tender process for the provision of a Community Health project. A Service Level Agreement is currently being developed by the HSE to commence the delivery of the project. All organisations that submitted tenders have been informed of the outcome of the process.
- Frank Feighan, T.D., Minister of State for Public Health, Wellbeing and National Drug Strategy presented certificates to the successful recovery coaches having completed their training. A second programme to train more recovery coaches with the Recovery Academy is planned.
- Consideration is being given as to how links might be enhanced with the Drug Treatment Court.
- Brid Walsh, Coordinator on North Dublin Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force joined the Subgroup meeting to give an overview of their Family Support service. There is a possibility of funding for such an initiative becoming available for the North Inner City.

Subgroup 4:

- Work has commenced on the Summerhill median greening project. A maintenance programme for the works has been included as part of the contract.
- A positive meeting with personnel from Dublin City Council Parks Department and the Liberty Park researcher took place. The information shared will be used by the DCC Parks Department when developing a plan for Liberty Park.
- Áit Urbanism NEIC Greening Strategy was announced as a Winner in the “Landscape Planning” category of the Irish Landscape Institute Design Awards 2020.
- A report on the NEIC Sports and Wellbeing programme was circulated to the PIB members. Among the key points of note were:
 - Wellbeing activities with older adults
 - Scoil Stars Launch – a socially inclusive sports club which incorporates participants of all learning needs.
 - Scoil Uí Chonaill GAA Nursery
 - GAA Fitness for women
 - North Wall Lions – pop up rugby for 8 to 13 year olds.
 - Yoga
 - Poetry/Rap workshops
 - Late night football
 - Curraching
 - Kayaking
 - D1 Men’s health group.
- IBAL Report – while there were more locations noted in the A category – disappointment was expressed - that despite best efforts, increased resources and pro-active engagement the North Inner City remains at the bottom of the anti-litter league.
- Halloween
 - Stockpiling locations of pallets and tyres have been identified via drone use and reports. A significant amount of stockpiled material has been gathered.

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- A leaflet drop to every home in the area is planned before Halloween – reinforcing the message to “stay at home”.
- Residents are being encouraged to decorate their homes.
- Posters have been erected again encouraging people to “stay at home”.
- Vehicles will move through the area showing images, videos etc. of the work that has been undertaken by the youth services in the area.
- The Dublin City Council, DCC, rep noted that any funding received by DCC is matched by the Council to develop and provide services and amenities for the residents in the NEIC.
- Convent Lands – CoLab online workshop was on the 20th October. DCC rep advised the Board that the CoLab group had been granted access to the building and lands for academic purposes only.
- Diamond Park – a query in relation as to when the consultation process for the development would take place was raised by the community reps.
The DCC rep. advised that Part 8 Statutory Process was coming to an end. The plans for the re-development have been on display on the railings of the park for 8 to 10 weeks.
The Chair advised that he himself had discussions at meeting with the community on the development and noted that the NEIC PIB had contributed towards the cost of installing outdoor gym equipment in the park following his discussions.
The DCC rep undertook to organise a further session to advise residents of the work to be undertaken as part of the redevelopment.
- It was noted that Superintendent Dan Flavin was retiring from An Garda Síochána and would be stepping down from SG4. The Chair thanked Superintendent Flavin for his support and input into the Initiative since its inception.

Subgroup 3:

- Strategic Plan Update:
 - *Action 6 – Support Parenting*
 - The work as set out in the strategic plan is in progress, however a focussed discussion on a paper recently submitted will be discussed at the next subgroup meeting.
 - *Action 7 – Leverage Meitheal Approach*
 - Meitheal processes are in progress at the moment with good engagement from all the relevant parties.
 - *Action 8 – Support initiatives on youth mental health*
 - Additional funding has been approved for the fast track counselling
 - The PIB Chair has written to the head of Mental Health service in the HSE seeking further support for youth mental health.
 - A representative from HSE mental health services has recently joined the subgroup.
 - *Action 9 – Expand the use of Community case management for “hard to reach” young people*
 - CCM proposal has been approved by the PIB.
 - External provider has been identified following tender process.
 - An initial meeting of all the relevant parties has taken place. Further meetings required to identify and agree specific agency roles.

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Subgroup 2:

- Community Employment, CE – declining numbers on projects are a real concern for local groups. DSP will undertake a video recruitment event for CE, followed up with a targeted social media drive. Community Employment projects will be asked to contribute video content for this event.
- CV Preparation support:
 - DSP have confirmed that they are in the process of recruiting 3 Job Coaches for the Parnell St Intreo office who will undertake this work.
 - Discussions are ongoing with the National College of Ireland, NCI, who have indicated that they are interested in assisting with this work.
- Wellbeing
 - The Health Insurance companies have been contacted but they are not in a position to assist with this ask.
 - This has also been discussed with the National College of Ireland and they are considering submitting a proposal for consideration.
- COVID-19 – thanks to An Garda Síochána for following up on some identified difficulties around some local schools. Principals report that the situation has greatly improved. The ongoing efforts of school principals and staff in ensuring students remain safe in schools was noted.

It was reported that school attendance is currently lower than at the same time last year. The Primary Principals' rep will follow up on this and report back to the subgroup.
- Contact has been made with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, DFHERSI, re the nomination of a member to join the subgroup.
- Flash Mentoring – the meeting to discuss issues with Garda Vetting was held and a way forward agreed. Garda Vetting applications are currently being gathered from the mentors and submitted to the Garda Vetting unit for processing.
- Lourdes Youth and Community Service – it was reported that this group are experiencing difficulties in securing accommodation to deliver services to its target groups.
- Social Employment Fund – the departmental stakeholder group met on 21st October. The group welcomed confirmation that €1m in funding had been made available for the Social Employment Fund in Budget 2021. It was agreed that group members would carry out a piece of analysis within their sectors based on some agreed core principals. This analysis will take 6 to 8 weeks to complete and the group will then be reconvened to discuss the outcome of this work.
- Action Plan – the two way surveys are behind schedule. Response rate to the Employer survey has been low – the survey is being reissued in an attempt to garner further responses. Difficulties are being experienced undertaking the individual job seeker survey with the current restrictions and limited face-to-face work happening.
- Public Appointment Service (PAS) are launching a Temporary Clerical Officer competition to fill current temporary vacancies and temporary vacancies that will arise during summer 2021. All second level schools have been advised of the competition and an input from PAS staff on participating in the competition.

PAS Toolkit for schools – NEIC schools have been invited to work with PublicJobs to develop this resource, the response from schools has been positive.
- The secondary principal rep on the subgroup has been appointed as the City Connects programme manager. A new rep for second level schools has been sought.

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Subgroup 1:

- A number of area of concern identified by the community reps on the subgroup have been followed up on and this will be ongoing.
- Action Plan – The current restrictions are affecting how the community engagement elements of the action plan can be implemented. Consideration is being given as to how this might be achieved.
- Halloween:
 - The necessary resources to ensure a safe day/evening for residents are available and will be deployed.
 - Operation Tombola is ongoing. A Garda van is on constant patrol in the area and if locations of bonfire material are identified it is being removed. There is very close and positive cooperation with Dublin City Council in this regard.
 - There will be a full Garda presence on the cycleway to ensure there is no opportunity for a bonfire to happen there.
 - All schools in the area have been visited and talks delivered regarding staying safe on Halloween including the dangers of fires and fireworks.
- A premises on Amiens Street that had been mentioned on several occasions by various members of the subgroup continues to receive Garda attention. There is a criminal investigation ongoing into the operation of this premises.
- Operations Cribbage and Canter are ongoing and continue to yield positive results.
- A Roma youth worker position will be advertised in the near future through MOST Garda Youth Project. This youth worker will cover both North Central and South Central Garda Divisions and will attend Garda stations when Roma children are arrested for offences and will also work with Roma families.
- A replacement for Superintendent Dan Flavin is expected to be announced shortly.
- The Community Action Network, CAN, dialogue process with Gardaí and local youth has won a National Garda Youth Award.
- The community reps noted that the Garda Community Support Van being located on Rutland St has had a positive effect on the street.
- The contact details for reporting incidents:
Phone – 01 666 8000 Email – dmr.northcentral.community@garda.ie

4. Principals' Network

- The next meeting is scheduled for the 6th November – most of the work of this group is focussed on City Connects.
- Attendance – it was noted that the Educational Welfare Officers have an involvement in monitoring this.

5. DEASP Update:

- Focus of the Department of Social Protection staff is on income support at present. All resources are being focussed on this.
- Footfall in the Intreo Office, Parnell St is very high – mostly connected with Pandemic Unemployment Payments (PUP)
- Employer Survey – there has been a low number of responses received but those that have been received are of high quality. 17 of the respondents have indicated that they have current vacancies – these will be followed up on.

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- A number of videos encouraging participation in apprenticeships have been launched. The apprenticeships in question are – Chef, Insurance, Motor, Logistics and butchering.
- Community Employment (CE) – some schemes have a low number of participants and as a consequence are on a lifeline at present. A recruitment event to hopefully improve participant numbers is being planned.
- CV supports – Job coach resources have been secured for the Parnell St, Intreo Centre. Recruitment process is in progress.

The Chair raised a question in relation how we would deliver training/re-training to enable local people take advantage of positions that are becoming available particularly with various parcel deliver organisations – this area of work has increased and a number of companies engaged in this work have announced vacancies recently. He asked the DSP rep. to consider how we might take best advantage of these employment opportunities. The Chair also stressed the importance of making direct contact at an early stage with NEIC residents currently in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) in order to ensure that their training / reskilling needs are addressed. The Chair asked the DSP Rep to set up an ad hoc group which would include reps from the CDETB and Community Education organisations to progress this work.

6. HSE Update:

- COVID-19:
 - A Testing Facility has been opened at the Croke Park Handball Alley. Referral by a GP is required or close contact of a confirmed case through contact tracing.
 - Average time for test result is 27 hours.
 - Broader community transmission is high.
 - Transmission level in the North Inner City is high.
 - Contact tracing is difficult.
- Positive meeting with Minister Feighan during his recent visit to present certificates to the recovery coaches. The Minister learned and saw the operation of the Inclusion Health Hub.
- An initiative to enhance and improve the community response to alcohol misuse in the North City and County is planned.
- Community Addiction Assessment Unit – which is GP led - is operating in Summerhill.
- Dual Diagnosis workshops will be commencing in the near future.
- Roma community – this group has been identified as a high risk group. Withdrawing resources from a Roma specific project would not be positive at present.
- Services in Inclusion Health Hub – Chrysalis and Peter McVerry Trust are leading on delivery of services in the Hub. This is proving to be a good model of service delivery.

7. Business Update:

- PwC have given an undertaken to lead on the development of a “virtual” work experience programme for transition year students and to make this programme available to other employers in the area.
- PwC have agreed to provide technical support to a local project to assist them in the process of securing charitable status.

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8. Communication and Social Media update:

- 4 members of the Programme Office team have participated in training to assist them in updating website with content.
- Two new videos have been made and are available on the NEIC website:
 - The Cycleway – this was launched on National Bike week – 25,000 views to date.
 - St. Mary’s Mansions – this was made in conjunction with Cluid Housing
- Two more short videos are planned:
 - Halloween
 - COVID-19 heroes.
- If any PIB members have suggestions/ideas for future videos please forward to David Leavey.
- Jenny Courtney, Belvedere Youth Club featured in a video produced by the Citizens’ Assembly on Women Leaders.
- NEIC Newsletter No 6 is with the graphic designer and will be available for distribution soon.
- Work has commenced on the NEIC Progress Report 2020 – Subgroup Chairs are encouraged to consider what might be included in the report to illustrate the work of their subgroup in 2020.

Next meeting: Wednesday 25th November 2020 @ 8.00am
Venue: via ZOOM video link.

Summary of agreed actions for next meeting:

What	Who
Follow up with Jigsaw re Summerhill premises	Programme Office
Contact LYCS for update on premises	Programme Office
Second Level Principal rep for SG2	DES Rep /Programme Office
Upload Apprentice Information videos link on Website	Programme Office
Set up an ad hoc group to include reps from the CDETБ and Community Education organisations to address training / reskilling needs of NEIC residents in receipt of PUP.	DSP Rep.
Revert with an update on funding for the Dublin City Community Coop’s Roma Project.	DCEDIY Rep.