



# PROGRESS REPORT



DUBLIN  
NORTH EAST  
INNER CITY



*'You are Loved' Street Art Installation, Railway Street – September 2020 Artists: Shane Ha, INKFUN, 23MGRAPHICS*

The NEIC Sub-Group 'Enhancing Community Wellbeing and the Physical Environment' and Dublin City Council continued to work with local partners to deliver a further series of temporary street art projects in 2020. Local artists are given an opportunity to showcase their creative talent while visually brightening up the area with their display of unique canvases/murals. These inspired creations are planned by the artists with a deep sense of pride and meaning, each artwork has its own story representing themes ranging from history and culture to love, hope and pride.

The main artworks delivered in 2020 were at the former Annesley Motors site, Ballybough Road; 100-101 Seville Place to promote the 'Leave a Light on' campaign in support of addiction Recovery Month; the walkway at Newcomen Bridge that had become a graffiti blackspot; and a series of works on Railway Street in collaboration with HAY Garda Youth Diversion Project. Artists include Shane Ha, Mack Signs and Vents Dublin, 23M Graphics and Niall O Lochlainn with project management by Fionnuala Halpin.

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# 2020 NEIC IN NUMBERS



**2,750**

Facemasks made  
by the community for  
the community

## CITY CONNECTS



**10** NEIC primary  
schools participating  
in the City Connects  
programme



**500** students  
and **24** teachers  
participating in PTECH  
across 3 NEIC schools



**80** high quality  
homes delivered for  
180 NEIC residents (90  
children) in St. Mary's  
Mansions



**3** additional speech  
and language  
therapists recruited



**3** additional  
occupational  
therapists recruited



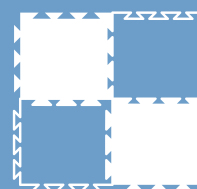
**1** additional clinical  
psychologist recruited



**838** activity packs  
delivered to homes  
in the NEIC during  
lockdown



**€100,000**  
in community  
grants provided  
to 38 community  
organisations



**116**  
'My Place to Play'  
mats delivered  
to NEIC homes

# 2020 NEIC IN NUMBERS



**40** young people kayaked each week this summer from Samuel Beckett Bridge to the Ha'penny Bridge



NEIC secondary schools funded to run an Afterschool Study Programme



**10** Childcare workers in the NEIC approved for a CPD Bursary



**204** Robotic kits provided to NEIC Secondary Schools to support coding and robotics experiential learning



**1** Royal Canal Cycleway spanning the NEIC opened



**1** NEIC Intercultural Development Coordinator recruited



**10** Career L.E.A.P. graduates



**350** mentors recruited across **40 organisations** for the Flash Mentoring Programme

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

On behalf of the North East Inner City (NEIC) Programme Implementation Board, I would like to welcome you to our 2020 Progress Report. This is the fourth progress report since I was appointed as Chairperson of the NEIC Programme Implementation Board.

It has been another busy and productive year for the Board, with the various subgroups and the Programme Office continuing to work diligently on behalf of those living and working in the NEIC. The €6.5 million funding allocation that we received from Government in 2020 enabled us to continue to implement a wide range of programmes and projects as we worked to achieve the goals of the Mulvey Report – Creating a Brighter Future – and the NEIC Strategic Plan 2020-2022. An overview and details of this work can be found in this report.

In 2020, the Board undertook an extensive programme of work to support the continued regeneration of the NEIC. The NEIC has faced particular challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March, all parties and agencies involved with the NEIC Initiative have engaged in information sharing for best practice, and on how best to serve the local community during these unprecedented times. For example, Dublin City Council established a COVID-19 Community Call Forum. This local Forum works with State agencies and community and voluntary groups to provide supports or services to any vulnerable person who needs them. In line with guidance, this Forum brings together different organisations to provide important services such as the collection and delivery of essential items like food, ‘meals-on-wheels’, household items, fuel or medicine and support for those experiencing social isolation. Furthermore, An Garda Síochána have placed a strong emphasis on

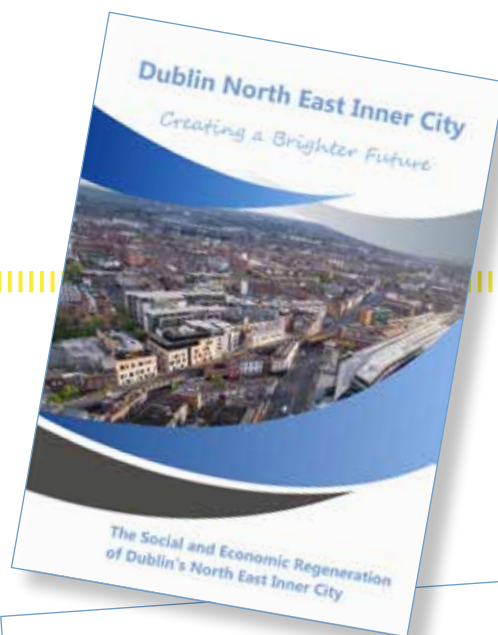
community policing in the area, thereby enabling them to help the most vulnerable members of society. This has involved helping with food deliveries and shopping for the elderly and vulnerable and generally being a visible, helpful presence within the community during this time.

With the 2020 funding allocation, the Board prioritised the funding of measures under six distinct work streams, as identified in the NEIC Strategic Plan 2020 – 2022.

This work represents strong collaboration across the statutory, community and business sectors at all levels of the NEIC structures. Through this dedicated funding, and the leveraging of additional support from existing resources among the statutory partners, the Board has continued to deliver benefits for the NEIC in 2020, as detailed throughout this report.

As in previous years, €1 million (of the €6.5 million budget) was allocated in 2020 to the NEIC Social Employment Fund. 55 posts have been filled across a number of community projects providing childcare, youth services, elder care and environmental services. The Social Employment Fund is having an enduring positive impact on crucial local community services which were carrying high numbers of Community Employment vacancies and struggling to provide services with reduced staffing levels. This responsive and innovative initiative has been widely welcomed within the community, ensuring future sustainability of essential services and providing a dividend to the community through increased childcare places and reduced childcare, elder care and youth service waiting lists.

The Programme Implementation Board’s ambition for 2021 is to continue implementing the NEIC Strategic



Plan 2020 – 2022 and the remaining actions set out in the Mulvey Report, focusing on long-term sustainable outcomes, which operate in an integrated framework and add value to the existing service infrastructure.

I want to thank my fellow Board members for their continued support, in particular given the challenges that 2020 has brought. I want to take this opportunity to offer them my sincere thanks for their determined work and commitment to the NEIC. I am also grateful to the Programme Office staff for their tireless efforts and dedication.

I also want to acknowledge in a special way the very significant contribution of a former Board member – the inimitable Fergus McCabe – who sadly passed away earlier this year. Fergus will be remembered fondly for over 40 years of passionate and powerful advocacy for the Inner City. I, and my fellow Board members, feel privileged to have known Fergus, to have worked alongside him, and to have learned so much from him. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Finally, I want to thank the Government for their support and the priority they have attached to this Initiative. In 2021, I look forward to continued close cooperation with the community, businesses, Dublin City Council and Government Departments and agencies as we continue to work together to implement the NEIC Strategic Plan 2020-2022 for the benefit of all who live and work in the NEIC.

### **Michael Stone**

Chairperson  
NEIC Programme Implementation Board



# PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION BOARD UPDATE

In June 2017, Mr. Michael Stone was appointed by the Government to the position of Chair of the NEIC Programme Implementation Board (PIB). The PIB meets every month and comprises the key Government departments and agencies that have statutory responsibility for delivery of services in the NEIC and community and business representatives. The minutes of all PIB meetings are made available on the Initiative's website at <http://www.neic.ie/resources>. The PIB has established six sub

groups reflecting the priority areas for action. Each sub group has been assigned the relevant actions from the Mulvey Report and the NEIC Strategic Plan 2020-2022. The sub groups also have representation from the community and business sectors.

The sub groups are:

- Enhanced Policing
- Maximising Educational, Training and Employment Opportunities
- Family Wellbeing

- Enhancing Community Wellbeing and the Physical Environment
- Substance Use, Misuse and Inclusion Health
- Alignment of Services

The PIB's ambition for 2020 was to commence implementation of the NEIC Strategic Plan 2020-2022 and to continue implementing the actions set out in the Mulvey Report – *Creating a Brighter Future*, as well as to adopt a greater focus on long-term sustainable outcomes.

## Membership of the Programme Implementation Board

- **Michael Stone**, Independent Chair
- **Donal Cassidy**, Health Service Executive
- **Mary Cregg**, Department of Education
- **Noel Hand**, Department of Social Protection
- **Mary Keenan**, Department of the Taoiseach
- **Brendan Kenny**, Dublin City Council
- **Kate Levey**, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- **Karl Mitchell**, Dublin City Council
- **Paddy Murdiffe**, North Inner City Community Coalition
- **Joy McGlynn**, Tusla
- **Chief Superintendent Patrick McMenamin**, An Garda Síochána
- **Feargal O'Rourke**, PwC
- **Jim Walsh**, Department of Health
- **Noel Wardick**, North Inner City Community Coalition





# PROGRAMME OFFICE

The Programme Office supports the work of the NEIC Programme Implementation Board (PIB) and is based at 51-53 Sean McDermott Street Lower, D01 HW44. The work of the Office focuses on funding and administration, events, sports development, environment, community, communications and engagement, local employment, evaluation, assisting all sub groups, and supporting the Chair of the PIB.

## Current staff:

- Ursula Donnellan
- Stephen Doyle
- David Leavey
- Michael Darragh MacAuley
- Bruce McDevitt
- Audrey McPartlin
- Michael O'Riordan
- Elaine Redmond
- Marie Scally
- Nuala Collins

Throughout the year, the Programme Office have shared updates, news of events and

on-going projects on <http://www.neic.ie/news>.

The Programme Office continues to interact with and inform local residents through our social media channels; NEIC Facebook and Instagram.

In 2020, the Programme Office produced a number of videos to provide people with information on the NEIC Initiative in an accessible format, all of which are available at <http://www.neic.ie/resources>.



# CAPTURING OUR ACTIVITY IN 2020



**11** PIB Meetings



**11** Government  
departments and  
agencies involved in  
the NEIC Initiative



**11** sets of PIB  
Minutes published  
to NEIC.ie



**10** Budget Group  
Meetings



**18** Community  
representatives on  
NEIC structures



**16,000**  
Newsletters  
delivered to homes  
in the NEIC



**66** Sub Group  
Meetings



**44** funding  
proposals processed  
and approved



**1** Progress Report  
published

# ENHANCED POLICING

Reducing crime in the community. Alleviating gangland threat in the community. Building community confidence in the Gardaí. Refurbishing and reopening Fitzgibbon Street Garda Station. **This sub group is chaired by Chief Superintendent Patrick McMenamin, An Garda Síochána.**



*Regional Garda Youth Awards Winners from Swan Youth Service CAN Dialogue Project*



*Garda Community Policing – Spring 2020*



*Halloween Safety*

Some highlights from the year's work of the Enhanced Policing sub group include:

- Good progress was made in 2020 on the **refurbishment of Fitzgibbon Street Garda Station** and the works are expected to be complete by end March 2021.
- During 2020, the Enhanced Policing sub group worked collaboratively with the Department of Justice and Equality and the Department of the Taoiseach to map out a **Local Community Safety Partnership pilot for the North Inner City**, in line with the approach advocated by the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland [see further detail on page 14].
- An **educational bursary** aimed at enhancing the continuous professional development of Gardaí working in the NEIC area (Store Street and Mountjoy Garda Stations); developing and supporting their understanding of the socio-economic context in which they work and increasing Garda retention in the NEIC area was made available in 2020.
- The **Community Dialogue Initiative** for young people and Gardaí in the NEIC aims to build better relationships between youth workers and Gardaí and build on their capacity to support. The young people who engage in the process – went from strength to strength in 2020 and the initiative was group winner in the Garda National Youth Awards 2020.
- **Juvenile Liaison Officers** continued to be supported during 2020 and engagement between An Garda Síochána, Oberstown Detention Centre, Tulsa, CALMHS (Child and Mental Health Service) Young Person Probation is ongoing.
- A **Divisional Protective Services** Unit was established in the area in 2020. This Unit will support the delivery of a consistent and professional approach to the investigation of sexual and domestic crime. Personnel assigned to the Unit are specially trained in the investigation of sexual crime; child protection; investigation of domestic abuse; online child exploitation and sex offender management.
- The NEIC area continued to receive priority attention in 2020 in the **fight against drug dealing and intimidation**. The Divisional Drugs Unit is now fully resourced and equipped and continues to work closely with the Divisional Asset Profile Unit and (at a national level) with the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB). Significant inroads into the sale / supply of controlled substances in the NEIC area have been made. There is a constant need to remain vigilant with regard this issue and cooperation of the community is proving invaluable in combating this serious issue.
- The **NEIC Drug-related Intimidation project** recognises the impact that Drug-related Intimidation has on – not just an individual – but on their wider family and community. During 2020, An Garda Síochána worked closely with the Ana Liffey project, Dublin City Council and partners in the NEIC Initiative on this priority issue.
- The **Liberty Park** operation continued to provide a high visibility policing presence to combat anti-social and drug crime in the NEIC in 2020. The operation has caused displacement within the NEIC area and An Garda Síochána continue to develop and implement policing plans which are flexible in combatting this displacement.
- The **NEIC-funded Community Support Vehicle** continued to be utilised across the NEIC area throughout 2020.
- The **Divisional Community Policing Office** and **Victim Services** continued to deal with crime and quality of life issues pertaining to the area. This office can be contacted at DMR.NorthCentral.Community@garda.ie.



# COMMUNITY SAFETY

## North Inner City Local Community Safety Partnership

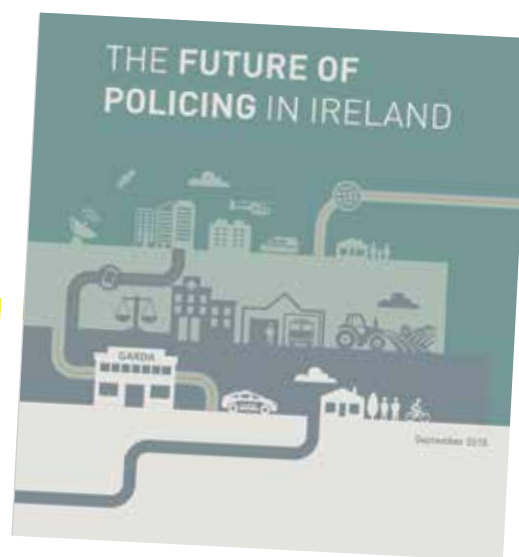
The North Inner City Electoral Area, which includes the NEIC, has been chosen to be a pilot location for a new *Local Community Safety Partnership*.

The pilot is very much in line with the approach to community safety advocated by the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland and outlined in *A Policing Service for our Future* – the Government's Plan to implement the Report of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland.

The community safety approach recognises that the problems communities face are not just limited to policing issues. Bringing the right services together, working with each other to tackle the underlying issues which impact on our community and the sense of safety within the community is at the heart of the safety model. But what will drive the agenda and objectives of the partnership will be the community itself. The model is built on the principle that the community needs to be central in identifying what it needs and helping to shape solutions.

The Local Community Safety Partnership will replace the Joint Policing Committee in the North Inner City Electoral Area. All relevant public service providers in the area will be represented, including the HSE, Tusla, An Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council, as well as local elected representatives.

Community representatives (including for youth and new communities) along with residents will make up the majority of the membership of the Local Community Safety Partnership, to ensure the work is community-driven. Training will be provided to support the capacity of the Partnership to work together, with individual training for residents to develop their understanding of their role and confidence in representing their community. The Local Community Safety Partnership will have an independent Chairperson and will develop a Local Community Safety Plan which will reflect priorities



CoFPI Report - *The Future of Policing in Ireland*

identified by the community and will be responsible for holding service providers to account on delivering on the plan. The Local Community Safety Partnership will be resourced by two staff members who will engage with the community on safety issues on an ongoing basis.

This pilot is part of the Department of Justice's Community Safety Policy which will inform the draft *Policing and Community Safety Bill*, and the pilot will inform a national roll-out of Local Community Safety Partnerships in all local authority areas.

The Department of Justice has worked in close consultation with Dublin City Council, local elected representatives, the NEIC *Enhanced Policing* sub group, and relevant members of the NEIC Programme Implementation Board to develop the North Inner City pilot. The NEIC Programme Implementation Board agreed in October 2020 to provide €150,000 of funding to support the two year pilot, with additional support coming from the Department of Justice and Dublin City Council. The Local Community Safety Partnership will be set up in early 2021 and the pilot programme will run for two years. An independent evaluator will be engaged from the outset to assess the success of the pilot in achieving its objectives.

The Local Community Safety Partnership pilot will build on the successes of the NEIC Initiative but will not duplicate work already being done in the area. The intention is to identify gaps in service delivery and develop innovative solutions to identified issues, including through empowering and connecting existing local initiatives.

# MAXIMISING EDUCATIONAL, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Addressing blocks for progression of young people in formal education and increasing and enhancing employment opportunities for school leavers. Improving adult education levels. Reducing unemployment rates in the NEIC community. **This sub group is chaired by Mary Keenan, Department of the Taoiseach.**

Some highlights from the year's work of the Maximising Educational, Training and Employment Opportunities sub group include:

- The Department of Rural and Community Development continued to provide funding for 55 posts under the Social Employment Fund thereby enhancing service delivery in childcare, afterschool, youth work, eldercare, environmental and arts projects in the NEIC.
- An educational bursary was established for teachers in NEIC schools to allow them to undertake a bespoke Masters in Education (Special Option Poverty and Social Inclusion in Education) with a view to further developing social inclusion expertise among educators, increasing teacher retention in the area, and attracting new teachers to take up posts in the area.
- The 6 secondary schools in the NEIC were provided with funding to run an Afterschool Study Programme with a view to boosting academic performance and providing a safe, structured and supportive environment for students to complete class-based assignments, engage in research for project work, and prepare for exams.
- Funding was provided to primary schools in the NEIC to allow them engage with 'Doodle Den' to improve children's literacy in a fun and interactive manner.
- Funding was provided to three local secondary schools to develop their learning offerings to students in the area of coding and robotics.
- Funding was provided to supplement career guidance support for second-level students and to promote educational engagement in the NEIC.
- The NEIC Initiative partnered with JumpaGrade to provide 20 scholarships to post-primary students from DEIS schools in the NEIC.
- The NEIC Principals' Network (a network of local school principals providing opportunities for collaboration and shared learning) continued to meet regularly in 2020.
- Career L.E.A.P. – an evidence-based work-readiness programme to support young people to face additional and significant barriers to entering the workforce – received funding support.
- Funding was provided so that Fighting Words could work with primary and secondary schools, youth groups, and children and adults with additional needs in the NEIC, providing free tutoring and mentoring in creative writing.
- An educational and continuous professional development bursary for childcare workers in the NEIC was provided.
- A bursary was made available to support individuals of limited means preparing to commence training or employment.
- The Department of Social Protection trialled using technology to reach out to jobseekers by producing a variety of videos with content relevant to the individual jobseeker.
- A Youth Employment Support Scheme (YESS) information video was produced specifically for young jobseekers in NEIC area. This video outlined the benefits of participating in this Scheme which is aimed at jobseekers aged 18 to 24 years and offers a 24 hours per week, 13-week work experience placement. YESS also includes an increased rate of payment from the Department of Social Protection while participating in this Scheme. A link to the video which could be accessed via smartphone,

laptop or tablet was emailed/posted to each 18 to 24-year-old jobseeker registered with the Department of Social Protection in NEIC area.

- The Department of Social Protection, in collaboration with PublicJobs.ie, produced information videos for the recent Executive Officer and Temporary Clerical Officer recruitment competitions. Links to these videos were emailed to jobseekers in NEIC area.
- The Department of Social Protection conducted an online NEIC Employer Survey to ascertain the recruitment and skills needs of employers in NEIC area. This survey aimed to assist in identifying and planning possible future interventions. The survey included a variety of relevant questions on qualifications sought, difficult to fill vacancies and upskilling or reskilling of current staff. The survey also sought to identify employers interested in availing of financial and recruitment supports

and schemes available through the Department of Social Protection to employers hiring from the live register (YESS, JobsPlus) and accessibility supports/grants to employers hiring people with a disability. Follow up with respondents is ongoing.



*Mentorship event at Marino College hosted by Irish Water and Virgin Media*

## PROJECT IN FOCUS

### P-TECH

P-TECH is an education programme that runs alongside and complements a student's normal post primary education. It provides young people with an innovative and highly relevant educational opportunity that enables them to earn a third-level qualification, along with the skills required to enter the workforce or continue with their education.

Three secondary schools (Larkin CC, St. Joseph's Fairview, and Marino College) in the NEIC area are participating in the P-TECH education programme. During 2020 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year students in the 3 P-TECH schools continued with their studies in Robotics and Coding. The 5 P-TECH partner companies (Irish Life, Irish Water, Virgin Media, Cisco and IBM) provided monthly mentorship events for the students. Over 80 employees from the companies provided support to the P-TECH students. These mentorship events involved workshops in the schools and visits to the companies.

The National College of Ireland (NCI) - the 3rd level partner in the P-TECH education programme - provided a 12-week course that was attended by 23 teachers based in the NEIC. This course helped to prepare teachers for the college courses (QQI Level 6 modules) that the students will study during Senior Cycle. As part of an ongoing programme of Continuous Professional Development, a number of teachers began Masters in Educational Practice programmes in NCI. Due the growing demand from students for Robotics and Coding classes (currently almost 500 students study these subjects) additional teachers qualified to teach these subjects.

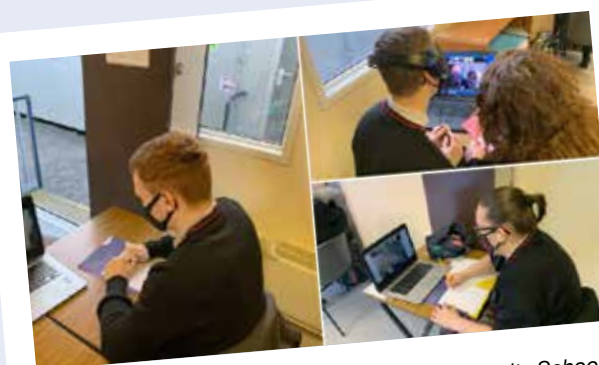
## PROJECT IN FOCUS

### NEIC Flash Mentoring Programme

The NEIC have partnered with National College of Ireland to bring a Flash Mentoring Programme to Transition Year and Leaving Certificate Applied students in 6 local DEIS secondary schools. The participating schools are:

- Larkin Community College
- Mount Carmel
- O'Connell Secondary School
- St. Joseph's CBS
- Marino College
- Rosmini School

The programme launched in November with 350 mentors from over 40 city centre public and private sector organisations. The programme's aim is to create awareness amongst students of a range of career options and career paths, while also starting the process of building their professional network. Over the next 7 months, each student will gain insights into the career journeys, jobs and the experiences of 5-6 different mentors.



*Flash Mentoring Session with Rosmini Community School*

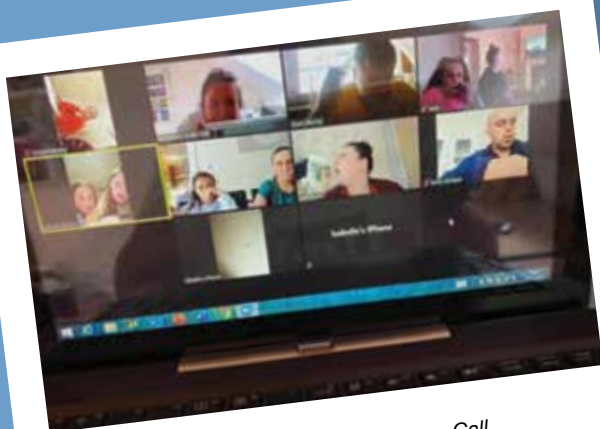
# FAMILY WELLBEING

Improving family wellbeing with a focus on parenting. Improving youth wellbeing. **This sub group is chaired by Joy McGlynn, Tusla.**

The Family Wellbeing sub group was established at the end of 2019, in line with the NEIC Strategic Plan 2020 - 2022.

Some highlights from the year's work of the Family Wellbeing sub group include:

- Supporting Belvedere Youth Club in operating a service for 7-10 year olds.
- Providing Fast Track Counselling for children and young people in the NEIC.
- Increasing the use of the Restorative Practice Model within the NEIC.
- During 2020, significant planning and preparation went in to launching a new project to support families with complex needs – the Community Case Management Approach – and it is planned to get this project up and running in 2021.
- The sub group has also been working on ways to integrate services for families in a way that makes it easy for families to access good quality information and interventions, even during the Covid Restrictions. One example of this is in the Parenting Support Work.
- The sub group has also led on supporting frontline workers in the NEIC to understand the impact of trauma on families and on themselves. Workshops have been taking place virtually to share information with those working in the community about how to best support families in dealing with trauma. There has also been a focus on self-care in these sessions.



*Belvedere Youth Club- Zoom Call*



*Belvedere Youth Club*



## PROJECT IN FOCUS

### Belvedere Youth Project

The NEIC has funded a worker in Belvedere Youth Club to work with the 7-10 years age group in an afterschool club. This worker has been able to support the work of the afterschool club for 140 children in this age group on a weekly basis. During COVID-19 restrictions, they undertook online activities such as Coderdojo; Zoom virtual drop in; Digital Sports & recreational activities; Community Bingo Quiz; Games Challenges; and Baking Sessions. A successful programme of activities was also arranged for the Summer.

## PROJECT IN FOCUS

### Restorative Practice

The NEIC Brighter Futures Restorative Practice Initiative continues to support organisations to build mutually respectful relationships with young and old alike. 208 adults took part in Getting Started or Upskilling Training last year with 12 people attending Train the Trainer sessions. 99% of participants found the training valuable with 92% feeling confident to implement the skills learned into their workplace post-training. Like other years, the ability to deal more effectively with conflict was, for a significant number of participants (31%), their main reason for engaging with Restorative Practice (with participants rating their own ability as increasing from 54% at pre-training to 71% on completion of their training).

Monthly Restorative Practice Community of Practice (COP) meetings became weekly in March, with the number attending doubling as organisations were dealing with COVID-19.

#### Testimonial

**'I believe restorative practices have never been more important than now. Being stuck in the same home as one another can lead to relationships being frayed and strained. It's for this reason restorative values and practices are vital to strengthening / maintaining healthy and positive relationships. For our young people, it's important to provide them with a space as close as possible to that of the physical service through the medium of social media interaction and zoom meetings. Zoom meetings, I believe, are crucial in sustaining relationships as through zoom we can offer a face to face conversation where the young people can feel heard, safe and connected.'**

## PROJECT IN FOCUS

### Interagency Parent Support

Working together in an inclusive and 'whole community' approach and integrated services are key NEIC values. With the sudden closure of services and schools in March, parents went through a difficult time with many isolated, stressed and anxious about their children. The Family Wellbeing sub group examined the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions on parent supports, including its impact on informal community supports and the more vulnerable parents. An interagency response throughout the NEIC ensured that 838 activity packs with simple age-appropriate educational materials containing art and craft supplies, books, toys and physical activity equipment were delivered to families. A further 116 My Place to Play Mats were also delivered across the community.

#### Testimonial

**'The family support worker has been video calling the family on a weekly basis since this whole thing started and she commented that this morning's video call was so heart-warming as mam had all of the children colouring and doing their activity packs on the floor. The baby was also playing in her mat with the My Place to Play rattles and toys.'**

## PROJECT IN FOCUS

### Youth Mental Health

We have all needed to mind our mental health over the past year and the Family Wellbeing sub group has looked at different ways of supporting individuals and groups in the NEIC.

The sub group has been delighted to support the Fast-Track Counselling initiative, which gives children and young people in the NEIC access to counselling as soon as they need it. This helps to reduce the level of stress and distress to children, young people and their families. By the end of 2020, the initiative expects to have assisted in excess of 150 children and young people with either in-person or online sessions. The average number of sessions per person is 7.

# ENHANCING COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Improving social cohesion and wellbeing in the community. Enhancing the physical environment, landscape and cleanliness. **This sub group is chaired by Karl Mitchell, Central Area Manager, Dublin City Council.**



*Tradfest Mud Island Community Garden*



*Thais Muniz Five Lamps Arts Festival*



*New playground graphic Hill St. Family Resource Centre*



*Greening Strategy project with students of O'Connell Secondary School. North Richmond St*



*Launch of Hill Street Chinese New Year Festival*

Some highlights from the year's work of the Enhancing Community Wellbeing and the Physical Environment sub group include the following:

- **Design stage completed and Part 8 Planning Process completed on the Diamond Park re-development.**
- **Royal Canal Cycleway – Sheriff St. to North Strand – completed and opened to the public.**
- **NEIC Greening Strategy progressed.**

**The Green Ribbon Project (in partnership with Sunflower Recycling) delivered the following in 2020:**

- Memorial Park, North Strand weeded, planted and completely overhauled.
- Church Grounds at Seán MacDermott St and St. Laurence O'Toole weeded and replanted.
- Summerhill Court had 3 green spaces rejuvenated.
- Buckingham Street (Dracula house) overgrowth removed, weeded and cleaned up.
- The 'fish' feature at Spencer Dock replanted, overgrowth removed, grass replaced.
- 5,760 bags of community clean-up material collected weighing 21.78 tons. Jan. – October.

**The following Infrastructural projects were planned / progressed:**

- Significant progress made on the redevelopment of Rutland St School.
- URDF (Urban Regeneration and Development Fund) funding application submitted for Public Realm Plan / Charleville Mall node.
- O'Connell's School Sports Facility JV – Feasibility Study Q2.
- Newcomen Cottage refurbishment and site works at Mud Island Community Garden – on site Q4.
- Sheriff Youth Club Refurbishment – Capital Sports Grant awarded Q3.
- NEIC Sports Hub – Capital Sports Grant awarded Q3.

**The following Playground improvements were carried out in 2020:**

- Hill Street Family Resource Centre – Surface & Equipment repairs.
- Rutland Court playground.
- Summerhill Place – Equipment and safety surface.
- Portland Place – safety surface, fence repair and painting.

**The following Arts, Culture & Heritage projects were supported in 2020:**

- Five Lamps Arts Festival - Core Funding and

Amiens St. Office rental.

- Tara Kearns, Aduantas Portraits Project.
- PHILO – Play by Peter Sheridan, set in Sheriff St..
- 'Tenement Dreams' short film – Orla Murphy.
- Crinniú na nÓg – National day of creativity for children and young people.
- Maria Nillson Waller – 'The River' documentary.
- D-Light Studios Artist in Residence.
- Five Lamps The Musical.
- Mapping the North Inner City – Series of self-guided walking tours.

**The following Community Events were funded by NEIC in 2020:**

- The Big Cheer Christmas Community Festival
- Chinese New Year, Hill St. Family Resource Centre – 25th January.
- Series of community activities and light entertainment during public health restrictions – Q2 & Q3.
- Crinniú na nÓg (On line workshops) – 13th June.
- Social Inclusion Week – 28th September – 2nd October.
- Mudstock Music Festival – Mud Island Community Garden 26th/27th September.
- Five Lamps Arts Festival (On-line) – Launched 21st October.
- The Big Scream Halloween Festival – 28th - 31st October.
- Christmas Tree Lighting.

**The following Social Housing Developments were advanced in 2020:**

- Croke Villas – 61 apartments – High Court judgment delivered Q3.
- Railway St – 47 Apartments – Planning permission granted to Circle VHA by An Bord Pleanála Q1.

**The following large-scale public information campaigns were run in 2020:**

- Multi-lingual COVID-19 Safety Message.
- Halloween At Home – Stay Safe.



Local Covid Awareness Campaign



Local COVID-19 Posters ready for dispatch



## Community and arts projects in focus



THE RIVER Flora Fauna Performance - Project Arts Centre. (Photo - Stace Gill)

### PROJECT IN FOCUS

#### Flora Fauna Contemporary Dance Project

**THE RIVER** is a contemporary dance piece created by Flora Fauna Project in 2018/2019. The performance took place in early March 2020 and was performed by 17 women primarily from Sheriff Street and Ballybough. The women were originally brought together by the NEIC GAA for Mas Programme in a unique initiative supported by the NEIC, D-Light Studios, Dance Ireland, the Project Arts Centre and the Irish Arts Council. Flora Fauna Project is an ongoing artistic collaboration and production company by choreographer Maria Nilsson Waller and composer Stace Gill/The Sei.

Over 6 months, these local women – who had no previous experience in contemporary dance – undertook a unique and intense training programme, bringing two communities together. ‘The River’ became the collective expression of every individual on this team, told through the language of dance and movement. A story of true and hidden beauty, female strength and camaraderie, poetic and honest physicality and above all, courage, acceptance

and flow. This piece has been created by and for the mothers, grandmothers and daughters of the North East Inner City, the hearts and leaders of these communities, and was presented at two sold out performances at Dublin’s leading venue for contemporary art, the Project Arts Centre, on 6th & 7th March 2020.

This one-of-a-kind social and artistic experiment and exploration formed a powerful team that began with football and evolved to contemporary dance.

**‘GAA brought us together, dancing is keeping us together’**

Dancer Jackie Byrne, Ballybough

**‘Great to see these women taking this unique opportunity in contemporary dance, and in doing so becoming role models for the next generation of girls coming through’**

Michael Darragh Macauley

It is intended that a further phase of the Flora Fauna project will take place in 2021.



## PROJECT IN FOCUS

### Rutland Street School – Re-development by Dublin City Council

Rutland Street National School (formerly the Pro Cathedral School) was constructed between 1910 and 1912. Designed by Aislin and Coleman Architects, it is an early example of modern twentieth century construction, with a steel frame, concrete floors and a brick facade. Designed for 2,000 pupils, it was the setting for the iconic recordings *Give Up Yer Aul Sins* in the 1960s. In the 1970s a concrete frame structure known as the 'School on Stilts' was also constructed on the site. The National School relocated to Sean MacDermott Street in 2008 and, until recently, the building accommodated a crèche and a number of youth and community groups.

An extensive renovation and redevelopment scheme is underway to create a vibrant multi-use community hub in this landmark building. The ambition is that this historic and significant building will become a focal point for the community and a symbol of the regeneration of the area, both in the immediate future, and for generations to come.

The vision for this building is to create a new hub for a wide range of services including the following:

- Dublin City Council's Central Area Office
- Lourdes Youth Community Centre (LYCS)
- Crèche
- Neighbourhood Youth Project 1 (NYP1)
- Youth Services (YS)
- Dublin City FM radio station

- Exhibition Space, Community Hall and Café
- Incubator enterprise units
- Community gardens

The proposal entails extensive renovation and repairs to the original fabric of the building, including:

- Improving environmental performance to A3 rating
- Repairs to windows, brickwork, roof
- New mechanical and electrical services
- New stair core to the rear
- New single storey extension
- Works to public footpath and road
- Provision of universal access
- Extensive landscaping to rear

A consultant Design Team has been appointed to the project:

**Architect:** McGarry Ni Éanaigh

**Conservation Architect:** Blackwood Associates

**Civil/Structural Engineer:** Barrett Mahony Consulting Engineers

**Mechanical and Electrical:** IN2

**Quantity Surveyor:** Austin Reddy and Company

**Landscape:** Thirty Three Trees

**Health and Safety:** Tobin Consulting

**Estimated Project Cost:** €18.5 M

**Estimated Timeline:**

Tender Issue *November 2020*

Contractor Appointment *Q1 2021*

Start on Site *Q1 2021*

Completion *Q3 2023*



South Elevation, Rutland Row

# SPORT, RECREATION & WELLBEING PROGRAMME



Coach Finnbar putting kids through paces - Hoppers - O'Connells



Operation Re-Activation Yoga in Sheriff Street MUGA



NEIC Scoil Uí Chonaill Hoppers



At NEIC Scoil Uí Chonaill Hoppers



## 2020 Programme Highlights

### Sheriff YC Football Academy

Sheriff YC have, through the support of the North East Inner City Initiative and Dublin City Council, set up an academy for 4 - 8 year olds every Saturday morning at Common Street multi use games area (MUGA). The club is currently creating teams for small-sided games from the academy who will all play their football within the community.

### Operation Re-Activation

Operation Re-Activation was a programme devised in response to the re-commencement of activities following the initial lockdown in March. The aim was to get as many people out of their houses and take advantage of COVID-19 friendly activities to get people active again. The programme involved a wide range of activities from HIIT Classes, Yoga Classes, Kayaking, GAA, Football, Basketball, and much more. Over 300 people got involved across all activities.

### Yoga

Classes were provided throughout the year in a number of different areas in the North East Inner City. Classes were provided in schools and Youth Services such as Swan YS, Belvedere Youth Club, St. Joseph's Fairview and St. Vincent's GNS. Classes were also carried out with the Saol Project. Weekly relaxation sessions online began in November and are being run weekly to boost positive mental health.

### Poetry / Rap Workshops

The North East Inner City Initiative worked with Belvedere Youth Club to provide poetry and rap workshops to young males in Belvedere Youth Club on a weekly basis during the winter months.

### Late Night Football

This programme aims to provide young people in the North East Inner City area with regular positive activity to participate in during the late evenings. The programme is run through the FAI with the support of the North East Inner City Initiative, Dublin City Council and An Garda Síochána. Football activity is provided over a number of evenings at Common Street MUGA and St. Laurence O'Toole MUGA - catering for groups of teenage girls, teenage boys and young men.

### Basketball

Basketball continues to grow in the North East Inner City. The academy which runs out of Larkin College has 60 boys and girls in regular attendance. The Basketball Programme went outdoors through the spring and summer months utilising Aldborough Place MUGA. The programme also had a special visit from an NBA Champion Francisco Elson as part of the NBA Jnr programme.

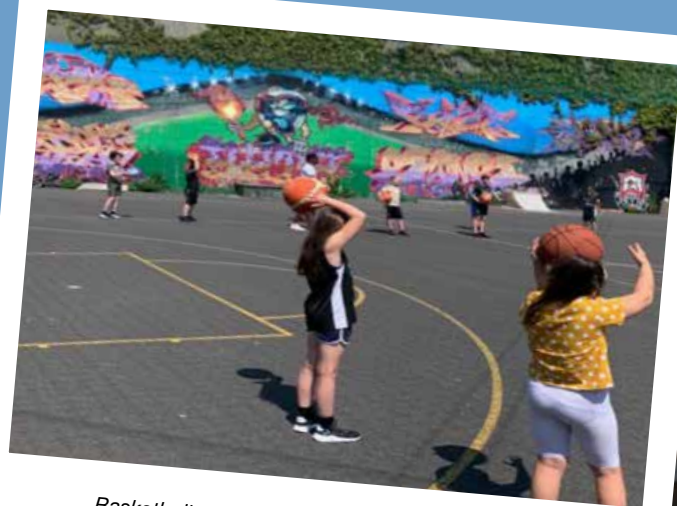
The 2nd Ballerz Basketball Camp was run in Larkin Community College with 50 boys and girls in attendance. Children were taught the skills of the game by some of the best coaches and players in Ireland. St Vincent's Basketball club came to town in June for a charity event on Oriel Street where fun was had and money raised

### Wellbeing Activities for Older Adults

From May to September, weekly chair yoga activities took place in a number of local senior citizen complexes including Tom Clarke House, Brendan Behan Court and St. Laurence O'Toole Court in partnership with Dublin City Council's Housing & Community Section, the HSE and An Garda Síochána.



NEIC Cúl Camp on Tour to Croke Park



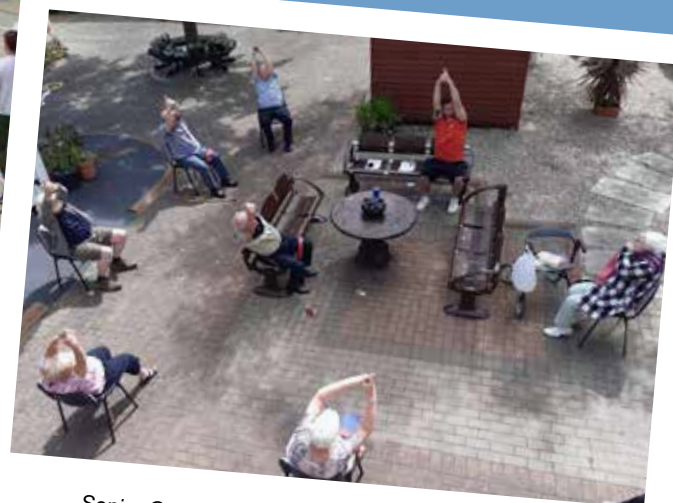
*Basketball activities at Aldborough Place MUGA*



*Evening Football Activity at St. Laurence O' Toole Recreation Centre MUGA*



*Ballerz Camp in Larkin Community College*



*Senior Citizens Chair Yoga in Brendan Behan Court*



*NBA Champion Francisco Elson in Larkin Community College*



*Kids hanging out - Hoppers - O'Connells School*



## Kayaking

Kayaking trips on the River Liffey were provided weekly from May to August with Dublin City Kayaks. 40 boys and girls were in attendance each week to take a tour of Dublin City from Samuel Beckett Bridge to the Ha'penny Bridge with lots of fun in between. Many different youth clubs, housing complexes and sports clubs took advantage of this facility.

## Bike Polo

The Dublin Bike Polo Club commenced activity in the North East Inner City area in 2020. The group trained throughout the year, when appropriate, at Aldborough Place MUGA. The group were supported by Dublin Sports and Wellbeing Partnership, Dublin City Council and the North East Inner City Initiative.

## Gaelic Football Fitness for Women

A Women's Gaelic Football Fitness programme was carried out during the summer and autumn months. The programme saw women from Ballybough and the North Wall Area enjoy weekly fun activity in Fairview Park and at St. Laurence O'Toole MUGA.



*Women's Gaelic Football Fitness at St Laurence O'Toole Recreation Centre MUGA*



*Dublin Bike Polo Club – Training at Aldborough Place MUGA*



*Hoppers - O'Connells School*

## PROJECT IN FOCUS

### Juvenile Gaelic Games

A number of Juvenile Gaelic Games initiatives were developed in 2020 through the support of the North East Inner City Initiative.

### Scoil Stars Programme

Scoil Stars is a socially inclusive sports club, which incorporates participants of all learning needs (8 -14 year olds). The programme was created by Scoil Uí Chonaill with the support of the North East Inner City Initiative, Dublin City Council and the Dublin City Sport and Wellbeing Partnership. The programme runs on Saturday mornings at the club's grounds in Clontarf Road and at the Ballybough Youth and Community Centre.

### NEIC / Scoil Uí Chonaill Hoppers

NEIC Scoil Uí Chonaill Hoppers is a GAA Nursery providing weekly activity for 3 - 8 year olds throughout the year. The Academy was created in partnership with Dublin City Council and the North East Inner City Initiative. The Academy runs every Saturday from 12pm - 1pm at O'Connell School All-Weather Pitch.

### GAA Cúl Camp

This was the 2nd year that the NEIC GAA Cúl Camp was run in association with Scoil Uí Chonaill GAA Club. Over 55 local young people participated in the week long GAA programme in August.

### For further information contact:

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Sports Officer

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*GAA Cúl Camp at Larkin Community College MUGA*



## THE BIG SCREAM



**3,500** People  
engaged in Zoom  
Bingo and Play Your  
Cards Right

**1,500**  
Prizes won  
by the  
community



**800** Children in  
childcare services  
received arts & crafts  
packs, face painting  
kits and goodie bags



**2,300** Treats  
given out by the  
Scream Team on Tour  
on Halloween night



**1,030**  
Children took part  
in Zoom quizzes/  
story time with  
Dracula



**700** Big Scream  
face masks given to  
the community

**1,800**



Treats delivered  
to schools



**1,000** Families  
engaged on social  
media each day



**300** Boxes of  
chocolates and face  
masks distributed to  
senior citizens

**1,800**  
Art competition  
entries





**400** People  
went out to  
'Find the Fangs'



**90** Participants  
in special FX  
workshops



**80** Large bags of  
treats distributed to  
homeless services



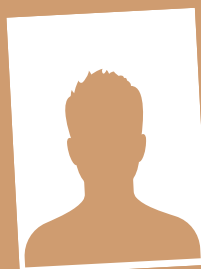
**300** Families took part in  
Scavenger hunt



**250** Fairy doors/  
accessories  
installed in  
Mountjoy Square  
Park and  
Diamond Park



**6** Youth services took  
part in six weeks of  
scary prop making  
workshops



**320** Posters featuring  
individual photos  
of people from past  
festivals hung up  
around the NEIC



**160** Young people  
took part in youth  
service bingo



**4** Youth services  
produced and directed  
scary movies over 6  
week period

**0** Reports of  
criminal damage on  
Halloween night

# INTERCULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

In 2020, Dublin City Council and the Department of Justice and Equality joined forces to fund the creation of a new post of NEIC Intercultural Development Coordinator. The post – which is hosted by Dublin City Council – is focused on championing diversity and inclusion in the NEIC. Joy Eniola started in this role on June 22nd 2020. Joy has worked professionally and in a voluntary capacity with many different groups over the years including youth, elderly, people recovering from addiction, and families affected by HIV/AIDs. Most recently, Joy worked with Crosscare, supporting individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Joy loves travelling and has lived and worked with people from all over the world and has seen how acceptance of others with different cultural and religious backgrounds can enhance individuals and communities. She loves hearing people's stories and believes there is a lot more that connects us than separates us. One of her favourite quotes is one from W.B. Yeats "There are no strangers here, only friends you haven't met yet".

Having worked in the area for nearly five years, Joy loves the community feel and buzz around the NEIC, the resilience of the people who live and work there, and the enthusiasm of community groups and organisations to make a real difference. Joy can be contacted at: [joy.eniola@dublincity.ie](mailto:joy.eniola@dublincity.ie)



*Joy Eniola – NEIC Intercultural Development Coordinator*



*Launch of Chinese New Year'*



# SUBSTANCE USE, MISUSE AND INCLUSION HEALTH

Improving health outcomes for people who use and misuse drugs and alcohol. Promoting inclusion health for socially excluded groups experiencing severe health inequalities. **This sub group is chaired by Jim Walsh, Department of Health.**

Some highlights from the year's work of the Substance Use, Misuse and Inclusion Health sub group include:

- Additional funding was provided for three drug and alcohol services delivered by voluntary providers. These are:
  - **drug and alcohol addiction response team**  
This team offers a proactive, effective and professional joined up, case-management approach to the needs of people who are using drugs and alcohol.
  - **homeless case management team**  
This team provides health and social care services to people in emergency accommodation, particularly people who have been entrenched in homelessness for long periods.
  - **residential stabilisation programme**  
The 10-bed residential stabilisation unit addresses significant deficit in low-threshold programmes for people with addiction and experiencing homelessness.
- An initial evaluation of these services found significant benefits for local inhabitants. In Budget 2021, the Department of Health committed to future funding for the services as part of mainstream primary care services delivered by the HSE in Dublin City and County.
- Funding was provided in 2020 to establish a community addiction assessment hub for individuals who use non-opioid drugs, such as alcohol, cannabis, benzodiazepines. A small multi-disciplinary team works with local GPs to assess clients' needs and to develop an appropriate course of treatment. The team collects data on the types of drug used to inform service development and identify

barriers and service deficiencies impacting on addiction management. The service commenced in September and has funding for an initial one year period, when its impact will be reviewed.

- Part of the remit of the Substance Use, Misuse and Inclusion Health sub group is to improve access to and delivery of health and social care for socially excluded groups. Funding was secured from the NEIC Initiative and matched by Healthy Ireland for a community health project to tackle health inequalities. The project, which will be delivered by the Dublin City Community Cooperative, will develop community knowledge and skills around stress control; healthy food made easy; we can quit (smoking) and health literacy. The project will also promote social prescribing in conjunction with community-based activities and supports.
- The subgroup also supported a number of community initiatives during 2020. These included a training programme for recovery



Art work at Seville Place to promote the 'Leave a Light on' campaign in support of addiction Recovery Month - September 2020

coaches (see below), dual diagnosis awareness and train the trainer workshops, and facilities for outdoor group work during COVID-19.

- The subgroup examined the high incidence of drug-related deaths in the NEIC with inputs from the Health Research Board and the National Family Support Network.
- Finally, the subgroup considered the impact

of COVID-19 on drug and alcohol services in the NEIC. Some services were re-assigned to provide support for homeless drug users; others restructured their work to provide outreach supports and online counselling. The common thread was enhanced cooperation between statutory and community services in order to meet the needs of service users.

## PROJECT IN FOCUS

### Recovery Coaches

The Recovery Academy of Ireland promotes and facilitates a national recovery movement, highlighting that recovery is possible. They have helped raise awareness at a national level and support local communities to make recovery visible. They work in conjunction with state agencies, primarily the Drug Policy Unit of the Department of Health and their funders the Health Service Executive, but also education and training bodies, and a wide range of non-governmental organisations who provide support to individuals, families and communities struggling with addiction. Through links with local and regional drugs and alcohol task forces, The Recovery Academy engages very actively with community development and support organisations.

A process of training people with lived experience of addiction recovery as peer-to-peer Recovery Coaches took place from October 2019 (interview stage) to the completion of placement in September 2020. This process was led by the

Recovery Academy of Ireland, with the training being funded by the NEIC Initiative. Six people in total completed five days of Recovery Coach Training and were given a placement in existing addiction recovery services. During placement, they completed a total of 300 hours as peer-to-peer Recovery Coaches and were assigned several learning objectives for completion during placement, with additional training provided. This was a great learning experience for the Recovery Coaches, culminating with a graduation ceremony.

The Recovery Coaches have been visible vehicles of change within the services and communities in which they did their placements. They have been championing recovery through their own lived experience and are living proof that, with the right supports, recovery is possible! The Recovery Coaches work to show others that there is a way to move away from addiction to a life of recovery.

As a follow on to the course, the NEIC is funding a number of internships for Recovery Coaches in local drug and alcohol services.



Recovery week Mural Sept 2020

# ALIGNMENT OF SERVICES

Integrating and aligning delivery of services across government departments, community services, agencies and institutions. Adapting and implementing the City Connects model. Enhancing community leadership. Enhancing early years and after-schools services. **This sub group is chaired by Kate Levey, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.**

The Alignment of Services sub group was established at the end of 2019, in line with the NEIC Strategic Plan 2020 - 2022.

Some highlights from the year's work of the Alignment of Services sub group include:

- Utilising the sub group as a forum to share information on emerging issues related to COVID-19 in the area such as: the number of referrals to Tusla; the need for provision of IT equipment for educational needs; youth services continuing to engage with hard to reach children; food poverty and the continuation of the School Meals Programme over summer months; and ensuring children and young people were re-engaging with school' in September. Having identified 53 children as at risk, subgroup members worked effectively across their respective organisations to ensure that all 6th class children in the 10 NEIC primary schools had secured a place in a secondary school for September 2020.
- Completion of a report on the consultations with youth services to engage them on the Integrated Service Delivery Framework.
- The University of Limerick Executive Leadership Programme participants continued to meet and engage on the development of an Action Plan for the Liberty Park area.
- Continued funding of SWAN's Streetwork programme which has been very successful in engaging hard to reach young people and using an integrated approach with services such as the Ana Liffey outreach team.
- Funding provided for the development of a Youth Leadership Programme for young people between the ages of 17-24. The programme will be designed by CAN in collaboration with Youth Workers in the NEIC.
- The NEIC City Connects pilot project was launched in the 10 NEIC primary schools in October 2020.



*Railway Street Mural*



## PROJECT IN FOCUS

### City Connects

A new pilot programme, called NEIC City Connects Pilot Project, was implemented in the 10 NEIC primary schools from the start of October 2020 which involves 3 City Connects Coordinators allocated directly to those 10 schools, overseen by a dedicated Programme Manager. The pilot is due to run until August 2021. They will engage with the schools, building relationships with staff, working alongside existing in-school services and engaging with agencies and the community and voluntary sector to bring awareness to the new pilot.

#### What is City Connects?

'All children deserve a chance to learn, but many face obstacles too steep for them to climb alone. City Connects builds a network of support for students, their families, and the schools that serve them, improving outcomes now — and for years to come' Boston College

The NEIC City Connects Pilot Project is a collaboration between the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), Department of Education, Boston College, Tusla Education Support Service (TESS), Mary Immaculate College and funded by the North East Inner City (NEIC) Initiative.

When a school partners with City Connects, a full-time City Connects Coordinator becomes embedded within the fabric of the school to provide a holistic approach to student support. The City Connects Coordinator collaborates with teachers in every classroom to review the strengths and needs of every student each year. The Coordinator develops and maintains an individualised student support plan tailored for every student in their school in collaboration with school and community partners.

#### Systemic Student Support

At City Connects schools, the City Connects Coordinator becomes the hub of student support — a single point of contact in an otherwise crowded maze of service providers. The City Connects practice provides a system and set of processes that alleviate the burden on principals and teachers. City

Connects creates an organised referral process for in school resources and services to community-based partners. City Connects Coordinators also work within schools existing structures to engage parents and families as integral partners in student support. As the hub for student support, City Connects Coordinators provide on-going feedback and follow-up by collaborating with school and community partners to track services and evaluate results, making sure every student is getting what's needed.

In conjunction with the NEIC City Connects Pilot Project, the HSE have recruited 2 speech and language therapists, 2 occupational therapists, 1 clinical psychologist and part-time clerical officer to provide dedicated services to the students in these 10 schools. The initiative marks a significant development in terms of attempting to achieve effective coordination of the full suite of State support services to children using schools as the platform for identification of need.

#### Programme Manager and Coordinator Cluster Assignments

Gerry Cullen, Principal of Mount Carmel secondary school, has been seconded to TESS (Tusla) to take up the position of City Connects Programme Manager for the NEIC City Connects Pilot Project.

The assignment of clusters for the Coordinators are as follows:

##### Martin Shovlin Cluster 1

St. Vincent GNS, St. Vincent Infants BNS, O'Connell BNS

##### Sinead Armstrong Cluster 2

Gardiner Street NS, St. Laurence O'Toole NS and SNS

##### Alison Scully Cluster 3

Central Model Infant NS, Central Model SNS, Rutland St. NS

Gerry and his new team are making introductions with the schools and Principals and will be engaging with the community services shortly with a view to embedding City Connects in the NEIC.



# ENGAGEMENT WITH BUSINESS

Throughout 2020, a number of businesses in the North East Inner City have supported the NEIC Initiative and community. Here are some excellent examples of partnerships helping to promote and improve the NEIC.

## PwC Helping the NEIC Plan for a Brighter Future

As a firm based in the NEIC, PwC strives to make a difference by utilising the dynamic skills and personalities of our people to better impact our local community. In 2019, PwC supported the creation of the NEIC Strategic 2020-2022. In early 2020, PwC's Project Management Consultants provided additional support on this, and worked with the 6 NEIC sub groups to carry out deep dive planning sessions in the PwC offices. All members of the NEIC sub groups and PwC came together to formulate detailed Action Plans which each sub group used as a placemat to achieve their specific strategic objectives for 2020-2022. It proved a great success – where collaboration and teamwork flourished; where various insights, challenges and inspirations were considered and provoked. Together, PwC and the many individuals, organisations, community groups and volunteers involved created a tailored plan for each sub group to support them achieving their strategic objectives.

## A&L Goodbody's Step In Experience

A&L Goodbody held their third and final Step In Experience week for the 2019/2020 school year in January 2020 and welcomed 36 TY students from various schools around Dublin. Five of these schools were from the NEIC (Larkin Community College, Mount Carmel, Rosmini Community School, O'Connell Secondary School and Marino College). The programme aims to provide a unique insight into what working in a firm like ALG is like. In the full academic year, ALG welcomes 90 students a year (45 students from DEIS schools, the majority of which are from the NEIC area) and takes place in September, October and January. A typical Step In Experience week includes:



(L – R) Gaurav Rasnum, Career L.E.A.P. graduate, Michael Stone, Chairperson, NEIC Programme Implementation Board

- Classroom style presentations from employees across various disciplines in the firm
- Work shadowing sessions
- Presentation, interview and CV skills workshops
- Field trips to Trinity College Dublin, the Law Library and the courts

## Career L.E.A.P.

Career L.E.A.P. is a work readiness programme designed to support young people aged 18-25 from the NEIC area to gain valuable work experience. ALG has supported the programme for a number of years through mentoring and providing work placements for the students. In late 2019, Gaurav Rasnum joined ALG's IT Department on a fixed term contract. In February 2020, Gaurav was presented with his Career L.E.A.P. certificate at the annual graduation. In October, an ALG volunteer spoke to the Career L.E.A.P. group about their career journey to date, speaking in particular about the successes and challenges they faced up until now. A virtual tour of ALG was also organised for Career L.E.A.P. participants in late October but was postponed due to the introduction of Level 5 restrictions the day before it was due to take place. This virtual event would have seen a number of ALG volunteers from across the various departments within the firm spoke to the Career L.E.A.P. participants about what their roles entail generally and also on a day-to-day basis. This will be rescheduled for early 2021.



Step In Experience group January 2020, Criminal Courts

# NEIC FUNDING 2016 - 2020

As the focus of the work of the NEIC Programme Implementation Board has been to take an innovative and radical approach to stimulate change, spending money is not the only measure of progress. However, there has been significant investment from the Government in the North East Inner City over the past number of years.

The following summary table sets out the sources and amounts of funding which have been provided

by Government for the NEIC from 2016 to 2020. Further detail on projects allocated funding in 2020 and Community Grants approved is provided in the Appendices towards the end of this Report.

The Government has committed €6.5 million in funding for 2021 to the NEIC Initiative under the Vote of the Department of Rural and Community Development.

## FUNDING SOURCE SUMMARY

YEAR	DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT
2020	Department of Rural and Community Development	€5,500,000
	Department of Rural and Community Development (Social Employment Fund)	€1,000,000
2019	Department of Rural and Community Development	€5,500,000
	Department of Rural and Community Development (Social Employment Fund)	€1,000,000
2018	Department of Rural and Community Development	€2,500,000
	Department of Rural and Community Development (Social Employment Fund)	€1,000,000
	Department of Justice and Equality	€146,810
2017	Department of Rural and Community Development	€2,500,000
	Department of Transport Tourism & Sport (Dormant Accounts Fund)	€100,000
2016	Department of Transport Tourism & Sport (Dormant Accounts Fund)	€1,040,000
	Department of Housing, Planning Community, & Local Government	€3,655,000
	Department of Children and Youth Affairs	€165,000
	Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs & Dublin City Council	€55,000
	Department of Health (Drug specific projects)	€100,000
	<b>OVERALL TOTAL:</b>	<b>€24,261,810</b>

# AMBITION FOR 2021

Since its inception in 2016, the NEIC Initiative has made significant progress on implementing the Mulvey Report. The ambition of the NEIC Programme Implementation Board – and everyone involved with the Initiative – remains to continue to work hard to create a brighter future for everyone living and working in Dublin’s North East Inner City.

2020 was the first full year of implementation of the NEIC Strategic Plan 2020 – 2022 which was approved by Government in December 2019 and significant progress was made in this regard as outlined in this Report. Implementation of the NEIC Strategic Plan will continue in 2021 and, to this end, priority actions have been identified across six work streams in 2020:

- Enhanced Policing
- Maximising Educational, Training and Employment Opportunities
- Family Wellbeing
- Enhancing Community Wellbeing and the Physical Environment
- Substance Use, Misuse and Inclusion Health
- Alignment of Services

Under the **Enhanced Policing** workstream, our ambition is to increase the visible Garda presence in priority areas in the NEIC; give fulsome support to the pilot North Inner City Community Safety Partnership; take possession of the newly refurbished Fitzgibbon St Garda Station and use it as a hub for community policing in the area; continue to provide an educational bursary to serving Gardaí in the NEIC to increase Garda retention in the area; continue to deploy the Garda Community Support vehicle in the area to support community policing and enhance community safety; and provide an extensive programme of initiatives to improve cohesion and dialogue between the NEIC community and Gardaí (including with new communities).

Under the **Maximising Educational, Training and Employment Opportunities** workstream,

our ambition is to continue to support the NEIC City Connects pilot project; continue to provide educational bursaries to increase teacher retention in the area; develop a strategy on community education with the relevant stakeholders; continue to address blocks for the progression of young people in formal education, building upon the successes of projects such as P-TECH, Flash Mentoring and the NEIC Work Experience Programme; improve access to good quality after-school services in the NEIC; and support and enhance employment, education and training opportunities for NEIC residents.

Under the **Family Wellbeing** workstream, our ambition is to continue our work in the area of family wellbeing with initiatives such as service provision for 7 to 10 year olds (in partnership with Belvedere Youth Club); and under 18s Mental Wellbeing Therapeutic and Counselling Support. A landmark project is also underway to support families with complex needs called the Community Case Management Approach and it is intended to make significant progress on this project in 2021.

Under the **Enhancing Community Wellbeing and the Physical Environment** workstream, it is anticipated that major infrastructure projects such as the Rutland Street School re-development and Diamond Park will progress to site in 2021. Subject to a positive URDF funding announcement, work will advance to design stage on the Charleville Mall section of the Public Realm Plan. A further round of Greening Strategy projects will be developed and brought forward for approval early in the New Year. In 2020, COVID-19 had a significant impact on community events and the Sport and Wellbeing

Programme. However, we are optimistic that in 2021 we will continue to adapt to the new working environment to develop worthwhile proposals under these headings in partnership with local communities. With the support of The Green Ribbon, we will continue our efforts to reach out to local communities through awareness-raising, engagement and participation in environmental initiatives to combat the persistent challenges of illegal dumping, litter and dog fouling.

Under the **Substance Use, Misuse and Inclusion Health** work stream, continued progress will be made in 2021 on actions to improve health outcomes for people who use and misuse drugs and alcohol and to promote inclusion health for socially excluded groups experiencing severe health inequalities. The priority actions in 2021 are to improve health outcomes for people who use and misuse drugs and alcohol through enhancing the model of care for substance misuse, including non-opioid drug use, monitoring and evaluating the inclusion health hub, and supporting the delivery of a health diversion programme; to promote inclusion health for socially excluded groups experiencing severe health inequalities through enhancing services for dual diagnosis and improving delivery of health and social care services for socially excluded groups; and to integrate and align delivery of services across government departments, community services, agencies and institutions through implementation of an integrated services delivery framework; information sharing between community support agencies; and the NEIC City Connects pilot project.

Under the **Alignment of Services** workstream, work will continue in 2021 towards the development of a plan for the Integrated Services Delivery Framework pilot in the youth sector. We will also continue our ongoing engagement with Dublin City Council on the implementation of the Liberty Park Action Plan. Following consultations with the early years sector, it is intended for a proposal to be developed to support

and assist the early years services in the NEIC. We will also continue to support the implementation of one of the Initiative's key projects - the NEIC City Connects pilot project.

During 2020, the members of the NEIC sub groups and service providers within the NEIC demonstrated their ability to work through extraordinary times while continuing to make important, measurable progress on issues that really matter to the people of the NEIC – a process that will continue into 2021. By concentrating its efforts in the areas outlined above, the Programme Implementation Board will continue its significant progress towards achieving its vision of making Dublin's North East Inner City a safe, attractive and vibrant living and working environment for the community and its families, with opportunities for all to lead full lives.



*Greening Project - O'Connells School*



# APPENDIX A

## 2020 NEIC FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

**Table 1: Funding allocations approved by the NEIC Programme Implementation Board in 2020**

SUB GROUP	PROJECT	STRATEGIC PRIORITY / MULVEY ACTION	AMOUNT
<b>1</b>	Operation Cribbage	Action 1.2 (Mulvey Report)	€370,000
	Educational bursary to increase Garda retention in the NEIC	Action 3.4 (Mulvey Report)	€58,200
	Community Dialogue	Action 1.8 (Mulvey Report)	€14,475
	Acts of Compassion	Action 3.6 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€5,400
	Drug Related Intimidation	Action 2.1 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€23,814
	[Pilot] Dublin North Inner City Community Safety Partnership	Action 2.1 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€150,000
	<b>Sub Total for Sub Group 1</b>		<b>€621,889</b>
<b>2</b>	MA in Education (Special Option Poverty and Social Inclusion in Education) to increase teacher retention in the NEIC	Action 3.4 (Mulvey Report)	€42,900
	Doodle Den	Action 4.1 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€51,000
	Career L.E.A.P.	Action 4.3 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€27,952
	NEIC After School Study Programme	Action 4.1 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€125,330
	NEIC Flash Mentoring Programme & NEIC Work Experience Programme 2020 - 2021	Action 4.3 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€54,973
	BITCI NEIC Summer Work Placement Programme	Action 4.3 (NEIC Strategic Plan) 2.10 (Mulvey Report)	€3,137 <sup>1</sup>
	Fighting Words	Action 4.1 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€40,000
	Coding and Robotics in Non-PTECH Schools	Action 4.2 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€47,162
	Childcare CPD Bursary	Action 2.4 (Mulvey Report)	€22,250
	Educational Guidance for Second Level Schools	Action 4.1 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€50,000
	ICRG Training Bursary	Action 4.3 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€10,000
	JumpAgrade	Action 4.1 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€18,000
	<b>Sub Total for Sub Group 2</b>		<b>€492,704</b>

1. Preparatory costs only – Summer Work Placement Programme could not proceed in 2020 due to COVID-19.

<b>3</b>	Service provision for 7 to 10 year olds	Action 1.10/1.11 (Mulvey Report)	€48,764
	Under 18s Mental Wellbeing Therapeutic & Counselling Support	Action 8 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€79,000
	Brighter Futures Restorative Practice	Action 3.13 (Mulvey Report)	€43,000
	<b>Sub Total for Sub Group 3</b>		<b>€170,764</b>
<b>4</b>	Arts Projects 2020	Action 14.5 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€120,000
	Community Events Programme 2020	Action 14.3 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€230,000
	NEIC Greening Strategy Implementation Phase 1 (Round 2)	Action 11.2 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€505,000
	Sport, Recreation & Wellbeing Programme 2020	Action 14.1 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€200,000
	Mountjoy Square Festival	Action 14.2 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€50,000 <sup>2</sup>
	Green Ribbon	Action 13.1 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€120,000
	Playgrounds Improvement Programme 2020	Action 14.2 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€50,000
	Sheriff YC Refurbishment Works	Action 14.2 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€28,000
	Diamond Park Redevelopment	Action 11 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€350,000
	Sean MacDermott St. Swimming Pool	Action 14 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€230,000
	'The Well' – NEIC Sports Hub	Action 14 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€98,000
	46-49 North Great Clarence St. (D-Light Studios)	Action 10 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€91,206
	<b>Sub Total for Sub Group 4</b>		<b>€2,072,206</b>
<b>5</b>	Community Participation Worker	Cross-cutting	€10,953
	Addiction Assessment Hub	Action 15.4 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€99,592
	Homeless and Drug & Alcohol Services	Actions 15.1 and 15.2 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€376,500
	NEIC Community Health Project	Actions 16.4 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€98,500
	Dual Diagnosis Awareness and Train the Trainer Workshops	Actions 16.2 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€9,000
	<b>Sub Total for Sub Group 5</b>		<b>€594,545</b>
<b>6</b>	Research on reduced timetables in NEIC post primary schools	Action 18.1 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€34,400
	Detached Youth Outreach	Action 17 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€150,000
	City Connects	Action 3.5 (Mulvey Report) Action 18.4 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€707,449
	Occupational Therapy /Speech & Language Therapy / Psychology Services for children in the NEIC	Actions 15.1 and 15.2 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€165,900
	Young Leaders for Active Citizenship in North Inner City Dublin	Actions 19.3 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€40,350
	<b>Sub Total for Sub Group 6</b>		<b>€1,098,099</b>

2. This event has been postponed until 2021 due to COVID-19. Expenditure of €50,000 incurred on Act Fee Deposits, Event Management Planning and Pre-Production Costs will remain valid when the event is re-scheduled.

OVERARCHING BUDGETS	STRATEGIC PRIORITY / MULVEY ACTION	AMOUNT
Emerging Needs Fund <sup>3</sup>	Cross-cutting	€89,793
Community Grants	Action 3.12 (Mulvey Report)	€100,000
Social Employment Fund (SEF)	Action 4.5 (NEIC Strategic Plan)	€1,000,000
<b>Programme Office<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Action 4.5 (Mulvey Report)</b>	
Catering / Refreshments at Community Engagement Events, Launch Meetings, Conferences, Workshops, etc.		€7,800
Communications and Engagement / Community Outreach		€101,400
Office Equipment (including venue and AV hire costs)		€15,600
Professional Services (including Design & Print, Feasibility, etc.)		€93,600
Miscellaneous Costs		€41,600
Sub Total for Programme Office		€260,000
Sub Total for Overarching Budgets		€1,449,793
<b>TOTAL FUNDS APPROVED IN 2020</b>		<b>€6,500,000</b>

3. See Table 2 for detailed breakdown of allocations made under the Emerging Needs Fund.

4. Salary costs for Programme Office staff are not included as these are covered by the relevant parent Department / Agency in support of the NEIC Initiative.

**Table 2: Funding allocations approved under the Emerging Needs Fund in 2020**

ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
CASPr	€4,010
LYCS	€11,693
ACET	€9,500
Acts of Compassion Ministries	€3,000
SAOL	€7,940
Oasis	€26,000
Hill St Family Resource Centre	€4,000
All Together in Dignity	€419
Dublin Public Service Radio Association	€7,000
Early Learning Initiative	€4,634
Irish Refugee Council	€2,120
Barbara Ward Community Centre	€1,950
Ozanam House	€4,457
Free Legal Aid Centre	€3,070
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€89,793</b>



# APPENDIX B

## 2020 NEIC COMMUNITY GRANTS

GROUP	PROJECT NAME	GRANT
Nottingham Street Residents' Group	Upgrade of seasonal plants	€600
Voice of New Communities Drugs & Alcohol Network (Acts of Compassion Ministries)	IT equipment	€3,000
St. Laurence O'Toole Church	Restoration of church organ	€4,000
St. Mary's Early Years' Service	Painting of communal dining area and mural	€1,000
O'Connell's Secondary School	Outdoor Learning Centre	€4,000
Crosscare	Upgrade of CCTV and repairs to intruder alarm system	€2,000
After Schools Education and Support Programme	New tables, chairs and changing stations	€2,500
St. Laurence O'Toole's National School	Signage and school yard games	€3,000
Larkin Childcare Facility	Ramp and fencing; buggy/wheelchair access; and repairs to play area surface	€3,000
The Five Lamps Arts Festival	IT hardware and office equipment	€3,000
Lourdes Day Care Centre	Blast chiller machine and stand for catering	€5,000
North Wall CDP-Little Treasures Community Crèche	Replacement cookers; fire safety upgrade; laptops; COVID-19 screen	€3,500
Seville Place Girl Guides	Equipment for photography club	€910
SAOL Project CLG	Provision of a shower / personal hygiene space	€5,000
Mud Island Community Garden	New website; garden improvements	€5,000
St. Brigid's Day Nursery	New desktop; laminate flooring; new play equipment	€1,400
The Cavan Centre CLG	Delivery of cycle training; bike shed; PPE	€3,500
Rising Stars Dance Club	Fold-up exercise mats	€405
Edmund Rice Camp	Kitchen and baking equipment for evening youth clubs; Sport and leisure equipment for children's summer camps	€665
Mount Carmel Secondary School	Upgrade to Parents' Room	€4,000
Portland Place & District	Sports equipment; flowers and shrubs for park	€1,000
Sherrard Avenue Residents' Association	Painting; installation of raised bedding, trellises, climbers and wild flowers within the common area at Williams Place Upper and Sherrard Avenue	€1,000

GROUP	PROJECT NAME	GRANT
Adventure Sports Project	Furniture; planter boxes	€2,000
Belvedere Youth Club	Office furniture; laptops; sports equipment; arts and crafts supplies	€4,800
ACET Ireland	Office equipment; Perspex screens	€490
HOPE	2 laptops for staff to enable remote working; COVID-19 screens for public office; carpet cleaning	€1,650
After Care Recovery Group	5 Dell OptiPlex 5480 computers; 5 Microsoft licences	€3,000
Larkin Unemployed Centre	Replacement main hall door	€1,243
Sunflower Recycling	Roof repairs to 2 porta cabins	€4,000
Sheriff Youth Club	Foldable chair and storage system for same	€1,788
International Youth Club	Guitar strings; sports equipment; photography equipment; rain covers; first aid equipment; life jackets; hand sanitiser	€2,330
SWAN Youth Service	Film and editing equipment	€4,978
Discovery Gospel Choir	Whiteboard, projector and projector screen	€2,200
D-Light Studios	Equipment to help run programme of community engagement activities	€1,992
Dublin Simon Community	Equipment for sensory and mindfulness room for residents of Dublin Simon Community's Medium Support Housing Service on Seán MacDermott Street	€2,000
Daughters of Charity Community Services	2 laptops to allow virtual counselling, family support, interviews	€1,770
Fairview Parkrun	Laptop to support the organisation's administration	€279
The Oasis Centre	Updating of office computers	€5,000
99th 2nd Port North Strand Sea Scouts	Scouts equipment, incl. activity / wet weather gear and camping equipment	€3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>€100,000</b>

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**DUBLIN**  
**NORTH EAST**  
**INNER CITY**