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| **Location: via ZOOM Videoconference** |
| **Time and date:** 8am, 28th April 2021 |
| **Attendance:** Chair – Michael Stone, Superintendent Paul Costello (An Garda Síochána), Noel Hand (DSP), Feargal O’Rourke (PwC), Paddy Murdiff (NICCC), Joy McGlynn (Tusla), Jim Walsh (DoH), Mary Keenan (DoT), Noel Wardick (NICCC), Donal Cassidy (HSE), Kate Levey (DCEDIY), Karl Mitchell (DCC), Mary Cregg (DE), Ursula Donnellan (DCC/Programme Office), David Leavey (DoT/Programme Office), Michael O’Riordan (Programme Office). |
| **Apologies:** Brendan Kenny (DCC), Chief Superintendent Paddy McMenamin (An Garda Síochána) |
| **Presenters:** Bruce Mc Devitt, DCC/NEIC Senior Sports Officer; Michael Darragh Macauley, DCC/NEIC Community and Sports Engagement. |

**Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of both the February 2021 (revised) and March 2021 meetings were approved.

**Proposed:** Paddy Murdiff (NICCC)

**Seconded:** Mary Keenan (DoT)

1. **PIB Request for derogations from Covid-19 restrictions in NEIC**

Following discussion on the submissions that had been received from community representative groups, youth groups etc., it was agreed that the Chair would write to Taoiseach seeking derogations in respect of the following:

* For construction work to resume on Fitzgibbon St Garda Station.
  + For work to be progressed on Sean McDermott St Swimming Pool.
* Permission for the Cavan Centre to reopen for activities and for families in the NEIC to have access to their residential facilities.
* Permission to commence a Community Case Management initiative in the NEIC to deliver an intensive family support to families.
* Permission for children and young people who attend schools in the NEIC to be allowed to engage in activities (indoor and outdoor) in youth clubs in the area using the same “pod” system that is in place in their schools.
* Permission for scheduled interventions be allowed indoors in youth clubs for groups of up to 6 (including youth leaders).

The Board received a presentation on the Sports and Wellbeing programme that is planned for the NEIC for summer 2021. The programme provides for a wide range of activities and events for all ages. The Chair thanked Bruce McDevitt and Michael Darragh Macauley for the presentation and wished them success with the programme.

The DCC rep noted the wide range of activity that is happening in the area and that can happen even during the current level of restrictions.

1. **Budget Group:**

A number of funding proposals were presented for discussion and consideration by the Board. Below is a summary of the decisions reached on each proposal.

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| **Subgroup** | **Project** | **Amount** | **Funding Recipient** | **Decision** |
| **Subgroup 1** | Training programme in Domestic Abuse | €5,600 | An Garda Síochána and a community group to be identified. | **Approved** |
| **Subgroup 2** | ICRG Training Bursary | €10,000 | ICRG | **Approved** |
| **Subgroup 3** | Mindfulness, Wellbeing and Bereavement workshop.  ***[Emerging Needs Fund]*** | €12,250 | OASIS Centre | **Approved** |
| **Subgroup 4** | Intercultural Development Coordinator. (Programme costs and contribution to salary cost) | €60,800 | DCC. | **Approved** |
| **Subgroup 6** | City Connects - additional coordinators | €44,000\* | Department of Education | **Approved** |
| **Subgroup 6** | Multi-Disciplinary Team (OT/SLT/Psychology) | € 405,777 | HSE | **Approved** |

* **This figure is included in the revised overall total approved for City Connects - €314,680 (which is reduced from the original approved estimate of €367,951)**

**Total funds approved by the NEIC PIB to date for 2021 - €4,761,696**

**Proposed:** Paddy Murdiff (NICCC)

**Seconded:** Kate Levey(DCEDIY)

* The Chair requested a presentation from City Connects to be arranged for a future meeting.

1. **HSE Update**

* The HSE rep reported cautious optimism in relation to the COVID-19 situation
* Pop-up testing facilities remain in operation. Results are indicating a high level of asymptomatic cases among those attending for testing.
* Vaccine rollout is progressing to plan.
* The community vaccination centre continues to operate in the Helix for residents of the NEIC area currently dispensing 1800 vaccines per day.
* A vaccination facility has been developed in Croke Park with the capacity to deliver 500-600 vaccines per day. The opening of this facility is dependent on vaccine supply being available and maintained.
* The changes with the Astra Zeneca vaccine has resulted in adaptations being made to the vaccine rollout plan.
* The Johnson and Johnson vaccine which has just been approved and is a one shot vaccine will be targeted at hard to reach groups.
* The buildings that house the Tolco Clinic and the Mews Clinics have recently being refurbished and are reopened.
* The SASSY Clinic is relocating to Lisburn St – this provides support to young people under 18 years of age, resident in Dublin North City and County, for whom drug use or alcohol use is having a significant negative impact on their daily lives.
* Chrysalis continue to provide case management services in the area. Case management supports in the area are being enhanced; - additional providers will be engaged to support this.
* CHO9 are moving from a hospital basis to a community based service for chronic disease management.
* Pop-up testing facilities will continue to be utilised – the HSE rep. reported that they have had great support from the GAA in terms of allowing them use space for these facilities. He noted that they will be seeking locations for pop-up vaccines facilities and that he may require support from DCC for locations.
* The business rep. note that PwC have a team working with the HSE compiling statistical data in terms of the vaccine rollout.

1. **Business Update:**
   * Work is ongoing with Hill St Family Resource Centre and North East Dublin Community Services Initiative (NEDCSI) in developing their Business Plans.
   * Both the TY Virtual work experience programme and the Flash Mentoring programmes are continuing. Reports from all involved – students, teachers, mentors and trainers are very positive.
   * It is envisaged that it will be late 2021 to early 2022 before there is a significant return to office based working. On that basis, plans are in place to replicate the virtual TY programme for autumn 2021. It is hoped that in company work experience might be possible in 2022.
   * The subgroup 2021 action plans are all completed. It was noted that while these are valuable asset to the subgroups etc. the PwC team benefit a lot form the experience in developing them.
   * Requests for supports have been received and these are being looked at to identify the best placed personnel to assist with them.
   * Enquiries are ongoing in relation to supporting funding for the TY coordinator position from the business sector.
2. **Community Update:**

* The community rep thanked Bruce McDevitt and Michael Darragh Macauley for the presentation on the proposed activities for the summer months.
* Liberty Park group – there are 15/16 people involved; they have had 2 virtual meetings to date. The community rep thanked Joy Eniola for identifying some new people to join the group. The group are keen to have a range activities in the park for the summer.
* The *Healthy Communities* Project Coordinator has a background in chronic disease management in community settings and would be would be interested in supporting the HSE in the rollout of such an approach in the area.
  + A 12 week smoking cessation programme *“We Can Quit”* has started.
  + A healthy eating programme will start on the 5th May.
  + A Social Prescribing programme is to be established.
  + The funding provided for this programme (NEIC and Healthy Ireland) was for 12 months. The process for continuation of the funding will need to commence in the near future.
* A doctoral thesis, entitled *“Does External Power Affect the Fairness of Public Policing in Dublin's North Inner City?” (2016)* was referenced as relevant reading in terms of community safety, policing and social justice.
* Derogations from COVID-19 restrictions – frustration was expressed at the length of time for a substantive reply to NICCC’s submission (29th March 2021) to the Taoiseach to be received (an interim reply was sent by the Taoiseach to the NICCC Convenors on 20th April 2021 and copied to the Chair of the NEIC PIB). The convenors have written to the Taoiseach to express their frustration.  The have also advised Sen. Mary Fitzpatrick of their dissatisfaction. The community rep. noted that the submission to the Taoiseach was issued by the NICCC, which is a separate structure to the NEIC PIB.
* It was noted that the Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) coordinator has started in his role. Member groups of the Dublin City Community Coop have arranged a walkabout in the North West Inner City area with him.
* The NICCC convenors had a 2nd meeting with the Policing Authority. The meeting was attended by the Chair, CEO, one Board member and several senior staff of the Policing Authority.
* NEIC Community Grants Scheme 2021 – details have been circulated to local community groups.
* National Childcare Scheme – remains problematic for community providers.
* Local Employment Service (LES) – tenders for the provision of the LES are likely to be sought during the year. Concern was expressed that such a process may risk the viability of existing LES’s.
* The SG5 Chair noted that the Healthy Communities Project was an initiative of his group and he will discuss with them the long-term plan for the project.

1. **Subgroup Reports:**

**Subgroup 4:**

* Work is ongoing to develop a communications strategy for SG4, resident’s workshops have been completed and following consultation at the SG meeting, the findings of both processes will be combined. The resident participants group will be re-convened in the coming weeks to present the Draft SG4 Comms Plan with a view to bringing the final document back to the May SG4 meeting for sign off.
* The DCC rep noted that there is a need for a conversation to be had in relation to new communities and the future of the area, to include - exclusion, racism, crime, schools, living conditions etc.

The Chair advised that he has had a discussion with the Chair of the Local Community Safety Partnership on this subject.

The community rep noted that the Dublin City Community Coop has received for funding to employ an integration coordinator and the person will commence on 24th May 2021.

* + Green Ribbon – following two meetings with the Board of Sunflower Recycling Ltd., a revised proposal is expected to be submitted in relation to the Green Ribbon initiative in early May.
  + Waste and cleaning –
  + Illegal dumping has increased in the area – the support of residents and community groups is needed to tackle this issue.
  + Additional DCC crews are being deployed for deep cleaning of areas.
  + Ballybough *“Pride of Place”* group are doing very positive work in their area. DCC have some improvement works planned for the Ballybough Road area.
  + Sean McDermott St. Swimming Pool – engineers have started to assess the challenge and needs of the building. The DCC rep advised that he will have timelines and further details for the next meeting. The Chair requested a meeting with the engineer to be arranged.

**Subgroup 5:**

* Community aftercare programme for people leaving prison – the proposal has been sent to the Governor in Mountjoy Prison for input and views on the proposal in order to progress it.
* Drug deaths prevention **-** stats from the HRB indicate that there are circa. 300 drug related deaths in Ireland per annum, with a high concentration in the NEIC area. Drug deaths are preventable so SG5 are considering a proposal to prevent some of these deaths. It will be taking a holistic view of the issue to see how we can make services more in tune to people at risk as well as to address the issue of stigma associated with drug related deaths (and possibly based on the Scottish Drugs Forum approach).
* The Subgroup had a presentation on a pilot stigma training programme that had been delivered by SAOL. The evaluation of the programme by TCD was very positive. A proposal will be discussed with the SG5 Chair and SAOL - the initial idea is to focus on the NEIC area, get the proof of concept validated further, then broaden it out, bring it to the Department of Health, with a plan to bring it nationwide.
* The final DCU Recovery College Dual Diagnosis Awareness Workshop is fully subscribed. The second Train the Trainer workshop will be delivered in May.

**Subgroup 6:**

* Integrated service delivery framework in youth services – a consultant has commenced work and has met with the network of services and programmes in NEIC. The consultant is working through SLAs, annual plans, etc. to examine overlap and gaps in service provision. The objective is the development of a single area plan for youth services in the NEIC.
* A meeting has been arranged between DCEDIY and the YPAR 0 to 5yrs group to discuss the proposal that has been submitted by them.
* Work has been undertaken as part of an interagency approach on ensuring that all pupils in the area are linked up with a post primary school for September 2021. The number of pupils transitioning from primary to secondary school that have not yet been linked into a post primary school for September 2021 has been reduced from 15 down to 1. All students that have been identified as possibly being at risk of not transitioning have been linked with relevant supports and services.
* The Tusla Education Support Service (TESS) rep on SG6 has offered support to any family that may be refused access to a place in school.
* The DE rep noted that TESS was under the remit of DCEDIY and has now moved to DE. DE will be continuing to support TESS to ensure a coordinated response.
* The DCC rep expressed concern in relation to the lack of progress with the integration of youth services. He noted that the idea of a Regional Youth Service has been under consideration for 5 years with little progress to date and that any attempt to amalgamate services has proved very difficult.

The DCEDIY noted that the slow pace of the work is frustrating but is hopeful of progress.

**Subgroup 1:**

* The subgroup meeting was attended by the Chair of SG5 and Inspector Thomas Gormley for the discussion on the recommendations of the Drugs Related Intimidation report.

It was noted during the discussion that there is a stigma attached to engaging with the Gardaí. It is recognised that this is a very difficult subject and acknowledged that there is very little reporting of this issue to the Gardaí. There is a need to bridge the gap between the Gardaí and the community on this subject.

Following the discussion the SG1 have undertaken to:

* Develop an Information Pack and roll out to Community groups.
* Positive engagement / presentations with groups in area.
  + Positive advertising campaign to create awareness within Communities, (Local radio/ Social Media / Posters etc.) to encourage reporting of the issue.
  + A recent operation resulted in the seizure of both drugs and cash. Prosecutions will follow for sale & supply and money laundering.
  + Operations Canter and Cribbage are ongoing and continue to deliver positive results.
  + Discussions are ongoing with DCC to agree and implement a joint strategy to address anti-social behaviour incidents.
  + A number of reports have been made to the Gardaí on large groups of youths gathering – when investigated, often the young people concerned have not been found to be committing any crime, it’s just they have nowhere to go given the current restrictions. Gardaí are conscious to ensure that they approach and engage groups of youths in an appropriate manner and have asked for the community and residents to assist them in this regard e.g. by not automatically assuming that a group of young people gathering together are up to no good.
  + The community rep advised that the Minister for Justice announced that she and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform have agreed, in principle, to establish a new fund to support community safety. The fund will reflect the significant successes of An Garda Síochána and the Criminal Assets Bureau in disrupting criminal activity and seizing proceeds of crime by providing additional funding for investment in community safety projects. The new Community Safety Fund will be included in the Justice Vote as part of the Estimates Process for 2022.

The Chair requested the Programme Office to follow up and advise the Board on this funding.

* + The DoH rep advised that they had agreed funding with the National Family Support Network (NFSN) to roll out a programme in relation to drugs related intimidation. However, the NFSN advised on Monday 26th April that they were ceasing trading with immediate effect.
* The contact details for reporting incidents:

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

**Subgroup 3:**

* Parent Support Coordinator: The Early Learning Initiative (ELI) has started the process of recruiting for this position. There are two similar posts in other areas of the country and links are being made with them.
* The Tusla rep reported that a solution to sustaining the Fast-track counselling has yet to be found. The funding that was provided is nearly all used but the number of referrals remains high.

The HSE rep advised that he will discuss with the Tusla rep how the Fast-track counselling issue might be resolved.

* A Mental Health workshop involving representatives from a wide number of services in the NEIC was positively received. This was seen as a good start towards developing a cohesive approach to assessment and referral to services.
* Concern was expressed at the waiting =times being experienced for access to services for OT/SLT etc.
* Waiting list for parents to access counselling is also a concern particularly in relation to the impact this may have on children.
* The lack of access to the swimming pool and its facilities is a concern for members of the subgroup.

The Chair reiterated that the swimming pool it is a priority for him and he will follow up with DCC.

* The Community Case Management initiative has been delayed due to the COVID-19 restrictions but discussions are continuing in relation to scoping out suitable families in advance of the start of the project.

**Subgroup 2:**

* The issue of students registering with multiple schools across the NEIC in advance of entering secondary school, meaning that the admissions process is not completed until July was discussed. The SG2 chair has asked for this matter to be raised at the next Principal’s Network meeting to examine whether the admission processes could be aligned.
* The provision of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) classes and supports for second-level students within the NEIC was discussed at the subgroup.

The Chair noted that he has written to the Board of Management of O’Connell’s Secondary and urged them to consider establishing an ASD unit in the school as there is no such unit in secondary schools in the D1 area.

* Supports for Roma children transitioning between 6th Class and second level education are currently being discussed between the NEIC Intercultural Development Coordinator and the DE NEIC Education Initiatives Manager.
* A proposal to provide funding for the Career LEAP programme was referred back seeking clarification on a number of points. The proposal was also referred to the Business in the Community Rep on the subgroup for consideration for support from businesses.
* SUSI grants – it was noted that SUSI grants are not available for those seeking to participate on part-time programmes. The Dept. of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science rep on SG2 undertook to include a submission on this point into the consultation process that is in progress in relation to SUSI grants.

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

* A steady flow of payment cases to be resolved are being received – good success with these is reported.
* The LES CV service is providing a monthly report on activities and numbers of CVs produced. Current usage is higher than envisaged and it is expected to increase.
* Construction Skills Course – St Andrew’s Resource Centre have completed the procurement process for the training provider and are ready to start the course as soon as the restrictions allow.
* DSP are in discussions with St Andrew’s Resource Centre with regard to supporting an initiative linked to the Green Economy. St Andrew’s are currently developing a proposal for consideration by DSP.
* Job Seeker survey – the initial survey was issued via *Survey Monkey* but did not prove as successful as hoped. Following discussions with and support from GOOGLE the survey has been reissued, the target completion date is end of May.
* Job Vacancies – people on Activation caseloads are being matched with job vacancies as DSP are notified of them. Notices of job vacancies are also being forwarded to the NEIC Programme Office for display on the website.
* LES procurement process - The DSP rep noted that there are currently 600,000 people in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) and while this is expected to drop in the coming months, he feels that there will be a need for external providers to assist job seekers to access employment. Given the record of the current local LES provider he is confident that they would be in a good position to maintain their current provision if there is a procurement process initiated.

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

* The Chair had a meeting with *Together Digital* in relation to the redesign of the website and social media platforms. The objective is for the website to become the “go to” site for people in the community.
* 25 items were posted to the website during April. The content covered included:
  + Sport for Young People Grant Scheme,
  + Intreo’s Work and Skills week 2021,
  + P-TECH promotional video,
  + The Healthy Communities Project,
  + Early Learning Initiative’s
  + Pilot Youth Council
  + SWAN Youth Service Outreach Workers
  + Regular updates on pop-up COVID-19 test centres.
  + Public health information – Bowel cancer screening
* Feb Competition stats:
  + 10,612 people reached on Facebook generating 196 Likes, 166 Comments and 155 Shares.
* This competition was viewed approximately 4,500 more times than December’s competition
* Website stats. for March
  + 2,539 visits to the website - 78% are new users.
  + This is a 34% increase over its performance at this point last year.
* The first NEIC Newsletter of 2021 is now in final draft stage and it is anticipated to be sent to printed and delivered in early May.

1. **AOB:**

* The 2021 Community Grant scheme is advertised and open for applications. The closing date for applications is 31st May 2021.
* Local Community Safety Partnership Webinar - the Chair advised that he had attended the webinar on 7th April and noted a few key points that were made at the event, namely:
  + The relationship between dumping and people feeling unsafe. There is a need to include all subgroups in the discussion. Everyone needs to be play their part in the solving the issue. All the evidence shows that the majority of the dumping/littering is by local people. He asked for a focus to be maintained on this matter and welcomed opinions as how to get the message across.
  + Some playgrounds are in need of repair – the DCC rep advised that 28 playgrounds are in a programme of rolling repairs and significant work has been undertaken in the last few years.
  + The importance of STEM subjects in school in terms of accessing work – he would like to see the PTECH programme expanded to the 3 other secondary schools in the area.
* We should look at a project, which is currently in place in Donore Avenue, and is focussed on assisting people to disengage from gangs – the community rep advised that one of the Dublin City Community Co-op Board members works on the project and he would assist with any follow up required.
  + The importance of maintaining the identity of the area and not losing this like other areas have.

**Next meeting: Wednesday 26th May 2021 @ 8.00am**

**Venue: ZOOM**

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

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| **What** | **Who** |
| Forward agreed list of derogations for consideration to the Taoiseach | Chair |
| Set up meeting with DCC engineer re Sean McDermott Street swimming pool. | DCC/Programme Office |
| Circulate information on Dept. of Justice funding for community safety projects. | Programme Office |
| Follow up on gang initiative in Donore Avenue. | Community rep/Programme Office |
| Circulate copy of the *“Sport and Wellness Summer programme 2021”* | Programme Office |