

North East Inner City Initiative Programme Implementation Board

Location: via ZOOM Videoconference
Time and date: 8am, 30 th September 2020
Attendance: Chair – Michael Stone, Chief Superintendent Paddy McMenemy (An Garda Síochána), Paddy Murdiffe (NICCC), Joy McGlynn (Tusla), Kate Levey (DCYA), Jim Walsh (DoH), Mary Keenan (DoT), Karl Mitchell (DCC), Noel Wardick (NICCC), Feargal O'Rourke (PwC), Mary Cregg (DES), Noel Hand (DEASP), Donal Cassidy (HSE), Ursula Donnellan (DCC/Programme Office), David Leavey (DoT/Programme Office), Michael O'Riordan (Programme Office)
Apologies: Brendan Kenny (DCC), Superintendent Paul Costello (An Garda Síochána)

Minutes of previous meeting:

Proposed: Noel Wardick (NICCC)

Seconded: Karl Mitchell (DCC)

• **Community Update:**

- Pilot Social Employment Fund – the news that the pilot is to be extended (subject to funding being available) was positively received by the community groups in the area.
- Sean McDermott St Swimming Pool – an update on the status of the pool was sought from DCC.
- Emerging Needs Fund – concern was expressed that there has been so few applications for this funding. The criteria has been recirculated by the Dublin City Community Co-op to local community groups. Additional staff is an increasing need that is emerging – concern was expressed that staff costs are not an allowable cost in the criteria for this funding.
- The recent request for information from youth groups has led to a feeling of frustration among the youth groups. The community rep reported that the youth groups are being blamed for everything that is happening and are not being credited for the positive work they are doing.
- Liberty Park Plan – the analysis of the responses received from the survey of residents has been circulated. The community rep commented that it shows a commitment from the residents to the area. He encouraged all the PIB members to read the report.
 - The final report is being worked on at present and is due for submission at the end of October.
- Halloween – currently plans are being developed within the Level 3 restriction guidelines.
 - Concern was expressed in relation to Halloween night.
 - It was confirmed that Youth Organisations will be operating during the day and evening of Halloween.
 - Community reps noted that maximum Garda resources need to be available on Halloween.
 - The Chair asked for an overview of the preparations for the Halloween **Big Scream** event and queried what communications have taken place with residents, etc. The community rep confirmed that:
 - Dublin City Community Co-op hold the contract for the event with Dublin City Council (on behalf of the NEIC).
 - A Steering Group is chaired by a community representative.
 - Significant time and effort is being invested into what activities might be possible, both in terms of the lead up and the day and evening of Halloween.

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- The CEO of the Dublin City Community Co-op has not personally communicated with projects - communication is undertaken via the Steering Group.
- Communication with Youth Groups is ongoing but, as noted earlier in the meeting, youth workers are feeling stretched and under pressure.

The Chair emphasised the need for a communication plan with both community groups and residents to be in place because COVID-19 has changed our Halloween offering. He enquired if any communication had been issued to residents with a view to bringing everyone - and in particular young people – on board with the plans for Halloween, and trying to make sure that the gains made in recent years in terms of having a Halloween night celebration that all residents of the NEIC enjoy are not lost. He noted that we are in unprecedented times, there is a need for leadership to be shown by community groups. He also noted that the NEIC PIB are still investing in the festival while maintaining the public health guidelines.

Chief Superintendent McMenamin noted that An Garda Síochána’s “Operation Tombola” had commenced at the start of September. Materials are being recovered in conjunction with Dublin City Council. He stated that in his opinion there is a role for the elected representatives to support the message for residents to maintain the current restrictions, both in the run up to, and on Halloween itself.

The Dublin City Council rep asked that stores of potential bonfire material be notified to the local office and they will arrange for it to be removed. He noted that the number of bonfires has decreased in the area in recent years which has led to a reduction in anti-social behaviour. He welcomed the news that youth workers would be working on Halloween.

It was agreed to convene a separate meeting to discuss Halloween.

- **Budget Group**

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

Subgroup	Project	Amount	Decision
Subgroup 1	Community Safety Partnership Pilot Dublin North Inner City (<i>funding recipient : Dublin City Council</i>)	€150,000	Approved
Subgroup 2	JumpAGrade (<i>funding recipient: JumpAgrade</i>)	€18,000	Approved
Subgroup 2	Community After Schools Project (<i>funding recipient: CASPr</i>)*	€4,009.80	Approved
Subgroup 3	Fast-track Counselling (<i>funding recipient: YPAR</i>)	€35,000	Approved
Subgroup 3	Brighter Futures Restorative Practice (<i>funding recipient: Early Learning Initiative</i>)	€43,000	Approved
Subgroup 3	Community Case Management (<i>funding recipient: EXTERN</i>)**	€485,073	Approved in Principle
Subgroup 5	Dual Diagnosis Awareness and Train the Trainer Workshops (<i>funding recipient: DCU School of Nursing</i>)	€9,000	Approved
Total		€744,082.80	

* This funding will come from the Emerging Needs Fund.

**Funding “Approved in Principle” – subject to ratification at the October PIB Meeting.

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- **Budget Recommendations:**
Proposed – Paddy Murdoff, (NICCC)
Seconded – Chief Superintendent Paddy McMEnamin, (AGS)

Total funds approved by the NEIC PIB to date for 2020 - €6,310,724

- **Community Safety Partnership Pilot** -The community reps welcomed the support for the Community Safety Partnership Pilot and note the provision of a detailed budget that was received following the presentation to subgroup 1. The community reps noted the need for community representation on the oversight group and that process needs to be agreed whereby the community can submit suitably qualified persons for consideration for the Chairperson role. The DoT rep agreed to follow up with DoJ on these items.
- **Pilot Social Employment Fund** – The Departmental stakeholder group agreed to an extension for a further year of this initiative – this is dependent on funding for 2021. A request for funding for this initiative has been included in the PIB Chair’s submission to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.
- **Community Case Management** – The proposal was agreed in principle and to be ratified at the October PIB meeting subject to a meeting with the preferred supplier and the main stakeholders taking place to agree the profile of families for engagement, clarify the agency roles and where the initiative might proceed in the future.
- **Subgroup Reports:**
Subgroup 1:
 - The group received a presentation from representatives of the Department of Justice and Equality and Dublin City Council on the Pilot Community Safety Partnership proposal. The proposal was well received by the subgroup members and after some clarifications were received, the group agreed to submit the proposal for consideration by the Budget Group. Some clarifications on the breakdown of the budget requested was sought and these have been received and circulated to the subgroup members.
 - The issue of scooters on footpaths and the disruption they cause was raised by the community reps. – there is a case before the courts at present and the outcome of this will have a bearing on action that can be taken on this matter.
 - Royal Canal Cycleway – there is a constant Garda presence on the cycleway every day. The CCTV images are being received and monitored in Store St.
 - Operations Canter and Cribbage will continue to maintain high visibility in the area.
 - Halloween - additional resources will be deployed during the period. The news that youth workers will be on the ground was welcomed. This will assist in reducing anti-social behaviour.
 - During September there were 282 public order incidents notified to Store St station, following investigation there were 91 arrests. There were 70 domestic incidents during the same period. Across the DMR North Central Division there were 421 arrests in the month of September.
 - Investigations into two tragic incidents in the area are ongoing.
 - Detections across the division have increased in terms of drugs.

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- The Fitzgibbon Street station redevelopment is on target for completion end of Q1 2021.
- The Chair noted his concern re Halloween and advised that if there was any support required from the Board it would be provided. He assured that resources would be to the fore for Halloween.
- The contact details for reporting incidents:

Phone – 01 666 8000 Email – dmr.northcentral.community@garda.ie

Subgroup 6:

- Strategic Plan – 3 of the 4 actions set out in the strategic plan are on track.
- City Connects – The programme manager and the 3 coordinators have been recruited and will start work in the primary schools in October.
- Early Years – a proposal from Dublin City Childcare Committee, DCCC, which was presented following discussion with DCYA did not receive a positive reaction from the community sector. Early Years services feel that they are being criticised in terms of quality of delivery. Feedback has also been sought from SG3 on the proposal. DCYA will revert to DCCC to identify the next steps which may include discussions with stakeholders with a view to generating a proposal that has the support of service providers.
- Youth Services - a template was circulated to youth projects and other youth related services operating in the North East Inner City. The template requested specific information and data so as to compile an overview of youth related provision.
Youth Services report that the querying of funding in relation to a recent proposal in relation to Youth Leadership was very onerous and negatively received.
The PIB Chair noted that, since the establishment of the NEIC PIB, strong governance in relation to funding has been a key imperative. No funding will be approved without proper backup and consideration. Groups may consider this onerous but need to realise that this is what is required.
The subgroup chair fully agreed with these sentiments but noted that consideration should be given as to how services are spoken about.
- The business rep offered support for groups if required re governance.

Subgroup 2:

- Childcare Bursary – the additional funding was well received and applications are currently being progressed.
- A small group will meet to discuss emerging needs.
- COVID-19
 - The efforts of school principals and staff in ensuring a safe return to schools for students in the NEIC was noted.
 - An apparent increase in the number of vulnerable adults in the vicinity of some schools was raised as a concern. This was discussed with AGS and support on this item has been forthcoming.
 - Concern re the wellbeing of students was raised as an issue and in particular the level of in school support for students despite the recent additional allocation by DES.
 - The capacity of youth services to continue to deliver services and support young people was raised as a concern in relation to the recently announced restriction level.
- CV preparation support – requests for support in this area continue. Referrals are being made to services outside the NEIC which is not satisfactory. The digital divide remains an issue for some jobseekers which is why a drop-in service is considered the preferred option. Discussions re possible providers have not been fruitful to date.
 - DEASP rep advised that numbers on the live register are not increasing significantly, people in receipt of payments are predominantly on the Pandemic Unemployment Payment.

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- CDETB Youth Guidance – The group was informed that the CDETB plan to recruit for this service in the coming weeks.
- Consideration by the group of the inclusion of a representative from the new Department of Further, DFHE, and Higher Education joining the group. A discussion took place as to whether a SOLAS rep or DFHE rep would be most appropriate. The Board felt a DFHE rep would be more appropriate and the DoT rep undertook to relay this to SG2.
- The issue of the current lack of accommodation for the Lourdes Youth and Community Service was raised to enquire if anyone had any suggestions of possible locations.
- Community Employment – numbers remain a challenge for many projects. The DEASP rep advised that there is currently no plan to change the criteria for participation on the CE scheme.
- Flash Mentoring – good progress has been made on this initiative. More than 200 mentors volunteered to participate. A meeting was held with second level school principals to discuss and progress Garda Vetting for these volunteers.
 - The PIB Chair complimented John Ruigrok, National College of Ireland, for his work on the work experience programme which was transformative for many of the students and for his work on the Flash Mentoring initiative.

Subgroup 5:

- Community Health Project – 2 proposal were received. These have been evaluated and a preferred bidder has been identified.
- Community Assessment Hub – the hub has commenced assessments. This will provide a pathway for support in relation to non-opioid addictions.
- Stabilisation Unit – the numbers in treatment has increased following some reorganisation of the facility to allow compliance with the COVID-19 restrictions.
- Drug Treatment Court – currently looking a proposal in relation to this.
- Recovery Academy – the first recovery coaches have completed their training and are linking with drug projects. A further round of training is planned.
- Frank Feighan, T.D., Minister of State for Public Health, Wellbeing and National Drug Strategy will visit the NEIC on Thursday 8th October to present certificates to the Recovery Coaches and visit some of the projects in the area.
- The community rep advised the PIB that the Dublin City Community Co-op's Roma worker has recorded a marked increase in the number of people approaching the service for support. He also advised that reports from those using the service are advising that there will be an increase in members of this community relocating to Ireland from the UK.

Subgroup 3:

- Parenting - 3 new *Parenting Champions* have been identified and discussions are underway with two other individuals. Work is ongoing in relation to parenting programmes but the ability to engage normally is a challenge due to the COVID-19 restrictions.
- *Life in Lockdown* – A report developed by Dublin North and South Children and Young People Services Committee (CYPSC) and Dublin City Comhairle na nÓg. The report details findings from a survey of over 200 young people (aged 12-17) about the impact of Covid-19 on their lives taking the five Better Outcomes, Brighter Future national outcomes as the framework.
- A proposal in relation to *Art Therapy* for schools was forwarded to SG6 as the group considered it related closely with the City Connects initiative.

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- National Childcare Scheme – the introduction of this new scheme and the effect it will have on service provision continues to be raised as an issue by community childcare providers. The subgroup Chair requested that written submissions in relation to the issues be developed and submitted.
- Fast-track Counselling – a number of engagements have taken place since the last PIB meeting. This it appears is within the remit of Mental Health services with the HSE. Further dialogue needs to be had to try to get to resolution on this matter. Proposed that the PIB Chair write to the Head of HSE Mental Health Services in relation to this.
- The need for Wellbeing supports for school pupils was raised as there is a lot of anxiety among this group.
 - It was noted that LAYA have a range of wellbeing supports and may be willing to share.
 - The DES rep advised that the Department have developed wellbeing supports and that these are available on the Department’s website. She will also raise the matter with both NEPS service and the CDETB.

Subgroup 4:

- Greening Strategy:
 - Summerhill Central Median – Contract awarded, work due to commence.
 - Gloucester Place Plaza – work complete, feature tree to be installed during planting season.
 - Seville Place Plaza – Contract awarded, work due to commence (funded by NTA)
 - Sean McDermott St – Tender issued, tree planting to commence.
 - O’Connell’s School – Contractor appointed, works scheduled for October mid-term break.
 - Diamond Park - Statutory Part 8 process underway, public display period completed. – Presentation to Councillors scheduled for November meeting for approval to proceed to tender.
 - Cycleway – 120 mature trees to be planted during November.
 - Adopt a Tree – Community engagement commenced for trial in Spring Garden Street.
- Rutland Street School – Stage 1, suitability assessment is complete. Stage 2, to commence (6 week tender process). Objective is to have contractor identified by end of year.
- Murals:
 - New mural installed on Railway Street.
 - Mural at 100 -101 Seville Place will be replaced with one to promote the “Leave a Light on” campaign in support of addiction Recovery month.
 - The mural on Newcomen Bridge will be replaced – work to commence early October.
- Railway Street – a general clean-up of the street has been completed, including power washing of walk-through to Liberty Park.
- Community Clean-ups – a number of local clean ups have been organised via the Dublin City Community Co-op. Josephine Henry has taken the lead on this initiative. Dates for the clean-ups dependent on COVID-19 restrictions.
- Sean McDermott St. Swimming Pool – the cost of repairs to the swimming pool are in the region of €500k. A sort term fix to the problem is not a viable option. The Dublin City Council, DCC, local office are pushing for the work to be undertaken.
The meeting was advised that the Dublin City Council pools are currently only open for individual swims not for group swims.

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- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund – a decision on the Dublin City Council application is awaited. The focus of the NEIC area in the overall application is the Charleville Mall public realm improvements.
- Sport & Wellbeing – while the programme is ongoing it was subject to significant revisions due to public health restrictions.
- Halloween – there is concern about Halloween with early indications of increased anti-social behaviour. There will be ongoing engagement and co-operation between Dublin City Council and An Garda Síochána in the run up to the holiday. Collection of potential bonfire material has commenced and drones will be used to identify locations of material. A “Grab” truck is available to collect and remove material when found or reported.
- Group membership –
 - Superintendent Dan Flavin is retiring and will be stepping down from the group. Both the PIB Chair and the subgroup Chair thanked Superintendent Flavin for his support over the last 3 years and wished him well in his retirement.
 - Siobhán Power, Community Arts representative, has joined the group.

4. HSE Update:

- An interim evaluation of the work of the Inclusion Health hub is being undertaken by UCD.
- Flu vaccinations are very important, particularly in the current circumstances. A campaign encouraging people to get the vaccine will be rolled out in the near future.
- COVID-19: significant test capacity in place. HSE are looking for allocation in the North Inner City to install a testing facility.
- HSE provides health supports to vulnerable adults but do not provide accommodation. There is concern at the number of vulnerable adults being housed in the area.
- The HSE also supports the Drug Treatment Court and would welcome being involved in the development of the proposal discussed earlier.

5. DEASP Update:

- Pandemic Unemployment Payment, PUP – currently in the region of 85,000 people in receipt of this payment across Dublin.
- 17th September was to be the cut-off date for applications for this payment but this date has now been extended.
- DEASP are currently re-rating the payments being received by recipients in line with Government guidelines.
- There has been an increase in demand for other DEASP payments including Rent Supplement and Emergency Needs Payments.
- Resumption of school – there was an increase in the number of people accessing the Return to School scheme.
- The Employer Survey has issued and replies are being received.

Next meeting: **Tuesday 27th October 2020 @ 8.00am**
Venue: **via ZOOM video link.**

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Summary of agreed actions for next meeting:

What	Who
Meeting re Halloween – Chair, Community, DCC, AGS	Programme Office
Correspondence re Fast-track counselling	TUSLA Rep/ Prog. Office
Wellbeing supports for pupils	DES Rep /Programme Office
CV development support	Programme Office