

North East Inner City Initiative Programme Implementation Board

Location: via ZOOM Videoconference
Time and date: 8am, 24 th February 2021
Attendance: Chair – Michael Stone, Chief Superintendent Paddy McMenamin (An Garda Síochána), Brendan Kenny (DCC), Paddy Murdiff (NICCC), Joy McGlynn (Tusla), Jim Walsh (DoH), Mary Keenan (DoT), Noel Wardick (NICCC), Feargal O’Rourke (PwC), Donal Cassidy (HSE), Kate Levey (DCEDIY), Karl Mitchell (DCC), Mary Cregg (DE), Ursula Donnellan (DCC/Programme Office), David Leavey (DoT/Programme Office), Michael O’Riordan (Programme Office).
Apologies: Superintendent Paul Costello (An Garda Síochána), Noel Hand (DSP)

Minutes of previous meeting:

Proposed: Mary Keenan (DoT)

Seconded: Kate Levey (DCEDIY)

1. Business Update

- A discussion has taken place with the current Chair of the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce, re the key responsibilities of the role of the Chairperson. PwC are assisting in identifying potential candidate for consideration for the role.
- NEIC Work Experience/ Flash Mentoring Coordinator – it was reported that initial enquires for financial support for this position were well received.
- The offer of technical assistance for community based groups and organisations in developing business plans, applications for charitable status etc. by PwC was reiterated.
- Technical assistance is currently being provided to 3 groups. The nature (and status) of the support that is being provided is:
 - Application for Charitable Status (completed and submitted - decision awaited).
 - Preparation of Business Plan (ongoing - estimated completion date April 2021).
 - Development of a strategic plan (– recently commenced).
- Flash Mentoring and Virtual TY work Experience Programme – these are ongoing, they are being well received by all involved. A report was circulated to the PIB members for information. Consideration is being given as to how civil and public service organisations can have access to and participate in the “virtual” work experience module that has been developed.
- 2021 Action Plans for NEIC subgroups – meetings have taken place with 2 subgroup Chairs and have been productive. The remaining 4 subgroup Chairs were encouraged to arrange similar meetings.
- The Chair asked if some support would be available from PwC to assist the PIB with its branding and communications; to promote what is happening in the area and to ensure that it is clear when projects/programmes are being sponsored and supported by the NEIC Initiative. The business rep agreed to provide assistance with this request.

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2. **Budget Group:**

- An indicative figure for the Programme Office costs for 2021 will be finalised in the coming days.
- Gratitude was expressed to the Board for their prompt support in respect of the “Meeting Priority Technology Needs of NEIC Schools to facilitate remote learning” application. Schools now have the devices they requested.
- The subgroup Chairs were reminded of the need for projects to visibly acknowledge the NEIC Initiative contributions where funding is granted.
- 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	Operation Cribbage	€370,000	Approved
Subgroup 2	Masters in Education (Special Option Poverty and Social Inclusion) Year 2	€42,900	Approved
Subgroup 4	NEIC Greening Strategy	€545,000	Approved
Subgroup 4	Sport, Recreation Wellbeing Programme.	€200,000	Approved
Subgroup 4	Community Events Programme	€325,000	Approved
Subgroup 6	City Connects	€367,951	Approved
	Total	€1,850,851	

Total funds approved by the NEIC PIB to date for 2021 - €3,820,765

Proposed: Joy McGlynn (TUSLA)

Seconded: Paddy Murdiff (NICCC)

- An updated set of criteria for the Emerging Needs Fund is almost complete and will be circulated for consideration by the Budget Group.
- SEF – a meeting of stakeholders was held on 29th January. Further discussions in coming days to discuss next steps.
- The Community Rep raised a query in relation to the Budget Group minutes regarding the possibility of funding for the “The Big Scream” festival coming via SICAP. Clarification was provided that this was an indicative example as to how funding might be allocated for projects to ensure long term sustainability. It was noted that it was intended that the funds would follow the project, and that arguably, by ring-fencing funds in the relevant parent Department/Agency for projects that have

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proven effective, it would make their funding stream more secure in the long term. This example had been used during a discussion to illustrate potential avenues for the long-term sustainability of projects.

- It was noted that the NEIC PIB had provided all the funding for the City Connects project in 2019 and 2020. An IT system to log and maintain all information is a requirement. The Chair advised that he would be slow to recommend funding for the development of an IT system. He had previously indicated this in a number of conversations with relevant officials at the outset of the project in 2019/2020. He reiterated his position that he wanted funds approved by the NEIC PIB to be used to improve and deliver services on the ground.

3. HSE Update

- Focus remains on working to reduce the number of COVID-19 cases.
- Vaccine rollout has started – the HELIX is currently being used for people in the CHO9 area. Those aged over 85 are being vaccinated at the moment.
- There will be a vaccination facility set up in the City Centre – details will follow.
- Vaccine is being delivered to GP's to enable them to vaccinate their patients.
- Testing for COVID19 is ongoing but it was reported that a significant number are not turning up for their test appointment.
- The number of patients in hospital with COVID19 is reducing but very slowly.
- The level of COVID19 cases in the North Inner City is reducing but at a slower rate than other areas.
- People are asked to maintain the restrictions and not to become complacent.
- While the HSE remains focussed on COVID19 it is maintaining priority services.
- Projects supported by the NEIC PIB area working and services are being delivered.
- The HSE regular services are running to the best of their ability.
- A priority action is the development of alcohol supports for the area – disappointingly there were no responses received to a recent expression of interest advertisement for alcohol nurses. The expression of interest is being re-advertised but on a wider basis.
- It was noted that there appears to be an increase in the number of tents in the area recently.
 - Official figures indicate that there has been a reduction in the number of people rough sleeping (about 80 people who have moved from rough sleeping into services recently).
 - DRHE/DCC figures show that there were 75 beds available but not used in recent nights. There has been an increased focus to encourage people away from rough sleeping and to take up the beds that are being provided in services.
 - It has been reported that tents are being used for both injecting and dealing drugs.
 - There is a gap in service provision i.e. there is no supervised injection facility. The establishment of a supervised injecting facility is the subject of a High Court case; a decision is expected in the coming weeks.
- The community rep noted that the communication from the HSE on the vaccine rollout needs to be improved and simplified.
 - The meeting was advised that rollout of the vaccine is not determined by the HSE; they just administer the vaccine. As supplies of the vaccine increase the communications will increase.
 - There will be a need to contact and communicate with people living in disadvantaged settings to ensure they avail of the opportunity to accept the vaccine. The community rep advised that they are willing to support the effort to contact marginalised groups.

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4. Community Update:

- The convenors of the North Inner City Community Coalition (NICCC) have been involved in a number of meetings following recent knife crime incidents in the area, including:
 - Meeting with the Taoiseach, Minister for Justice, Minister for Finance and the Minister of State for Law Reform.
 - All local TD's have been met.
 - Chief Superintendent McMenamin and Superintendent Costello.
 - A meeting with Assistant Commissioner Cagney has been arranged for 26th February.
 - Meeting with the Policing Authority is scheduled for 9th March.
- Two well attended meetings with members of the NICCC were held:
 - 3rd February to discuss recent incidents in the area – 140 people attended
 - 17th Feb - presentation by Niven Rennie, Scottish Violence Reduction Unit – 138 people attended.
- Liberty Park Action Plan - a meeting has been arranged for 26th February to discuss the next steps regarding the recommendations in the plan.
- Healthy Communities Initiative – the programme has commenced and is going well.
- Local Community Safety Partnership – representatives from NICCC have met the newly appointed independent Chair, Cormac Ó'Donnchú, and had a positive discussion with him. The NICCC are committed to supporting this initiative.
- Pilot Social Employment Fund – a desire that a solution can be found to secure the 55 workers on a long term basis as they have proved to be a big success for the groups that are involved.
- National Childcare Scheme – representatives from a number of local childcare organisations met with Minister O'Gorman to express their concern that the new scheme will negatively affect both children and services. The Community Rep advised that if the NCS is not urgently revised, community childcare organisations operating in the NEIC and elsewhere across the inner city will be forced to close with the loss of vital services to vulnerable children.
- A number of formal submissions have been made by the Dublin City Community Co-op to the Dublin City Development plan.
- A query was raised as to why there are 3 organisations engaged to work on communications with the NEIC Programme Office.
 - The Board were advised that:
 - **Together Digital** developed and maintain the NEIC website, have produced a number of short videos and provided support around social media – the cost of this is €12,000 pa approximately. Discussions are taking place re a revamp of the website – no price has been discussed.
 - **LEGACY Communications** are assisting Subgroup 4 (SG4) to pursue a more structured approach to Communications as a direct response to feedback from the SG4 Community Representatives that it was difficult to communicate the work of Sub-Group 4 on the ground and the positive impact of the work for the local area. They are currently organising some resident workshops (3 to date). The project is being co-funded by Dublin City Council and NEIC PIB. The quoted fee is €9,000 + VAT.
 - **MEDIA CONSULT** provides social media services to Dublin City Council (Area Offices incl. the Central Area Office). The company was invited into the process to give their input. Media Consult has no business relationship with NEIC and no costs will accrue to NEIC in respect of Media Consult's participation in the project.

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- The Chair requested that a note be prepared and circulated to the PIB members for clarification.
- The community rep expressed concern and discomfort of the reported role of the NEIC PIB have in the appointment of a new Chairperson for the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol (NICDATF). The Community Rep advised against the NEIC PIB involving itself in the selection process for the Chair of the NICDATF noting that the NEIC PIB had no authority or mandate to do so.
- The Dept. of Health rep advised that he (as a representative of the Dept. of Health which has governance oversight of drug and alcohol task forces) and the chair of the task force had agreed a process to identify possible individuals from whom the task force may select a chair. This process included engaging with PWC to identify suitable candidates for the position of chairperson, along with names suggested by the task force members. He stated that PIB had no role in the selection of a new chairperson for the task force.
- The Community rep noted that his understanding of what was agreed regarding the process for selecting the NICDATF Chairperson differed to that as outlined by the DoH rep. It was agreed that the DoH rep would contact the community reps after the meeting to clarify the process.

5. Subgroup Reports:

Subgroup 1:

- Investigations into two recent fatal incidents have resulted in arrests being made and charges brought in both cases.
- There have been 32 charges brought against individuals for knife crime to date in 2021. 22 since 1st February 2021. This is a decrease on the same time period in 2020.
- 103 drugs charges have been brought since 1st January 2021, 53 since the 1st February.
- 312 arrests have been made in the area since the start of 2021, 204 since the start of February.
- 87 house searches have been carried out since January 1st, 43 since 1st February.
- 200 on-the-spot fines have been issued in the area year to date, the majority for breaches of travel restrictions. 11 fines have as a result of holding house parties.
- Check points will continue on arterial routes to assist with implementing the current COVID19 restrictions.
- A recent violent incident on a LUAS tram resulted in a number of arrests but the victim did not want to cooperate with the Gardaí.
- Ahead of the reopening of schools, contact will be made with Principals to offer support where needed.
- There has been significant engagement with representatives of the Brazilian community and the Deliveroo delivery company to discuss ways to improve security for delivery drivers.
- Garda representatives met the Chairperson of the Local Community Safety Partnership and provided a briefing on policing in the area.
- Operation Cribbage will be maintained in the Liberty Park and surrounding area.
- The application for funding to continue the *Educational Bursary* to assist with the retention of Gardaí in the NEIC has been withdrawn to allow for further discussions re applicants committing to remaining in DMR North Central beyond the end of their course. There were 30 applicants in 2020 and, following a selection process, 11 Gardaí availed of the funding provided. The Chair requested that Subgroup 1 give some thought to a mechanism that would provide an opportunity for Gardaí to undertake training alongside members of the community.

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- Appreciation was expressed to Anita Whyte, HSE, for her support and input to Subgroup 1. Anita is moving to a new role in the HSE connected with Dual Diagnosis.
- The PIB Chair promised the support of the Board for the new Local Community Safety Partnership.
- The Chair advised that he had attended the presentation from the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit and was interested to hear of the work of the *Medical Navigators* in Glasgow and that he intended to discuss this approach with the Mater Hospital. The Chief Superintendent advised that good communications operate between the Gardaí and the Mater Hospital.
- The contact details for reporting incidents:
Phone – 01 666 8000 Email – dmr.northcentral.community@garda.ie

Subgroup 2:

- Details of the “wellbeing ask” from the VHI is being completed prior to reengaging with them.
- The Board were advised that engagement with PUP recipients should commence towards the end of the month.
- CV service has commenced via the Inner City Renewal Group LES, it is reported to be working well. Given the current COVID-19 restrictions the service is being delivered remotely.
- The school Principals thanked the PIB for their support in funding IT devices. The purchase of 457 IT devices has been funded via the Emerging Needs Fund.
- At the meeting of North Inner City Community Coalition (NICCC) with the Taoiseach, Ministers Donohoe, McEntee and Browne – it was acknowledged that COVID-19 was bearing down heavily on the community. The Taoiseach asked that those present at the meeting propose workable solutions, and in particular work that can be undertaken in the short term with young people in the area for consideration.
The Chair asked that any proposals be forwarded to the Programme Office for collation and submission to the Department of the Taoiseach.
- A proposal in relation to the development of an Adult and Community Education Strategy was referred back to the City of Dublin Education and Training Board for some clarifications.
- A proposal in relation to Nurture Rooms is expected to be submitted by the Principals Network.

Subgroup 4:

- Following a meeting with local public representatives, the Chair of the NEIC PIB, senior Gardaí, Department of Justice and senior Dublin City Council officials, two proposals have been drafted for consideration.
 - ***Re-introduction of Youth Sport and Wellbeing Outdoor Activities Proposal***
 - ***Community Wellbeing, Anti-Knife Campaign Communications Proposal***
 The Chair asked that copies of the proposal be circulated to the PIB members for information.
- Intercultural Development Coordinator – the Board was updated on progress to date.
 - The Intercultural Ambassadors programme has started. There are 16 participants on the programme.
 - A Roma Cultural Mediators Training programme is being developed.
 - Plans for general staff training on diversity for local organisations are being considered.

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A copy of the Intercultural Development Coordinator's report was circulated to the PIB members in advance of the meeting.

- Work is underway with Legacy Communications to develop a communication plan for the subgroup. 3 focus groups involving 25 residents have been held. The focus is how the message of the work being undertaken be communicated better to residents.
- The Deputy City Planner has been invited to attend the next subgroup meeting to discuss the City Development Plan review.
- URDF – an announcement of funding allocation in relation to applications is expected in the near future.
- Two tenders for the Rutland Street hub development have been received. The evaluation of the tenders has commenced.
- Work is ongoing with CLUID Housing in relation to training for residents in greening/gardening.
- A proposal in relation to Arts and Culture is being developed for consideration by the subgroup.
- Royal Canal Cycleway – 120 trees are due to be planted in the coming weeks along with some wild flowers. Litter wardens will patrol the cycleway on a regular basis to try keep the area litter free. The DCC rep requested that people report graffiti/littering on the cycleway so that it can be attended to.
- Dog fouling continues to be an issue – the support of the community and residents was sought to tackle this problem.
- Sport, Recreation & Wellbeing Programme 2021 – the draft Programme which was compiled by Bruce McDevitt, NEIC Sports Officer and Michael Darragh Macauley, Community Sports Engagement Manager presumes an easing of public health restrictions as the year progresses and a gradual return to group activities including: Change for Life; Ex-well classes; Dance activities; Basketball; Boxing etc.
- Community Events Programme 2021 – the draft Programme of Community Events was prepared by the Programme Office in consultation with Dublin City Council Community Development team. The Programme has commenced with support for the local Chinese New Year Festival to be held 12th – 26th February. It was noted that a significant portion of this funding relates to the flagship annual Halloween Community Festival. Mindful of COVID-19, it was agreed that spending won't happen on online events unless there is confirmation of the reach of the event.

Subgroup 5:

- Supt. Paul Costello joined the meeting to discuss the recently launched Drugs Related Intimidation report. The Gardaí are working with services in the area and are open and co-operating to build trust in the Garda processes.
- Prisoner transition hub – a draft proposal has been shared with the prison service and probation. A reply is awaited to assist with revising the proposal.
- A proposal from the Recovery Academy was discussed and returned for further clarification.
- The Chair of the subgroup is assisting the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce with process of identifying a new chairperson.
- Gratitude was expressed to Anita White, HSE, for her input and involvement with the subgroup and the NEIC initiative.

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Subgroup 6:

- **Action 17 update | Integrated Service Delivery Framework in the youth services**
A proposal to engage a consultant to develop the plan for the alignment of youth services has been approved and will be funded by CDYSDB. A number of interested parties to undertake the work have been identified. It is envisaged that the application process will be completed by end of February with a view to having a plan in place by summer.
- **Action 18 update | City Connects Pilot**
 - 1,800 information letters/parental consent forms have been issued to parents.
 - Approximately 605 have been returned to date.
 - Whole Class Reviews (WCR) with the class teachers and City Connects Coordinators have started.
 - Individual student reviews will commence after 19th March for more complex cases.
 - The support of SLT's and OT's is vital to the success of this project. A proposal from the HSE to provide this support is expected. Consideration will be required as to how these supports can be sustained on a long term basis.
- **Action 19 update | Liberty Park Action Plan**
 - Implementation of recommendations is to be considered within the next two weeks and a meeting with Dublin City Council is scheduled for 26th February to discuss the next steps.
- **Action 20 update | Update on Early Years**
 - A research proposal to scope the current early childhood (antenatal to 5 years) services and supports in Dublin's NEIC and carry out a comprehensive analysis of the demand and supply, its current resource needs and service capacity deficiencies was submitted for consideration.
 - It aims to recommend a universal and sustainable model of early year's services and supports that can be flexible and tailored to address the needs of all children and families in the area including those with additional or special needs.
 - It is proposed that the research will be managed by YPAR and overseen by an interagency 0-5 early years Research Steering Committee.
 - The approximate cost of the research/tender is €34,100.
 - It is expected the study will be completed over an intensive work period of 6-8 months.
 - The proposal has been referred to the Early Years Division of DCEDIY for observations.
 - It was noted that the priority of the National Childcare Scheme is to encourage parents into work or training.
- An update on the CAN Youth Leadership programme will be provided for the next meeting.

6. Communication and Social Media update:

- The 2020 NEIC Progress Report infographic "**2020 NEIC in Numbers**" has been delivered to all homes in the area as of the week ending February 5th.
- A workshop was held on Tuesday, Feb 2nd with members of the Programme Office team and representatives from Together Digital, to explore the expansion of our communications in 2021 including a revamp of the NEIC website.
- In the wake of recent events in the area, every effort is being made through the NEIC media channels and website to publicise all positive events and news within the area. All items of news and events for sharing can be forwarded to the Programme Office.

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AOB

- Local Community Safety Partnership – the recently appointed Chairperson, Cormac Ó'Donnchú, is available to meet with any local groups.
Communications in relation to the Local Community Safety Partnership, LCSP, were delayed due to the COVID-19 restrictions but will now commence.
The office space for the LCSP is due to be ready in March.
Interviews for the LCSP Coordinator and administrator positions are planned for March.
- The Chair noted that it had been a challenging month, with some serious incidents in the area, a number of which resulted in fatalities. He passed condolences to those who had lost family members.
While notwithstanding the fact that there are ongoing challenges in the area, a lot of good work has been achieved and is being done with the support of the NEIC Initiative.
He noted that a balance is required when making comments to the media, particularly when those engaging with the media are members of the PIB or its Subgroups. He requested the Subgroup Chairs to speak to the members of their Subgroups and ask that such a balance be maintained if speaking to the media.
He advised that he is available to speak to any of the PIB members on a one-to-one basis if they would like to discuss these matters.

Next meeting: Wednesday 31st March 2021 @ 8.00am
Venue: TBC

Summary of agreed actions for next meeting:

What	Who
Circulate note on spend on communications and engagement activities to PIB members.	Programme Office
Circulate the two proposals in relation to <i>Anti-Knife Campaign Communications</i> and <i>Re-introduction of Youth Sport and Wellbeing Outdoor Activities</i> to PIB members.	Programme Office

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Contact PwC to request support with branding, etc.	Programme Office
Arrange meeting to discuss provision for 5 to 10 year olds.	Programme Office