

North East Inner City Initiative Programme Implementation Board

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

Minutes of previous meetings:

The minutes of the June 2021 meeting were approved.

Proposed: Mary Keenan (DoT)

Seconded: Karl Mitchell (DCC)

1. Community Update

- The community reps advised that the Liberty Park Group are keen to have an event in the park – some initial discussions have taken place with Dublin City Council reps. in this regard.
- Members of the Health Communities team made a presentation on the project to the Chair of the NEIC PIB on 15th July. The social prescribing clinics continue to operate from the Summerhill Primary care centre, 5 *Healthy Food Made Easy* courses have been completed and a second *We Can Quit*, smoking cessation programme, is currently running.
- National Childcare Scheme (NCS) – the NICCC position remains as previously outlined in relation to this scheme remains the same i.e. that the NCS is detrimental to disadvantaged children and their families. Representatives from the Dublin City Community Cooperative had a meeting to discuss their concerns re the NCS with Minister O’Gorman and officials on 27th July.
- Local Employment Service (LES) – there is no further update in relation to the proposed tendering process. LES providers have initiated a national campaign urging a reconsideration by Department of Social Protection of the planned tendering process. The NICCC supports the call for the future LES model to be structured on a not-for-profit basis, to be focussed on the needs of the client and to be underpinned by the principles of holistic integrated service delivery.
- Aldborough House – the NICCC rep noted that some construction work has commenced on the site. He also noted that a heritage grant of €50,000 had recently been awarded in respect of Aldborough House under the Government’s Historic Structures Fund. The NICCC rep questioned why State funding would be provided for work on a building that is in private ownership and especially so when the owner has left the building in a state of dereliction for many years.
- An update in relation to the Magdalene Laundry and the Rutland St School redevelopment was requested.
- It was noted that programmes such as P-Tech were excellent but a query was raised if consideration has been given to the sustainability of such programmes.

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- Planning for the *Big Scream* Halloween Festival is ongoing.
- North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce (NICDATF) - the NICCC rep expressed shock and dismay at the suspension of the NICDATF. He noted that the NICCC fully support the NICDATF. The NICCC reject any insinuation of misgovernance and/or of adopting an inappropriate process in appointing the new chairperson.
- Concern was expressed that a nominee by the NICCC as a Service User rep to SG5 had not been accepted and that this was not acceptable to the NICCC.

The Chair advised that the issues raised would be addressed during the relevant subgroup update.

2. **Budget Group:**

- A revised NEIC Funding Process and Governance document has been agreed and signed off.
- It was suggested during discussion at the Budget Group that it might be more effective to make a bid for all NEIC health measures, including the Multi-Disciplinary Team; Youth Mental Health and other projects for inclusion in the Department of Health (DoH) Budget estimate submission for 2022. This would, in effect, create a composite bid from DoH covering NEIC programmes. The NEIC PIB was supportive of this approach. It was also suggested that a similar approach could be used by the Department of Education (D/Ed) and Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (D/CEDIY) for specific projects such as City Connects and the P-TECH Programme. The relevant PIB members were encouraged to approach their parent Departments to identify the possibility of developing composite bids for NEIC programmes under the remit of their Departments. It was agreed that the Chair would cross-reference the NEIC related bids being fed into the 2022 Estimates process by the various Departments in his pre-Budget submission to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.
- A report on the impact of the Multi-Disciplinary Team on waiting lists for OT and SLT services in the NEIC area for the 0 to 5 year old age group, was requested.
- The SWAN Detached Youth Team project has been proposed for inclusion under the UBU funding for 2022.
- 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	Funding Recipient	Decision
Subgroup 2	P-TECH	€103,600	Individual schools	approved
Subgroup 3	CASPr - Refurbishment of Shower Room (Emerging Needs)	€8,104	CASPr	approved
Subgroup 3	Ozanam House: 8 week parenting courses.	€5,000	Ozanam House, SVP	approved
Total		€116,704		

The funding approved at the July meeting is €116,704 (including €8,014 from the Emerging Needs Fund)

Total funds approved by the NEIC PIB year to date for 2021 - €5,355,849

Proposed: Noel Wardick (NICCC)

Seconded: Mary Cregg (DE)

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Rutland Street School Redevelopment project:

The DCC rep presented the following case in relation to the Rutland Street School Redevelopment project

The Mulvey Report 2017 "[Dublin North East Inner City - Creating a Brighter Future](#) *The Social and Economic Regeneration of Dublin's North East Inner City*" described the proposed refurbishment of the former Rutland Street School as "*an essential element of this overall (NEIC) initiative to underpin the State's commitment and statement of intent to the community*".

The commitment to this project is further stated in the [NEIC Strategic Plan 2020-2022](#) as strategic objective 12.

Dublin City Council took a lead role, working with the local community and the existing service providers in the former school building, to develop a vision for the Rutland Street School building and surrounding site. The vision is a complete transformation to a multi-use Community Hub creating a new civic landmark and a catalyst for further social and economic regeneration in the North Inner City area. It is envisaged that the facility will operate over a seven day cycle with community, youth and childcare services, social/recreational activities and municipal services. The building will also provide multi-functional spaces for cultural, arts and music initiatives in the evenings and at weekends.

A selection of potential building uses were considered at feasibility stage and extensive stakeholder engagement was carried out during the detailed design stage. A scheme design was prepared by the consultant design team and submitted for Part 8 approval by Dublin City Council in June 2019. Part 8 planning permission was approved on the 7th October 2019. The final design incorporates the following elements:

- Community and Youth Organisations (Lourdes Youth and Community Services, Neighbourhood Youth Project 1 and Adventure Sports Project)
- Dublin City Council (Central Area) Civic Offices.
- Dublin City FM Radio Station
- Exhibition Space and Café
- Community Gardens
- Incubator enterprise units

Capital Funding:

The total estimated costs of the project, as calculated by Dublin City Council Consultant Quantity Surveyors in December 2020 stands at **€22.5 million**.

Central Government has been supportive of this flagship project from the outset. A sum of **€8,969,460** was approved under Round 1 (2018) of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) (Category A Project). This funding permitted Dublin City Council to proceed with enabling works, demolition of the adjacent School on Stilts, and carry out the detailed site investigations and survey work required to prepare the construction tender package.

The maximum possible URDF funding is 75% of overall project costs with the 25% balance to be funded from other sources. With the €8.9m previously allocated under URDF Round 1 in November 2018 a request for a further €7.97m, to bring the total up to the maximum i.e. €16.87m (75% of €22.5m) is currently being considered by the URDF Planning Programme Management Unit in the Department of Housing, Local

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Government and Heritage via a formal allocation review process initiated by Dublin City Council. A decision on this request is imminent.

Dublin City Council has committed €4M to this project under its Capital Programme.

Therefore the anticipated total financial commitment from Central and Local Government to realise this project stands at **€20.87m**. The procurement process for the main construction contract was run by Dublin City Council as a two-stage Restricted Procedure. The evaluation of Stage 2 tender submissions for the construction project is nearing completion. Presuming that the outcome of the tender process will not significantly alter the total projected costs, there is a shortfall of **€1.6m** to meet the full estimated cost of **€22.5m**.

In view of the significance of this major capital project in the context of the North East Inner City Initiative and the statement in this regard as contained in the Mulvey Report 2017 "[Dublin North East Inner City - Creating a Brighter Future](#) *The Social and Economic Regeneration of Dublin's North East Inner City*" it is proposed that the shortfall of €1.6M is put forward for consideration for funding from NEIC (Capital) Resources. It is further proposed that a sum of **€900,000** is requested from the **2021** approved allocation with approval in principle to make a further application to the Board for the balance of **€726,000** subject to availability of NEIC funding in **2022**.

The NICCC rep noted that this is a project that everyone has a commitment to, but if the proposal is approved it will more or less concludes the funding for 2021. He queried available funding for 2022 - the Chair noted that no guarantee in relation to funding for 2022 could be given, but that consideration could be given to a further proposal depending on the funding allocated for the NEIC Initiative for 2022. The NICCC rep also raised concern about the risk of escalating costs and asked how such costs would be funded should they materialise.

The DCC rep noted that is a 4 year project and that the state is providing the funding for it. Cost overruns are a concern as it is a difficult site for access etc. DCC will engage a Clerk of Works, a Resident Engineer and a Project Management Consultant to keep the project and costs on track. PwC are assisting with risk management.

The Chair noted that the situation is not ideal, but the PIB is being presented with an opportunity. He also noted that he remembered the day the hoarding was erected at the school and the challenge that was presented by locals to ensure that the redevelopment happened. He advised that the contract has to be awarded by 14th August or under the public procurement guidelines the tender would *time out* and the entire process would have to recommence. The Chair deemed, that given the circumstances, the "Funding request requiring urgent consideration" process as outlined in the NEIC Funding and Governance procedures be used to consider the funding proposal.

Given the time of the year and the availability of people due to holidays etc. it was agreed that in addition to emails being issued, 2 phone calls will be made by the relevant group secretaries to the group members to garner their endorsement (or otherwise) for the proposal.

3. Subgroup Reports:

Subgroup 1:

- A design for a poster and information campaign in relation to Drugs Related Intimidation has been agreed by the subgroup. Approval from AGS has been sought prior to going to print.

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- A high visibility presence has been maintained in the Summerhill area following concerns raised at recent subgroup meetings. Positive feedback has been received from the community on this operation.
- Neighbourhood watch schemes have been launched in the East Wall/Merchants Square area with the cooperation of local businesses.
- Gardaí attached to Store Street produced a video which tackled bullying and cybercrime topics. It was an interactive video and was aimed at young people attending schools in the NEIC area. The feedback form the video has been positive.
- A number of bike marking events held in Store St have been very successful. A further event is planned for August.
- A team from Store St. Garda Station competed in the recent *Football for Unity* tournament. The event itself was a success and similar events should be considered for the future.
- The band of An Garda Síochána marched and played at the recent Sheriff Youth Club football festival.
- The CAN dialogue process, which had been stalled due to COVID-19, is being relaunched with three new projects for this year.
- A number of the Garda Youth Diversion Projects in the area are preparing a proposal for submission to the Department of Justice to access funding for a “scrambler” education programme.
- Story Seeds – *Springtime in the North Inner City* initiative which involved AGS, *Fighting Words*, the local primary schools and supported by the NEIC proved to be a great success. *Fighting Words*, have been allocated funding from Creative Ireland Programme to extend the initiative across the city and to Limerick, Cork and Drogheda.
- The refurbishment of Fitzgibbon St Garda station is nearing completion and due to be handed back to AGS in August. The Chair requested that the time period from the handover of the building to the reopening as a Garda Station be kept to the minimum possible.
- There were 16 weapons seized during the month, including 2 knives.
- There were 3 seizures of E-scooters for dangerous driving.
- The DoH rep noted the very positive work by SG1 on Drugs Related Intimidation (DRI). He also noted that the Department had been engaging with the NFSN on this matter prior to them entering voluntary liquidation and that they will engage with the drugs taskforces nationally on the subject.
- The dedicated and monitored email for notification of DRI has been established – DMRNorthCentral.dri@garda.ie
- The contact details for reporting incidents:
Phone – 01 666 8000 Email – DMR.northcentral.community@garda.ie

Subgroup 2:

- Social Enterprise Plan – a call for expressions of interest for social enterprise initiatives in the NEIC is being prepared to issue.
- Garda Vetting/Community Employment (C.E.) Participation rate - following a discussion it was concluded that the main issue with participation rates on C.E. Schemes is the number of available participants, as opposed to people being refused based on their Garda vetting.

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- The DSP rep advised that he had nominated a member of the SG to participate on the Employment Support Scheme Forum with the Minister for Social Protection. The initial meeting of the forum has taken place and a further meeting will be held in September.
- A report on the *Transition Year Flash Mentoring and Virtual Work Experience Programme 2020/2021* was received and circulated to the SG2 members and the PIB members. Sustainability funding for the coordinator position is being sought via the PIB business rep. The Chair noted the quality of the programme and the report and the presentation of the metrics achieved in the report.
- Following the recent NEIC Oversight Group meeting, follow up discussions were held with the Creative Ireland Programme. The Creative Ireland Programme is currently working in partnership with *Camara Ireland* to roll-out a pilot programme supporting the delivery of creative technology projects in out-of-school settings. A subsequent meeting with four local youth services that have expressed an interest in being involved was held. Creative Ireland are very happy to support this work in the NEIC and are awaiting applications from the youth services.
- 20 applications have been received for the **Childcare CPD** bursary. The applications are currently being evaluated. The indications are that no additional funding will be required from the PIB to support this initiative.

Subgroup 3:

- Community Case Management – a meeting of the stakeholders involved to be organised to review recent documentation that was circulated.
- Restorative Practice – NCI are in the process of developing a proposal for consideration by the subgroup to extend the programme for a further year.
- Parenting Support Co-ordinator – the position was re-advertised following a poor response to the first advertisement. The re-advertisement received an improved response. A short list of 6 people has been developed and the interviews are to be arranged.

Subgroup 4:

- The subgroup received a presentation from the Dublin City Council City Architects Department on the *Charleville Mall Public Realm Improvements Strategy*. This strategy has been prepared by the DCC team in anticipation of URDF funding. Progression in 2021/2022 will be dependent on the extent of URDF funds allocated under this heading, details of which are still awaited from Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage. Works will also be subject to consultation processes with relevant stakeholders.
- A wide range of Sports/Wellbeing activities continue to be provided, including:
 - Football for Unity tournament
 - Exercise to Music
 - Yoga
 - Pilates
 - GAA nursery
 - Cricket
 - Basketball
 - Boot camps
 - Afro- Brazilian dance

Full details are advertised locally and are also available on the website.

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- Community events – a 10 week programme of outdoor activities and entertainment is taking place across the senior citizens complexes.
- Community Arts Co-ordinator – following the completion of the selection process, the successful candidate is expected to start in the coming weeks.
- Aldborough House – the DCC rep advised that he did not know what work was being undertaken on the site but envisaged that it was work to maintain the fabric of the building. He was not aware that a heritage grant had been approved for Aldborough House but he undertook to follow up on this matter.
- Magdalene Laundry/ Convent lands – the local councillors have nominated a working group of 3 councillors to work with DCC officials to develop a proposal for the use of the lands for consideration by the wider councillor group. Currently being considered are senior citizens/step down housing, provision for 3rd level education facility and an appropriate living memorial for the site.
- 55 Amiens Street (Tom Clarke's tobacconist shop) - €55,000 has been awarded by the Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to Dublin City Council to contribute towards structural support work, conservation and restoration of the historic shopfront.
- The support provided by PwC to Hill St. Family Resource Centre in the development of a Business Case for redevelopment of their existing premises was acknowledged by the DCC rep.
- Public Toilets – it has been agreed that the provision of temporary public toilets at Diamond Park and Mountjoy Sq. Park is proving effective and will remain in place until end of August.
- The Chair advised the Board that Michael Darragh Macauley had notified him that he was stepping down from his role as Community Sports Engagement Manager with effect from 1st September 2021. The Chair and Board Members acknowledged the positive contribution made by Michael Darragh to the Sport Recreation & Wellbeing Programme and the NEIC Initiative over the past three years and wished him well for the future.

Subgroup 5:

- North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce (NICDATF) – the DoH rep noted that the Department of Health (DoH) has oversight of the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force and the funding of €2.2 million provided to the organisation. Action 50 in the National Drugs Strategy seeks to improve accountability across the statutory, community and voluntary sectors and strengthen the Drugs Taskforce model. This action will be delivered by ensuring that Drugs Taskforces have proper arrangements in place for the selection and renewal of the Chairperson and members of the Drugs Taskforces and have proper procedures in place for addressing conflicts of interest. He also said that DoH has engaged with the outgoing Chairperson of the NICDATF to put the appropriate arrangements in place, but the advice and support had been rejected. This has led to an impasse in the appointment of a Chairperson by the NICDATF and resulted in a temporary suspension of its business activities. It is critical that the NICDATF leadership engages with the DoH to address the governance issues associated with the task force.
- Healthy Communities Project – the project is currently funded jointly by the DoH and NEIC PIB. The HSE have submitted an application to DoH to align the project with its National Healthy Communities Programme with funding for a further year. When a response is received from DoH it will be clearer if there is a shortfall in funding for the programme.

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- Aftercare programme for offenders – contact has been made with the RECONNECT programme which is delivered by the NHS in England. The RECONNECT programme is very much in line with what is envisaged for implementation in the NEIC. Contact will be made with this programme, to learn from it and garner support and discuss how we might affiliate with it. If we are accepted as a project on their programme we can benefit from all their learning and experience. There is a strong focus on peer workers within the programme.
- Two proposals are currently being developed for consideration by the group – one on the rollout of Anti-Stigma training and the second on a Drug Death Prevention initiative.
- Communication has been made with the subgroup members to enquire if they are interested in continuing to participate as a member of the subgroup. The Chair of the subgroup noted that there are 2 community reps and one service user rep on the subgroup and that he undertook to discuss with the current service user rep the possibility of a second rep for the group. The NICCC rep reiterated the point that a second user rep has been nominated by the NICCC and they would like to see this nominee accepted onto the group.
- The members of the subgroup had a very thorough look at the Action Plan and what has been achieved to date. The Action Plan was appropriately updated.
- Discussion/ Presentation on Homeless resources and initiatives and the range of homeless services available in the area will be included for the subgroup's September meeting. The DRHE have been invited to attend.

Subgroup 6:

- City Connects:
 - Currently the project is up and running and there is an interim IT system being used by the City Connects team.
 - A Managed Service Provider (MSP) has been identified to host the My Connects IT system.
 - There is IT testing to be undertaken by the MSP.
 - The My Connects IT system will be in place and operational in September.

4. Department of Social Protection update:

- Service delivery :
 - The office in Upper Gardiner St. is being refurbished and will become a PPSN office. It will reopen during August.
 - Homeless Services have relocated to Nth. Cumberland St. This will provide enhanced facilities for the client group.
- Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D., launched the *Pathways to Work* plan which sets out ambitious targets for getting people back to work post pandemic. Community Employment (CE) is a big part of the plan and it is intended to focus on filling places on CE projects.
- The *Work Placement Experience Programme* was also launched in July. This initiative is aimed at keeping jobseekers close to the labour market and provide them with quality work experience to increase their prospects of returning to employment. DSP have worked closely with the Further Education and Training sector, to ensure that this work experience programme includes significant accredited training and development opportunities for participants. It is envisaged that both elements of the scheme will contribute to ensuring that participants will be much better positioned to find new jobs on completion of this programme.

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- There is currently a focus on recruitment for the hospitality sector to assist them in reopening businesses.
- PUP recipients – contact with this group is ongoing. The Chair enquired if stats were available for this group and said it would be important to see what is happening with this group. The DSP rep advised that it is a challenge in getting the stats for the NEIC area as the systems are not configured in that way, but stats are available by Intreo Office. The Chair agreed that the Intreo Office stats for the Kings Inn St. office would suffice in this regard.
- A bulletin on job vacancies in the NEIC is circulated every 2 weeks – these are positions that are advertised on Jobs Ireland. These vacancies are posted on the NEIC website.
- The Chair advised that he had received correspondence in relation to governance concerns in a local service provider from a number of individuals who were involved with the service provider, which has also been circulated to other agencies. The DSP rep confirmed that similar had also been received and that the matters raised were being taken seriously and would be examined. The Chair noted that, given that the service was not in receipt of funding from the NEIC Initiative, his only concern in this matter is that an effective service is being provided to the service users. The NICCC rep noted that governance concerns should be dealt with by the relevant regulatory authority i.e. in the case of a registered charity, the Charities Regulator; and in the case of a company, the Companies Registration Office.

5. Communication and Social Media update:

- 42 articles were posted to the NEIC website during April, these included:
 - Scoil Uí Chonaill Cúl Camp
 - An exhibition by artist Corban Walker at Diamond Park
 - The greening works carried out at Seville Place
- Website stats for April
 - **2,159** visits to the website - **70%** are new users.
- The video on Emmett Brennan, the local boxer who qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, has been viewed on Facebook over **12,000** times.
- Two additional landing pages have been added to the NEIC website for the Local Community Safety Partnership and the City Connects Programme.
- The development of the new NEIC website is progressing well. The new website will incorporate a 'Social Wall' that groups together all of our current content through our various social media channels, which means that people who are not registered with or use Facebook, LinkedIn, etc. will still have access to all of that content.

6. AOB:

- As some of the subgroups are not meeting in August due to leave, it was agreed that the Programme Office will contact the PIB members in advance of the proposed meeting date to ascertain if a meeting is necessary in August.

Next meeting: TBC

Venue:

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Summary of agreed actions for next meeting:

What	Who
Contact PIB members in advance of last Wednesday in August to ascertain if a meeting is required.	Programme Office
Circulate updated NEIC Funding Process and Governance Procedures.	Programme Office