

North East Inner City Initiative Programme Implementation Board

Location: via ZOOM Videoconference
Time and date: 8am, 31 st March 2021
Attendance: Chair – Michael Stone, Chief Superintendent Paddy McMenamin (An Garda Síochána), Superintendent Paul Costello (An Garda Síochána), Noel Hand (DSP), Brendan Kenny (DCC), Paddy Murdiffe (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: Feargal O’Rourke (PwC),

Minutes of previous meeting:

A number of amendments were proposed to the draft minutes of 24th February 2021 meeting. The amended minutes will be recirculated and they will be considered for approval at the April meeting.

1. **Budget Group:**

- Following a request of the PIB members the participants of the Masters in Education (Special Option Poverty and Social Inclusion) will deliver a workshop to share their learning towards the end of the second year of the programme.
- Discussions are ongoing regarding the Social Employment Fund (SEF).
- A revised proposal in relation Occupational Therapy/Speech and Language Therapy/Psychologist supports will be considered at the next Subgroup 6 meeting and if recommended will be presented at the April Budget Group meeting.
- Emerging Needs Fund Criteria – a revised set of criteria was agreed. These will be circulated by the North Inner City Community Coalition rep to all community groups. A copy of the revised criteria will be uploaded on the NEIC website.
- 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 1	Training Course in Domestic Violence and Child Protection Issues	€1,600	SAOL	Approved
Subgroup 2	Translation Supports for NEIC Schools <i>[Emerging Needs Fund]</i>	€24,000	Funding will be administered via the NEIC Programme Office	Approved
Subgroup 2	Adult and Community Education Strategy for the NEIC	€12,750	Dublin Adult Learning Centre (DALC)	Approved

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Subgroup 2	Nurture Room Training for NEIC Primary Schools	€6,675	Funding will be administered by Lourdes Parish school on behalf of the 10 Primary schools.	Approved
Subgroup 2	Accommodation Rental Costs <i>[Emerging Needs Fund]</i>	€10,128	Lourdes Youth and Community Services (LYCS)	Approved
Subgroup 3	Equipment <i>[Emerging Needs Fund]</i>	€ 1,760	Hill Street Family Resource Centre	Approved
Subgroup 4	Community Arts Programme 2021	€155,000	Funding will be administered by DCC	Approved
Subgroup 4	Upgrading of Equipment <i>[Emerging Needs Fund]</i>	€5,392	Lourdes Day Care Centre	Approved
Subgroup 5	Recovery Hub	€55,000	Recovery Academy of Ireland	Approved
Subgroup 5	Recovery Case Manager	€21,000	HOPE	Approved
	Total	€293,305		

Total funds approved by the NEIC PIB to date for 2021 - €4,332,790

Proposed: Karl Mitchell (DCC)

Seconded: Joy McGlynn (TUSLA)

- The community rep requested that the recipients of the funding be noted on the Budget Group minutes when they are being issued. This was agreed.
- The community rep also expressed the opinion that there is a lack of understanding in some quarters as to how the funding process operates. He was advised to refer people to www.NEIC.ie and the one page outline of the funding process.

2. Community Update:

- Sean McDermott St. Swimming Pool – the community reps. asked for an update on the pool.
- The revised *Emerging Needs Fund* criteria has been circulated to all community groups. It was requested that some flexibility may be required in Q4 in relation to this funding.
- The North Inner City Community Coalition (NICCC) reps on the PIB and subgroups have a meeting planned.
- The convenors of the North Inner City Community Coalition (NICCC) had a meeting with the Policing Authority on 9th March and a further meeting is planned for April.
- Liberty Park – work is ongoing with interested individuals to establish a community/residents group in the area. An invitation was issued to the participants on the *Cultural Ambassadors* programme to join the group was issued.
- NEIC Healthy Communities Project:

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- The first training programme - *We Can Quit* - is starting on 27th April. It is a 12 week smoking cessation programme for women (over 18) in the NEIC.
- The project workers are assisting with the recruitment for the EX-Well programme.
- The workers had registered for COVID-19 vaccinations but the recent announcements changing to an age based rollout will effect when they receive the vaccine.
- The community rep noted that the interviews for the Local Community Safety Partnership have been completed and that the process was very thorough. It was also noted that the public consultation webinars are scheduled for early April and that they have been widely advertised.
- Concern was expressed in relation to the recent violent event on the Samuel Beckett Bridge – which appeared to be an organised fight between local gangs.
- The community rep advised that the convenors of the North Inner City Community Coalition (NICCC) have written to the Taoiseach seeking a response to their submission seeking derogations for youth services in the area during the level 5 restrictions.
- Concern was expressed in relation to the rollout new National Childcare Scheme (NCS) and the possible effect it may have on community childcare providers. The community rep advised that it was difficult to articulate the frustration that is being felt in the community childcare sector in relation to the new scheme. Groups feel that the scheme, as it is currently structured, threatens the sustainability and viability of community childcare services and could result in the collapse of organisations. He advised that if the rollout continues in its current form he would envisage a media campaign being implemented to raise awareness to the concerns of the community childcare providers in relation to the National Childcare Scheme.
 - The Chair advised that he will raise the concerns expressed in relation to the National Childcare Scheme at the next Oversight Group meeting.
- The community reps. enquired in relation to the possibility of a COVID-19 vaccination centre being opened in the area.
 - The HSE rep advised that there is a plan to open a 10 bay vaccination centre in Croke Park (Jones's Road).
 - This facility will have the capacity for 1500 vaccinations per day.
 - Depending on vaccine supplies the estimated opening date is end of April.
 - Local people over 70 years are currently being vaccinated either by their GP's or in the Helix, DCU.
 - The COVID-19 testing centre in the Croke Park Handball Alley continues to operate.

3. Communication and Social Media update:

- Following a number of workshops with *Together Digital* a plan has been developed for the upgrading of the NEIC website and extending the range of social media platforms that are used.
- The estimated time frame for the work involved is 18weeks with a possible relaunch date for the website of late August.
- The DE rep advised that City Connects would very much like to link in in terms of social media, but suggested that August may not the ideal time for to relaunch due to holidays, return to school etc.
- The Chair noted concerns in relation to the suggested 18 weeks development time and queried if a staged rollout would be possible.
- The Chair requested a meeting with *Together Digital* to discuss the proposal further.
- The Chair also asked for a more detailed monthly report on communications to include:
 - Numbers visiting and using the website and social media platforms.

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- Update on what has happened over the course of the month.
- Outline of what is proposed for the coming month.
- A short survey of those involved in the NEIC structures (PIB members, SG2 etc.) regarding key messages/stakeholders/audiences is planned.
- An NEIC e-zine for distribution via email is being considered.
- A competition was run through the Facebook page on the week of March 22nd. The competition was centred on physical wellbeing and fitness, encouraging people to like, tag and share to spread our content as widely as possible.
- Work is ongoing on a new edition NEIC Newsletter, items for inclusion to be sent to the Programme Office.

4. Subgroup Reports:

Subgroup 6:

City Connects:

- 60% of all students (1,046) across the 10 schools have been reviewed to date as part of the Whole Class Review (WCR) process.
- To date 1,514 (87%) of all Parent Involvement Forms have been collected.
- Significant progress has been made by DE in relation to the provision of a permanent IT system. Discussions are ongoing with a 3rd party as the managed service provider.
- Initial indications are that 10% to 15% of students will be in the high level of supports category. This indicates a strong case for an additional coordinator. Further work is to be undertaken on this matter.
- A proposal from the HSE in relation to the provision of a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) of SLT/OT/Psychologist was referred back for clarifications and will be discussed again at the April SG6 meeting.

The Primary school principals strongly acknowledge the value of the support of the MDT.

Early Years Provision:

- A number of issues need to be resolved on proposal in relation to Early Years provision. A meeting with DCEDIY and the YPAR 0-5 group is to be arranged.
- Community Childcare providers feel that their feedback and comments re the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) are not being listened to. They have raised their concerns with Minister O’Gorman. There is concern within DCEDIY that there is a lack of understanding regarding the NCS. Minister O’Gorman is keen for the NCS to be fully understood. Additional resources are being deployed within DCEDIY in an attempt to rectify this.
There is provision within the NCS for sponsorship referrals by either TUSLA or PHN’s.
The community rep note that while the matter of sponsorship looks well, he is advised by the community childcare providers that it is practically unworkable. The number of PHN’s has reduced, which itself will reduce the potential for sponsorship referrals to be made. The NCS has been explained to the providers but great uncertainty exists.
- The Chair note that engagement is required to get some movement on this matter and urged both sides to engage in discussions.
- A composite table of the submissions received re possible actionable responses to counter the recent rise in violent crime is being compiled by DCEDIY.

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Subgroup 5:

- The SG Chair thanked the PwC staff for their work and support in assisting the development of the SG's action plan for 2021.
- The two proposals that were discussed and supported by the PIB both have a recovery theme.
- It was noted that it is positive to have the Recovery Academy of Ireland active in the area.
- Individual Placement and Support (IPS) employment project – the 2 additional LES mediators approved by DSP will be based in Amiens Street and their focus will be this IPS approach with people, from the NEIC area, who are at a level of recovery in their addiction. Two additional partners have been added (P McVerry Trust and the HSE) who both practice the IPS approach with their client groups. The focus of the project is trying to access employment for people in recovery from addiction. Clients must be prepared for answering difficult questions around Garda Vetting. 'Spent Convictions' need to be viewed at a policy level as it is an on-going issue for people.
- Prisoner Transition Hub – A proposal was circulated to the Irish Prison Service, Probation Service and Governor of Mountjoy, for observations and feedback.
The proposal needs to be revised to make it more specific. The need for support for people who have been recently released, has been identified as important to improve the chance for them to successfully reintegrate into the community, during that critical early stage of release.
The need to support families has also been identified as important, as is education on Naloxone.
- The Minister for Drugs Policy has recently highlighted the case management approach that was developed in the Inclusion Health Hub as a positive model in reaching out to people living in homeless situations.
- The recent report on community safety in the Drogheda area has recommended replicating similar structures to those in the operation in the NEIC. This may provide an opportunity to share some of the learning from the NEIC Initiative to date.
- 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.

Subgroup 4:

- SG4 are working with residents on improving communications, workshops have now been completed. A report and recommendations will be presented to the April SG4 meeting. Feedback from this will be shared with the PIB members.
- A key elements of the Arts proposal will be to develop a coherent plan for the area. The coordinator post will be co-funded by DCC and the NEIC PIB for a 12month period.
 - The Arts Council has a 'Creative Places' funding stream that is currently open for applications. The subgroup members have agreed that an application would be submitted for the 'Creative Place Research & Development Award' in respect of the NEIC area.
 - The Arts proposal that has been approved by the PIB, does not exclude consideration of other submissions that might be received in relation to the Arts.
- The Board and manager of Sunflower Recycling Ltd. were invited to a meeting to discuss the Green Ribbon funding proposal 2021 and the future of the project. It was agreed that a revised funding proposal would be submitted. The revised proposal will be brought to SG4 for consideration in due course.

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- The DCC rep noted the continued excellent service that is provided by the Lourdes Daycare Centre. Currently they are providing over 70 meals a day that are delivered to the elderly in the area.
- The Deputy City Planner, joined the SG4 meeting and gave a presentation on the Development Plan Review statutory process. It was noted that a number of submissions have been made by the local community development sector. It was confirmed that the new plan will include a section on the north east inner city and that further consultations will take place in this regard as the review process advances. It was suggested that SG4 would be a useful forum as part of the process and invited the planning team back to a future meeting.
- It was noted that Dublin was announced on International Women’s Day as one of 13 cities selected to join U.S. based NGO ‘The Carter Centre’ in a global communications campaign **‘Inform Women Transform Lives’**. Dublin City Council has chosen to focus the campaign in the North East Inner City with a theme promoting women’s participation in active lifestyles and the benefits for overall health and wellbeing. The campaign will run until end September 2021 and will feature relevant elements of the NEIC Sport, Recreation & Wellbeing Programme.
- URDF (Urban Regeneration & Development Fund) - It was noted that the Government announcement of URDF funding on 5th March including an allocation of €121.3 million to Dublin City Council for the **North Inner City Concept Area 1**. This will fund a range of Capital projects including the following two within the NEIC boundary.
 - *Mountjoy Square Construction project, which consists of a number of restoration measures and refurbishment of the existing community building.*
 - *Five Lamps Public Realm works, involving improvements to public lighting, street paving, street art and furniture.*

Details of the specific amounts allocated for these two projects is awaited

- Rutland St. School re-development as a Community Hub - The Tender process for the construction contract concluded on 12th February with two tender submissions received. The submissions are currently being assessed and evaluated.
- Local Community Safety Partnership - Two online community wide consultation sessions are scheduled for Wednesday, 7th April 12.30pm and Thursday, 8th April 5.30pm
The recruitment process for Co-ordinator and Administrator concluded and candidates selected. An office space has been identified on James Joyce Street and is expected to be ready for occupation by the end of April.
- Sean McDermott Street Swimming Pool – The DCC rep advised that the pool will be redeveloped to a high standard. COVID-19 has restricted progress on the redevelopment.
- Royal Canal Greenway – Tree planting has commenced and is ongoing on the greenway. The installation of outdoor exercise equipment is being considered.
The Chair noted that the Greenway is being very well used. He also noted that some work on grass reseeding and the wild flower meadows needs to be undertaken.
- Litter/Dog Fouling – The DCC rep noted that there has been an increased level of dumping in the area. DCC have increased resources, the frequency of collections and the number of litter bins but they are still struggling to keep pace with the level of dumping/littering. DCC are in discussions with a barrister to discuss the options available to them in terms of the current legislation.
- A vacuum unit that removes dog litter will be trialled in the area to evaluate its effectiveness. If it proves effective its longer term use will be considered. Dog fouling bags are being provided to shops for supplying to their customers.

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Subgroup 3:

- Parent Support Coordinator: The Board members were advised that TUSLA has completed its commissioning process and they have determined that the Early Learning Initiative (ELI) in the National College of Ireland should be awarded the funding to develop this role at a cost of €60,000. These funds will transfer to TUSLA who will develop an SLA with the ELI.
- Youth Mental Health – a Mental Health Workshop was held with providers in the NEIC on 25th March. The session focussed on two areas:
 - How to work in a more coordinated way.
 - How to prevent blockages.
- A sustainable solution in relation to Fast-track Counselling has not yet been found. Discussions continue on this matter.
- Community Case Management – this will not commence until the Level 5 restrictions are eased. Meeting with representatives of the core agencies involved are continuing.
- Restorative Practice – the Early Learning Initiative and Belvedere Youth Club are working to develop a strategy to promote and embed this practice in groups in the NEIC.
- 5 -10 year olds – Tusla working with Crosscare in relation to the provision in Ballybough. The target is to have the facility operational in May in the Ballybough Community Centre.
- Work is ongoing with parents to enable them to maintain parental authority of their children.
- Coolock/Darndale - the initiative in the area is being led by Dublin City Council and there is a local oversight group being established.
- National Childcare Scheme – The Tusla rep confirmed that they are involved with the sponsoring of children into services as part of the scheme.

Subgroup 2:

- The group discussed solution-focused ideas to support young people, the group acknowledged that there may be a lack of awareness among some youth services of Minister O’Gorman’s letter of 5th January 2021 which stated that essential youth work support, focused on at-risk, vulnerable young people or young people in crisis, may continue in person provided that the numbers involved do not exceed 6 (2 adult leaders and 4 young people). The Group agreed that if all youth services followed this guidance and worked together to align their service provision, that it would contribute significantly to the wellbeing of young people in the area and help them navigate their way through this difficult period.
- Having been circulated in advance of the meeting the draft Action Plan was discussed by the subgroup and the members advised to forward any changes reqd. so that a final draft could be agreed.
- It was noted that a number of Primary School pupils had not as yet secured a place in a second level school ahead of the new school year – this is being worked on by the Education Welfare service.
- The news that the BITCI NEIC Summer Work Placement Scheme would resume (fully funded by the business community) as soon as COVID-19 restrictions are sufficiently eased to allow same was welcomed.
- C.V. Preparation Service – a reporting template has been agreed to provide monthly reports on the level of service provided.
- An Garda Síochána will be running a [pilot] paid internship programme as part of their Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. Applicants must be over 18 by September 2021. It is hoped that

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applications will be forthcoming from candidates in the NEIC and assistance was sought from the group members to raise awareness of the internships among potential candidates.

- Preparations are underway for the Construction Skills programme to recommence when COVID-19 restrictions allow.
- The Virtual TY Work Experience Programme (sponsored by PwC) has been completed in a number of schools and the feedback received has been very positive.
- A proposal in relation to translation services for schools was discussed by the subgroup members – some modifications were proposed before it was agreed to forward for consideration to the Budget Group for funding under the Emerging Needs Fund. Arising from this discussion it was agreed that supports for Roma children attending NEIC schools would be discussed at a future meeting of the subgroup. There is anecdotal evidence that there is an increase in the number of Roma children presenting to NEIC schools which may possibly, be influenced by BREXIT.
- P-TECH – the Board were advised that the programme is progressing well and is well received by the students in the participating schools.

The Chair queried how this programme could be rolled out to the other secondary schools in the area and how the Board could support that?

Subgroup 1:

- There has been a number of significant seizures of drugs in the area over the last month, particularly cannabis and nitrous oxide. These seizures should have an effect on drugs activity in the area.
- Operations Cribbage and Canter continue. Intelligence gathered as part of operation Canter led to a drugs seizure in the Santry area.
- An investigation is ongoing into the incident in 22nd March on the Samuel Beckett Bridge. It was reported that the AGS have a good line of enquiry that they are following. The incident arose due to taunting on social media. There were young people from 5 different areas involved in the incident.
- Arising from 400 searches that have been carried out since the fatal knife incidents earlier in the year, 4 knives have been found. To date in 2021 there have been 52 knife incidents reported, during the same period in 2020 - 72 knife incidents were reported.
- There was a significant presence from AGS in the City Centre on St Patrick's Day and a similar operation will be in place for the Easter weekend.
- The policing of COVID-19 restriction breaches is ongoing.
- A number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported at local LUAS stops have been investigated.
- Drugs Related Intimidation Report – the subgroup has agreed to discuss the recommendations contained in the report at its next meeting.
- The community rep enquired as to the AGS monitoring of social media. The Board were advised that social media is monitored but the number of different platforms available make this a difficult task.
- The Chair requested, that if the training programme with Gardaí and community reps is a success that consideration be given to repeating it and possibly expanding it.
- The Chair of SG5 requested to attend the SG1 meeting for the discussion on the DRI report.
- The contact details for reporting incidents:

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

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5. HSE Update

- It was a difficult few weeks with the number of COVID-19 cases in the area.
- A walk-in testing centre has been opened in Grangegorman with the capacity for 500 tests to be administered each day. The testing facility is open from 11am to 7pm. No appointment or referral from a GP required. There is no charge for these tests.
- 130,000 tests were administered nationally in week ending 26th March.
- Vaccine supply is increasing and with that the rollout of vaccinations will increase.
- Normal HSE services are being ramped up and an initiative to reduce waiting lists is planned.
- A new campaign to recruit alcohol nurses for the area has commenced – the net has been widened on this occasion to attract candidates.
- Case Management – the Lisburn St. Health Centre is reopening and will provide a clinic for young people in addiction.
- Clarence St. centre has been refurbished. This will be house the Alcohol Strategy team.
- Work is underway to open a vaccination centre in Croke Park.

6. Solutions to violent crime

- It was agreed that the first hour of the next PIB meeting would be allocated to considering the submissions that have been received.
- The submissions to be circulate 1 week in advance of the meeting for consideration by the Board members.
- It is important that parent Departments/Organisations of services involved would provide support on this.
- The objective is to prepare a document for submission to DoT for consideration.
- The DCC rep noted that the reopening of buildings could pose issues. Outside activities that are in line with COVID-19 guidelines should be the priority.
- The DCEDIY rep noted that public health issues in reopening services and building is a challenge.
- The community rep agreed a derogation was necessary but expressed concern that the complexities involved could lead to delays.
- The Chair asked that consideration be given to seeking a derogation to allow works to progress on the swimming pool.

Next meeting: Wednesday 28th April 2021 @ 8.00am
Venue: ZOOM

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Summary of agreed actions for next meeting:

What	Who
Organisations that will be receiving funding for project/initiatives to be included in the Budget Group minutes.	Programme Office
Liberty Park Community Group – are there participants on the Cultural Ambassador programme that would be interested in being involved.	Programme Office
Set up meeting with PIB Chair and <i>Together Digital</i> re the proposed redevelopment of the Website.	Programme Office
Concerns re National Childcare Scheme	DoT rep
Follow up re Dept. of Education re provision of places for Roma children in schools.	Programme Office.