



DARNDALE *Together*

2023

**DARNDALE IMPLEMENTATION
OVERSIGHT GROUP (DIOG)**

REPORT

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Message from the Chairperson



Dr Jack Nolan
Chairperson

As Chairperson, it gives me great satisfaction to report on the third year of activity of the Darndale Implementation Oversight Group (DIOG).

The group was established in February 2021, following the publication of the report, **'Darndale A Long View of an Enduring Challenge'**.

That report documented the social and economic issues of the Darndale area and articulated a progressive plan of action for the future.

While many of these issues remain problematic, I am heartened by progress made in the interim, which is now visible.

The Implementation Oversight Group comprises senior representatives of many of the statutory agencies and groups providing services in the area.

These include the HSE, Dublin City Council, An Garda Síochána, Northside Partnership,

City of Dublin Youth Services Board, the Department of Employment and Skills, the Department of Justice, the City of Dublin Educational and Training Board, Darndale Belcamp Village Centre and elected local City Councillors.

Crucially, its membership occupy senior positions within their respective organisations, and as decision makers, can advance the recommendations of the underpinning report.

The Implementation Oversight Group formally met on 11 occasions in 2023 and has interacted with the community and other agencies on numerous other occasions.

The many achievements throughout the year include

Enhancing the area's identity, image, and achievements

- › Through a bespoke communication programme
- › Through very effective community festivals in summer and at Halloween with the Creative Places company
- › Through Dublin City Council's addressing of the long-standing illegal dumping problem, with a direct solution imminent
- › Through Dublin City Council continued clean-ups, pocket gardens, planting, painting, and waste removal
- › Through the FAI Late night soccer leagues programme in conjunction with local Gardaí

Enhancing a feeling of safety

- › Through continued reductions in crime, the weekly Garda clinic, an improved Garda presence and regular days of Garda action
- › Through the Department of Justice bespoke Youth Special Project
- › Through Darndale Together Safety Forum quarterly meetings
- › Through the HSE Drugs Outreach Programme and new engagement process for individuals with difficulties
- › Through the City of Dublin Youth Service Board Sphere 17 youth outreach, and other projects

Improving quality of life

- › By generating career opportunities for young people via jobs and apprenticeship fairs
- › Supporting initiatives such as the Place Based Leadership Programme, and Get the Message Out
- › Provision and support of the Fáilte Isteach Programme at Darndale Belcamp Village Centre for Ukrainians fleeing war who wish to improve their spoken English

Making the community healthy

- › By the inclusion of Darndale as a site within the HSE Healthy Ireland Initiative
- › The No Smoking Campaign in progress by HSE
- › The Healthy Darndale programme in progress
- › By generating sporting and recreational opportunities through thriving local clubs such as Darndale FC, Darndale Boxing Club, O'Toole's GAA Club, Coolock running club and others
- › By supporting the Darndale Park Run

Education and training

- › By creating additional opportunities for higher-level education through a partnership with the Trinity College Dublin Access Programme
- › By embedding the Adverse Childhood Experience Programme in primary schools

- › Through the EU tree planting project in collaboration with Trinity College Dublin and Our Lady Immaculate School
- › Through the Northside Partnership Community Programme

These are all genuine and new improvement initiatives. Great credit is due to the Implementation Oversight Group for its vision, enthusiasm, and commitment to making them happen.

While steady progress has been made, there is still much to do and a lengthy road ahead with many stubborn challenges and obstacles to be overcome.

The communities of Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview need the continued support and commitment of central government departments to overcome these obstacles and create a durable and sustainable community which can look forward to a brighter future with the expectation that together the entire area can continue to improve.

I wish to thank all the Implementation Board members and various agency staff, especially our administrator Ms Dympna McCann, for all their efforts throughout the year and look forward to continued progress.

Dr Jack Nolan
Chairperson

Message from Dublin City Council



Bruce Philips
Executive Manager
Dublin City Council

As Executive Manager of Dublin City Council for the North City area, it has been an immense pleasure and a most worthwhile experience to join the Darndale Implementation Oversight Group in 2023 and be part of the implementation of the recommendations of the report 'Darndale A Long View of an Enduring Challenge.'

Dublin City Council is acutely aware of the multiple challenges associated with the Darndale area, and fully committed to enabling improvements.

Throughout the last year, I have observed the enthusiasm, commitment, and cohesion of the oversight group as it deals with the complexity of inter-agency and collaborative working so necessary to achieve progress.

Dublin City Council has fully committed time, management expertise, finances and resources to the task and will continue to do so into the future.

We have supported the communication programme, the public realm clean ups and the various initiatives of the Implementation Oversight Group.

We are conscious of the need to respond to community concerns positively and speedily in a caring and proactive fashion.

From this perspective, we are committed to ending commercial and household dumping, seeking improvements in policing visibility and tackling the scourge of anti-social behaviour, in all its forms.

Our firm resolution is to address existing and emerging issues but remaining conscious to also strategically articulate potential solutions to the many long-term and ingrained problems.

I urge the community to embrace and engage with the Community Representative Forum where people can raise issues.

Together with my team, I am committed to addressing these issues so that the lives of all residents of Darndale and the surrounding area can be improved.

I compliment the work of the Implementation Oversight Group and I look forward to its continued growth and development.

Bruce Philips
Executive Manager
Dublin City Council



2023 Achievements

Darndale Implementation Oversight Group achievements in 2023 include

- › The Darndale Implementation Oversight Group continues to meet monthly
- › Community Representative Forum established and meeting monthly - community esteem is rising!
- › Darndale Together Safety Forum re-established and meeting quarterly
- › Crime is down with regular policing operations and days of action
- › Community Policing Unit has been strengthened
- › Community Garda Clinic open weekly
- › FAI Late night soccer leagues programme acts as a positive diversion – run by local Gardaí
- › Very effective Halloween Festival with Creative Places
- › Made In Darndale Summer Festival hugely successful - these festivals have contributed significantly to a rise in community esteem
- › Adverse Childhood Experience Programme in primary schools is progressing - sizeable number of teachers now trained
- › HSE no smoking campaign in progress
- › Healthy Darndale programme in progress
- › TCD student access programme (TAP) was successful
- › EU Tree Planting Project in collaboration with Trinity College Dublin took place
- › HSE Drug Outreach Programme in progress - engagement has been enhanced through the HSE Drug Outreach Programme and the City of Dublin Youth Service Board Sphere 17 youth outreach projects in the area
- › City of Dublin Youth Service Board, via Sphere 17, youth outreach engagement project in progress
- › Darndale Belcamp Village Centre provides and supports the Fáilte Isteach Programme for Ukrainians fleeing war who want to improve their spoken English
- › Sporting and recreational opportunities continue to be available through thriving local clubs such as Darndale FC, Darndale Boxing Club, O'Toole's GAA Club, Coolock Running Club, and others
- › Dublin City Council is addressing the long-standing illegal dumping problem, with a direct solution in progress
- › Dublin City Council continues clean ups, pocket gardens, planting, painting, waste removal, etc
- › Bespoke social media platforms are growing - they offer residents a say
- › Two newsletters have been published and circulated to all households in Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview

Objective 1

Control Crime Effectively Narrative



The prevalence of crime, drugs, violence and intimidation in the area is being addressed and controlled for the long-term safety and viability of the community.

The area's long-standing image and reputation, while improving, remains poor on account of the visible manifestations of drug use, dealing, intimidation and gang culture.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- › An Garda Síochána (AGS) continues to engage with the community and all stakeholders
- › There is a combined effort to improve relationships inside the community and to build relationships with all stakeholders
- › Thanks to the assistance of the Oversight Group, relationships and co-operation between all agencies continued to grow
- › As a result, there were several great successes for An Garda Síochána, and the community alike, in 2023
- › AGS had several great captures during the year, assisted with several re-locations, and conducted several operations, patrols, and other activities in the area
- › AGS was involved in the late-night soccer leagues and will continue in this regard in 2024
- › As a result of the success of the late-night leagues, it must be noted that a member of An Garda Síochána now manages a team at Darndale FC
- › This fact, combined with the great success of the late-night leagues, gathered positive national media attention in 2023
- › AGS continued to be involved in the planning and successful running of several events in the Darndale area in 2023 and will continue these relationships and the co-ordination of all future events with stakeholders in 2024
- › AGS was delighted to be involved in the Placed Based Leadership program, which has now concluded
- › It is delighted to continue to meet up with participants and continue to foster new relationships and develop ideas and initiatives
- › The most successful event of the year, in which this group played an integral part, was a pilot event 'The Coolock Garda District Christmas Community Event' which took place in the grounds of Malahide Castle in December 2023
- › Other local groups such as Sphere 17, The Dales, HSE, Darndale Belcamp Village Centre, Dublin City Council and the emergency services participated, and the experience was very positive and magical for all
- › Darndale Belcamp Village Centre CLG has representation on the Joint Policing Committee



Objective 2

Dismantle And Dilute Gang Culture

The presence of gangs of youths who sell and supply drugs in the area, intimidate, and cause community fear remains a feature.

These gangs must be educated, neutralised, and dismantled before they become any further entrenched.

This requires an inter-agency and collaborative approach, together with experienced management and appropriate funding.

The engagement, appreciation and education of youth is a priority consideration for the DIOG.

The youth services of the area play a significant role in disrupting gang culture.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- › Archways Systemic Family Support are now in their fourth year in the area
- › From the very beginning, the community (professional and residents) welcomed them with open arms
- › To date, they have worked with forty-three families in the Darndale and Coolock area, delivering a range of intensive therapeutic approaches including Functional Family Therapy and Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy
- › The complete wrap-around service has supported people and improved communication and mediation within families
- › In addition, Archways has been heavily involved in developing community efficacy, having supported development, or providing financial support, to over 20 programmes

Get the Message Out (GTMO)

'Get the Message Out' (GTMO) continued to engage young people with the purpose of getting a message to young people during a time of crisis, particularly in relation to drug and violent crime in the area.



- › The third 'Another Way 5K', event was held in 2023
- › An interagency organising committee was formed to prepare for the event
- › The positivity generated by the event was palpable throughout the area and was talked about for weeks after
- › Over 700 people took part by walking or running
- › It was an event that brought statutory, community organisations/groups and residents together to make something positive happen in the Darndale community



Coolock Running Club

- › 2023 saw the establishment of the Coolock Running Club, which grew out of the success of the 'Another way 5k'
- › The club has over 100 members, an excellent testament to the leaders in the community who are promoting health and wellbeing

Woodale Youth Diversion Project - Darndale

- › The Department of Justice continues to support Woodale Youth Diversion Project (YDP), operated by Sphere 17 Regional Youth Service, and located in Darndale
- › In 2023, the Department of Justice also provided additional funding of €11,000 following a proposal from the project to avail of and develop an online database for case management
- › The Department also supports special initiatives to tackle the problem of recruitment of children by criminal gangs
- › Most young people are referred to the Woodale YDP by the Garda Liaison Officer following a formal caution in the local Garda Station.
- › Woodale YDP continues to engage with and provide services to harder to reach young people who are engaged in serious or prolific offending.
- › In addition to community-based initiatives, the Minister for Justice is also progressing the Criminal Justice (Engagement of Children in Criminal Activity) Bill 2023, which will, for the first time, create specific offences where an adult compels, coerces, induces, or invites a child to engage in criminal activity
- › Woodale YDP also provide programmes targeting 12-17-year-olds, early intervention targeting 8-11-year-olds, family support and hard targeting to reach young people
- › Interventions employed by Woodale YDP with harder to reach young people are need-led, evidence based, outcome focused and match level of need
- › This Bill will specifically recognise the harm done to a child by drawing them into a world of criminality
- › Woodale received an allocation of €228,247 for 2023 for three full-time equivalent youth justice workers
- › A significant effort is required for the initial engagement to include relationship and trust building and maintaining ongoing engagement



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

Objective 3

Enhance Community Esteem

Enhancing community esteem is vital to resolving the area's problems in the long-term. This can only be achieved by enhancing and developing local structures which ensure trust, goodwill, good governance, and community participation.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- › The Darndale Implementation Oversight Group has been established and meets monthly
- › A significant, bespoke communications programme has been initiated to keep the community informed of progress and developments
- › Organisations throughout the area have come together to form Darndale Together, and the website, darndaletogether.ie and the #darndaletogether social media platforms are at the heart of all that is happening in Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview
- › Two Darndale Newsletters were produced which reflected a very strong message of positivity which reflects the work of youth and importance of youth in the area. Each was disseminated to all households
- › The Darndale Together Community Representative Forum has been formed to influence improvements in the safety, health, happiness, and wellbeing of each member of the Darndale community
- › The forum meets monthly to influence a Darndale Together Action Plan, which is dedicated to the needs of local people
- › Darndale Together Safety Forum, which includes representatives from all agencies working in the area and the community, was re-established and meets quarterly
- › Dublin City Council's Community and Social Development Section (CSDS), Artane-Whitehall Local Electoral Area, continues to meet and support a wide range of community and resident groups across the LEA, including the Darndale area

Annual Variety Dinner

- › The Artane-Whitehall LEA Community and Social Development team held its first variety dinner dance since Covid
- › A total of 300 senior citizens attended, which included older adults who attend the Golden Years Centre, Darndale

Darndale sustainable gardening course

- › A horticulturist facilitated a sustainable gardening course in Darndale Park
- › 27 people attended the course from the Artane-Whitehall LEA - the course was an all-day event



Plant distribution

- › The North Central Area's Public Domain Section and Community and Social Development (CSDS) pooled resources for plant distribution for all established/active resident and environmental groups across the LEA
- › A high volume of groups registered for a voucher, which included environmental projects within the Darndale area



Our Lady Immaculate Church golden jubilee celebrations

- › Our Lady Immaculate Church, Darndale celebrated its 50th anniversary in July
- › To mark the golden jubilee, the church committee organised a mass said by the Most Reverend Dr Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin
- › CSDS made a financial contribution for plants to replenish the church entrance, planters and Grotto



Positive Ageing Week

- › CSDS supported several events to mark Positive Ageing Week, which included the Older Persons Council Information Day
- › Golden Years organised for all their groups to attend a coffee morning in collaboration with Dublin City Council and NEAR FM.
- › This event was subsequently broadcast on the radio station to highlight Positive Ageing Week



Darndale Together After Dark

- › 'Darndale Together after Dark' Halloween Festival was a great success in 2023
- › Many thanks to all the local community organisations and groups that helped on the lead up to the event and on the night itself.



Fun Day support

- › The Dublin City Council Community and Social Development Section (CSDS) supported several local family fun days over the summer months.
- › This included providing refreshments for the Moatview fun day.

Summer Projects

- › CSDS continue to support the annual summer projects across the community
- › This included funding towards the New Life Centre Summer Project

Christmas supports

- › Several projects and local groups received support from CSDS for their Christmas activities
- › New Life Centre Christmas activities for their after-school participants were supported by providing the group with some Christmas treats
- › Golden Years, Darndale was given funding towards their Christmas events, organised during December
- › Moatview received 200 selection boxes for their neighbourhood Christmas event

Environmental Projects



- › Dublin City Council, supported by the Empowering Communities team, and residents, engaged a contractor in Darndale to enhance a green space which was poorly maintained. The space has now been transformed and is full of pollinator friendly plants, making a wonderful addition to the community

- › Dublin City Council has established several small environmental groups at locations including Buttercup, Belcamp and Moatview and Primrose Grove to name but a few
- › It has been wonderful to see community spirit around these projects, with many children also becoming involved in improving their areas
- › Numerous areas continue to be power washed in the Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview area
- › Refurbished planters were delivered to Tulip Court to enhance this area, as local residents are keeping it looking so well
- › Residents are maintaining the boxes
- › Dublin City Council continue to work with residents in all areas of Darndale who are interested in engaging in environmental work and it is happy to supply equipment and will consider supporting any enhancement ideas, dependent on available funding



UForest initiative



Snowdrop Walk



New gate at Snowdrop Walk pocket park



Moatview Court



Primrose Grove



New welcome sign on Link Road



Hanging Baskets enhancing the Link Road



Painting

- › Walls were painted in the area to brighten it

Clean Ups

- › The Public Domain Team co-ordinated a huge clean-up of the Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview area during 2023
- › This work focussed on scraping the edges of green spaces, strimming along walls, around tree bases and lampposts and the removal/disposal of illegally dumped and burned materials

Leaf Composting Workshop – Autumn 2023

- › The North Central Area Leaf Composting Programme was hugely successful again this year
- › Twenty-one communities took part in the programme
- › Twelve communities have taken part since the initiative began in 2019
- › Moatview Court Environmental Group are the first area in the Darndale, Belcamp, Priorswood area to undertake composting
- › It is hoped to see many more communities signing up to the programme in 2024



Benches

- › Dublin City Council is currently trialling a bench at Moatview Court for elderly residents to come out and chat to the environmental group when it is doing its weekly litter picking
- › If it is a success, Dublin City Council will consider installing more benches in the Darndale, Belcamp, Priorswood area in 2024

Halloween 2023

- › The Public Domain Team noticed a huge reduction in stockpiling in the Darndale area in 2023



City Neighbourhoods Awards Night

- › The Dublin City Neighbourhoods Awards took place in Croke Park on October 5
- › Winners from the North Central Area went on to compete against the winners from the other four Dublin City Council Administrative Areas
- › Moatview Court won first prize in the 1-150 Dwellings Category in the Residential Competition

Illegal dumping and burning on open, green spaces

- › Unfortunately, we continue to see illegally dumped household waste on green spaces right across the area
- › This is disappointing because not only is very costly to clean up, but it causes considerable environmental damage
- › The toxic fumes are bad for people's health
- › We are seeking ideas from residents for ways to tackle this issue
- › Dublin City Council is working to end the recurring problem of commercial scale illegal dumping at Belcamp Park

Objective 4

Develop A System Of Collaborative Service Delivery

The responses to the social challenges of supporting the multiple strands of the community requires coordination, collaboration, and innovation.

The social and families' services will continue to have a vital role in maintaining family cohesion.

Drug treatment centres will be required to continue and add to their services to treat drug problems.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- › Dublin City Council Local Development Officer
- › Health needs assessments for the area were carried out in collaboration with a research partner
- › Healthy Food Made Easy ran a course open to residents in the community of both Kilmore West and Darndale
- › Yoga classes which started through Change for Life continued for three terms
- › A digital community map was completed and launched on darndaletogether.ie
- › Community welcoming celebration in collaboration with Northside partnership took place in the summer

Community enhancements

- › Works were completed at Darndale Playground
- › New sports and play equipment ordered for Darndale and Kilmore West recreation centres
- › Official launch took place in May and was a great success
- › Darndale Pond: Work took place to address the weed issue in collaboration with Dublin City Council Parks, Sphere 17, Archways, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and locals
- › The short-term weed issue was sorted, and a pond clean-up completed
- › Another Way 5K funding support provided, and Dublin City Council volunteers attended
- › Consultation will happen this summer with Belcamp Grove regarding uses of the green space
- › Funding proposal being submitted for Recovery Café activities in collaboration with D17ACT
- › Trauma informed Practice training was provided for 30 people in June 2023, Home School Liaison led out on the project
- › Support provided to new Coolock Running Club
- › Support provided to continue the roll-out of recovery initiatives from D17 Act and the Dales
- › Aim is to make recovery more visible in the community
- › Clean-up of school grounds to support new play therapy project
- › Period poverty project took place in Darndale
- › Products were delivered to participating projects
- › Promotion carried out to make people aware of the dangers to health of burning household waste
- › Project on the above being developed with Empowering Communities
- › Continuing to engage with groups and organisations around gaps and new initiatives
- › Community Health Needs Assessment commenced the end of September 2023 with Royal College of Surgeons
- › Two local people were engaged to work alongside the research team and local volunteers participated in focus groups and a piece around photo voice
- › Engagement with community will begin in 2024

Alcohol

- › 2023 saw the development of the Integrated Alcohol Service (IAS) and the implementation of a community care pathways across the Dublin North City and County area (DNCC)
- › As part of the implementation of the integrated alcohol service, the HSE has been working with the Dales Centre, which is a part of the IAS implementation group, in the development of a continuum of support service, to be delivered across the spectrum of alcohol use/misuse
- › The team has been working to meet the need of an influx of referrals across DNCC area
- › This has seen the engagement of over 200 clients within the service at different levels of support

Drug Related Intimidation and Violence Engagement (DRIVE)

- › The interim Dublin Northeast Local Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce coordinator has been nominated as the DRIVE Liaison for the area
- › There have been significant convictions in relation to drug related intimidation over the past 12 months, due to excellent work by An Garda Síochána

DALES Treatment Centre

- › The Dale Centre is involved in the Support, Ask, Assess, Offer Resistance Refer (SAOR) Extended Brief Interventions (EBI) Pilot project, set out for 2024
- › This will see their staff situated in Coolock Primary Care Centre, providing EBI to people in relation to alcohol use/misuse
- › It will include direct referral to the Alcohol Hub if required, or six EBIs for people presenting to health professions within the Coolock Primary Care Centre
- › Two of the Dales staff have been given a list of training dates for EBIs, two days have been completed, with several dates outstanding and a go live date scheduled for March 2024
- › The Dales Centre is also due to provide aftercare which will go live in mid-February
- › This is supported with the development of an aftercare manual
- › The Dales is providing outreach supports to Prevention, Accommodation Community, Enterprise (PACE) at Priorswood House and the Probation Service in Coolock
- › The Dales is providing a 10-week contingency management group for crack cocaine users

Drugs & Alcohol Task Force (Dublin North East)

- › The Task Force has established a 'Continuum of Care' sub-committee, which has brought service providers together to establish better care pathways, and shared working amongst organisations in the area



HSE Social Inclusion Addiction - Family Support Coordinator - DNCC

- › HSE Social Inclusion Addiction: Family Support Coordinator is in post since September 2023
- › The HSE Dublin North City and County Family Support coordinator is working alongside the local Family Support coordinator, solidifying the coordination of services in this area in line with framework

Family Support

HSE Social Inclusion Addiction - Family Support Coordinator - DNCC

- › HSE Social Inclusion Addiction: Family Support Coordinator is in post since September 2023
- › The HSE Dublin North City and County Family Support coordinator is working alongside the local Family Support coordinator, solidifying the coordination of services in this area in line with framework

Dublin North Family Support Co-ordinator

- › The local Family Support Co-ordinator has been in post since Feb 2023 and has established positive relationships with the relevant services, providing family support to people affected by drugs and or alcohol
- › To date 25 affected family members have received 154 interventions
- › The Co-ordinator is currently the DRIVE link in the area
- › Relevant links have been made with the interim Task Force Co-ordinator regarding the DRIVE role and the family support in this area

SAOR/Diversion

- › Continued to link with The Dales in an informal manner
- › Linked with Sphere17 – follow up for meeting in 2024 to present on Health Diversion Programme and the SAOR model and training
- › Linked with new Social Inclusion Liaison Officer in Coolock Network to promote SAOR model and training and learn about referral pathway into Social Inclusion Liaison

Social Inclusion Liaison Officers (SILOs)

- › SILO team have done an extensive scoping exercise across the services in the area
- › There is a Liaison Worker in Coolock and Kilbarrack Primary Care

Traveller Health

- › Social Inclusion has been supporting TravAct with their primary health care project in the Darndale area to engage with health services and improve access and address the wider determinants of health
- › The clinical nurse manager is working with the HSE school nurse in the primary school to provide a collaborative approach to health and wellbeing
- › The Social Inclusion team has been working with individual Traveller families in Darndale around housing issues impacting health and wellbeing

Collaboration with other Northside Partnership teams

- › The team has connected with their nutritionist, Healthy Food Made Easy coordinator and the Smoking Cessation and Supporting Travellers and Roma (STAR) team leader and has collaborated on several community projects including Healthfest, held at Northside Shopping Centre
- › Cultural awareness event with Northside Partnership STAR team



Supporting Local Community Groups

- › Northside Partnerships's Empowering Communities Programme (ECP) works closely with local groups in the Darndale area
- › Part of this work entails supporting the groups in developing their annual work plans

Empowering Communities Project

Northside Partnership's Empowering Communities Programme (ECP) is delivered in the Darndale Priorswood area and focuses on three main objectives:

1. To support a community development approach to area-based poverty and social exclusion
2. Building leadership within communities - supporting and enhancing collaboration between existing community structures to develop and help implement tailored community work responses to specific challenges
3. To empower local communities to craft their own response to tackling community challenges



The Empowering Communities Coordinator (ECP) and team leader are part of a national, informal network of other ECP projects

The network provides an opportunity for peer support amongst ECP funded staff and a forum for discussing common themes and ideas

Meetings are held online monthly, and an in-person meeting was held in September 2023

Community Walking Challenge

- › In March 2023, the ECP team led on a Community Walking challenge to promote health and wellbeing with staff at the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre; the majority of whom live in the community
- › The challenge proved very successful, and the team rolled out a second iteration of the challenge in September
- › The second challenge was opened to other services in the area
- › The challenge generated a great atmosphere at the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre and helped raise the profile of the ECP team and strengthen community cohesion and relationships
- › Water bottles were donated by Sláintecare

Halloween Festival

- › In preparation for the 2023 Halloween Festival, the Empowering Communities Coordinator participated on the event committee and helped with the recruitment of volunteers to support the festival evening
- › In strengthening relationships with residents, the coordinator and team members participated in a 'Witches Dance' with the Women of Worth (WoW) local women's group
- › This proved to be a very effective mechanism to meet residents and develop relations as the team spent six weeks rehearsing with the WoW group

Community Health Workers' team

- › The Community Health Workers' team in Darndale was established to support the implementation of key local and national frameworks and plans
- › Including Healthy Ireland Framework (HSE, 2019), the Healthy Communities Initiative (2021), and the Socio-Economic and Community Plan (Nolan, 2020)



Healthy Community Programmes

- › Social Prescribing - 2023 new referrals: 233; Clients seen: 174
- › The referral pathways for the service have been refined with a new referral form agreed and circulated in November 2023
- › We Can Quit/Stop Smoking 2023 - Courses Delivered: Four, Participants: 34
- › Parenting 2023 - Workshops: 22, Participants: 124, Group courses: Six

Objective 5

Enhance Education Uptake And Community Entrepreneurship

Overcoming the economic hurdles in the area requires long-term and sustained effort on behalf of the State, Dublin City Council, local entrepreneurship and the community itself.

The unemployment rate within the Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview area is significantly outside national parameters.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Leadership Development - Placed Based leadership Development (PBLD)



- › In May 2023 the 18-month Place Based Leadership Development programme (PBLD) was completed by representatives from local services, statutory bodies and groups including residents
- › The final workshop of the programme was held in Mullingar over three days with participants from both the Darndale and Drogheda PBLD groups
- › Post programme, the Darndale group continued to stay connected with the Drogheda group and a couple of projects have emerged, including a podcast featuring PBLD graduates, Maria Williams (Darndale resident) and Chloe Kelly (Drogheda resident)
- › It is anticipated that the podcast will go live in May-June 2024
- › The Darndale PBLD group continue to meet and has regrouped as the 'Communities that Care' network
- › The plan is to bring others into this network including more local residents
- › The network is exploring a number of themes and a number of working groups have been established
- › Working groups are working together to progress projects, including the clean-up of a nearby area, a pop-up garden and the provision of trauma informed training for some of the group
- › In November, Placed Based Leadership won the International Coaching Federation Ireland President's Award for leading for collective impact at a gala event in Trinity College, Dublin



Home Visiting

- › Preparing for Life (PFL) Home Visiting is a comprehensive, evidence based early intervention and school readiness programme for families in Darndale, Kilmore and Priorswood - now available in Belmayne and Clongriffin
- › The programme provides high quality information for parents on all aspects of child development and parenting
- › The team works collaboratively with Tusla, the HSE, early years providers and schools to ensure an integrated service for families
- › Over 120 families participated in PFL Home Visiting in 2023
- › 2023 was a significant year for PFL Home Visiting as the programme was added to the United States Department of Human Services list of approved Home Visiting programmes and is now eligible for federal and state funding in the US
- › PFL is currently working with the University of Chicago and Casa Central, a large community based non-profit service provider, to deliver PFL on the Southside of Chicago
- › PFL was also added to the Early Intervention Guidebook list of approved early intervention programmes in the UK and Ireland
- › During 2023, PFL and University College Dublin also initiated the next stage of research on the ongoing evaluation of PFL
- › The research is looking at the original participants in the programme
- › Formal assessment of the children at age five and nine demonstrated significant effects in the areas of cognitive development and socio-emotional development
- › This next stage will now look at children at age 14 to assess if these effects are maintained as the child ages
- › A formal launch and recruitment event took place in the Bell Building in November with entertainment, talks and some singing

Parenting Programmes

- › PFL now provides a range of group-based parenting programmes
- › These are delivered in the Bell Building, community centres and schools
- › There are also a limited number of programmes online to facilitate parents with childcare needs
- › Triple P is delivered in partnership with the HSE Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme and ranges from short one-off sessions to eight week group programmes
- › Circle of Security is an eight week programme that supports parents to build strong, nurturing attachments with their children
- › PEEPS is an evidence-based parent and child activity programme which supports language and communication skills and cognitive and emotional development through fun and interactive activities which can be continued in the home

Perinatal Supports

- › PFL provided several vital perinatal supports in Darndale
- › These included antenatal and birth preparation classes as well as breastfeeding support groups and one-to-one lactation consultation sessions
- › During 2023, it also provided baby massage classes in the area with 116 parents participating
- › Baby massage is an important opportunity for parents to build strong attachment and positive physical interactions



Play Therapy/Infant Mental Health

- › PFL has provided play therapy for children affected by substance abuse and addiction in the Darndale area as part of the HSE/Local Drug Task Force
- › In 2023, PFL was successful in a joint application with the HSE for funding under the Hidden Harm initiative
- › This allowed for significant expansion of play therapy services through the placement of a Play Therapist at Our Lady Immaculate School
- › Additional funding from Dublin City Council enabled PFL to extend to St Francis Junior School in Priorswood
- › The location of the Play Therapist in the school allows for an integrated, collaborative intervention with the therapist, parents, Home School Liaisons, and teachers
- › They work together to ensure a seamless service for children affected by trauma, bereavement, and mental health issues due to substance abuse in the home.



Trauma Informed Practice at Our Lady Immaculate JNS and SNS, Darndale

- › The original plan to introduce trauma informed practice into Our Lady Immaculate JNS and SNS was amended and approved by the Oversight Implementation Group in late 2022
- › The plan was amended to allow meaningful engagement

UCC Trauma Informed Practice Certificate Course

- › The new plan focused on funding 10 teachers attending a 16-week UCC post-graduate Certificate course entitled 'Continuing Professional Development in Trauma-informed Care: Theory and Practice: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/ace-ccpdtc/>
- › It provides theory to develop a trauma informed practice plan for the school
- › Graduates of this course would then use their knowledge to support their colleagues and enhance their knowledge through designing and facilitating a summer course in the school during the first week of July 2023.
- › Ten teachers completed the course in April 2023.

Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) Summer Course

- › Summer courses are a standing feature of the primary teaching year
- › Marino Institute of Education facilitated the summer course approval process with the Department of Education Teacher Education Section and the former INTO Professional Development lead, Cllr Dr Alison Gilliland, facilitated the course design process and organised the guest speakers.
- › The course was held in Our Lady Immaculate SNS from Monday 3-Friday 7 July
- › Four of the teachers who attended the UCC post graduate course designed and facilitated the delivery of the summer course along with two guest speakers
- › The course sought to allow teachers develop and implement trauma-informed strategies to better support children with such adverse experiences when learning at school
- › It focused on developing an understanding of adverse childhood experiences which influence child/parent or child/adult attachment and may result in embodied trauma, emotional regulation difficulties and fight, flight, fix or freeze reactions in certain triggering situations
- › A total of 13 teachers, including childcare workers from Early Start, Our Lady Immaculate JNS and SNS attended and completed the course
- › There is a strong appetite in the senior school, junior school, and the other schools in Dublin 17 to have this summer course run again in July 2024 to allow school staff build on their journey so far and allow teachers who may not have engaged in this learning experience to realise the learnings from it

From trauma informed practice theory into trauma informed practice at school level

- › There has been a focus during the 2023/2024 school year on applying the trauma informed theory into classroom practices and incorporating them into school policies
- › In the senior school, teachers returned a day ahead of the children for a refresher day on 'Our Journey towards becoming a Trauma Informed School'
- › The lead for these sessions was taken by the teachers who had completed the UCC post-graduate course
- › While the greatest amount of time was focused on teacher and child interactions, time was also given to highlight the importance of teacher self-care
- › Term One was focused on the practical roll out of TIP in the school
- › Parents were met to give them an insight into the school's vision
- › All staff agreed to incorporate TIP on classroom timetables
- › For example, carrying out an emotional check-in with pupils every morning and after breaks
- › It was acknowledged this could be problematic from a school inspectorate perspective, but it was agreed the value to the children was of greater importance
- › Peer support groups have been established for staff and an investment made in books and literature, creating a trauma Informed library
- › Next steps for the school include initiating the process of developing a whole school policy for the delivery of TIP across all aspects of school life
- › This will involve replacing the School Code of Behaviour Policy with a School Relational Policy
- › This in turn will impact on many other interacting policies so this work around school policy will be ongoing
- › The practical knowledge gathered in term one regarding the school's own unique situation would be blended with learnings from other schools (mostly outside of the State) who are working through TIP
- › Through connections made during Northside Partnership's Place Based Leadership Programme, the school will be working closely with other agencies to widen the impact, into the local community around the school

Agencies



An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais
Department of Justice and Equality



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth



Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



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2023

REPORT

Darndale Implementation
Oversight Group (DIOG)