



Derek Farrell, North Central Area Manager, Dublin City Council; Taryn de Vere, Creative Places, Darndale; Katie Blackwood, Historian in Residence, Dublin City Council and Larry O'Toole at the Darndale Memory Sharing Event. Pic: Fintan Clarke/Coalesce.

Darndale celebrates 50th anniversary

The unique history of Darndale was celebrated at an innovative event to mark its 50th anniversary.

The suburb was farmland before being developed for housing by Dublin Corporation half a century ago.

Now, it has a population of over 6,000 with the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre as its hub.

That was the location for the 'Darndale Memory Sharing Event'.

Dublin City Council Historian-in-Residence for the Dublin North Central area, Katie Blackwood, facilitated locals to share memories and stories of life in the area.

Dublin City Council established a Darndale Implementation Oversight Group (DIOG) in 2021.

This followed the publication of a report it commissioned entitled 'Darndale A Long View of an Enduring Challenge', authored by retired Assistant Garda Commissioner, Dr Jack Nolan.

The report documented the social and economic issues facing Darndale, and articulated a progressive plan for the future.

"Improvements are encouraging, and while I am heartened by the progress achieved, I am acutely conscious much remains to be done," said Dr Nolan.

"The Darndale Memory Sharing Event was a wonderful opportunity for people to come together, reminisce, and share stories of their lives in the area.

"The tremendous spirit of the people of Darndale shone through."

The DIOG meets on a monthly basis and is composed of 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, the Department of Justice, the City of Dublin Youth Services Board, Darndale Belcamp Village Centre, local schools and elected local City Councillors.

The website, darndaletogether.ie and the #darndaletogether social media platforms are at the heart of positive happenings in Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview.

These platforms offer the chance for you to have your say, talk about what is important to you and suggest what can change in the area.

Your views are important, so please contact Darndale Together through our online channels to help shape the future of the area.

Darndale continues to progress

Following the fourth year of activity of the Darndale Implementation Oversight Group (DIOG), I am heartened by progress.

The group meets on a monthly basis and is composed of 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, the Department of Justice, the City of Dublin Youth Services Board, Darndale Belcamp Village Centre, local schools and elected local City Councillors.

Crucially, its membership includes decision makers who are in a position to advance the recommendations of the underpinning report, 'Darndale - A Long View of an Enduring Challenge'.

It is accepted that improvements are encouraging, and while I am heartened by the progress achieved, I am acutely conscious of how much remains to be done to make the area safer and attractive.

There have been considerable achievements in the past year, including:

- › Community safety improvements – reductions in crime continue
- › The local Community Policing Unit maintains weekly Garda Clinics
- › Community representation and esteem has been enhanced through various community groups and action on environmental and public realm initiatives

- › Dublin City Council sponsored community festivals in the Summer and at Halloween contribute significantly to a rise in community esteem
- › Community engagement with individuals with issues has been maintained through HSE Drug Outreach Programme and City of Dublin Youth Services Board Sphere 17 youth outreach projects
- › Problematic childhood issues are being addressed through the ACE (Assessment of Comprehension and Expression) Programme in primary schools; an increased number of teachers have been trained through the UCC Trauma Programme
- › Community leadership is being progressed through the second edition of the Place Based Leadership Programmes through Northside Partnership
- › Community health and well-being remains a high priority, with significant health related programmes run by the HSE
- › The Darndale U-Forest Project, in collaboration with TCD and Our Lady Immaculate School, has been completed
- › Third-level educational opportunities for school going children from the area are being further developed through the TCD student access programme (TAP)
- › Sporting and recreational opportunities continue to develop, with Darndale FC, Coolock Running Club, Park Run, Darndale Boxing Club and O'Toole's GAA Club, among others, engaging directly with youth in the area
- › Dublin City Council continue to advance a solution to the long-standing illegal dumping problem

- › Environmental and public realm progress continues, with Dublin City Council clean-ups, pocket gardens, planting, painting, waste removal, etc
- › Community engagement continues to develop through dedicated social media platforms, DarndaleTogether.ie and community information leaflet drops

These verifiable improvements must continue and develop to fruition, and the guiding hand of the Oversight Group is essential to maintaining progress.

We need commitment, support and participation from central government departments and agencies to build on progress achieved and create a community which can look forward to the future with expectation, rather than just hope.

To this end, the Implementation Oversight Group, through Dublin City Council, commissioned a review of its work to ensure the vitality, durability and focus of our objectives remain crystal clear in years ahead.



Dr Jack Nolan
Chairperson, Darndale
Implementation Oversight Group



Two new pocket parks on the Link Road and summer hanging baskets brightened the area.

Parenting programme reveals long-term gains for pre-school children

A landmark study rooted in Darndale has revealed how a parenting programme designed to help families has delivered major educational and health benefits for children.

'Preparing for Life' is a flagship plan produced by Northside Partnership, a development company working to improve the lives of people in north-east Dublin.

A new evaluation of its effectiveness has shown that a decade after children's involvement ended, they are 29% more likely to want to pursue third-level education compared to peers who did not receive the home-visiting programme.

Many of them were also shown to have better problem solving skills, are less likely to experience attention problems, and enjoy improved family relationships and physical health.

The children, now aged 14, were included in Preparing for Life from their mothers' pregnancy until school age. The evaluation is one of the longest running randomised control trials in Europe.

The early intervention model includes bi-weekly home visits, parenting guidance such as antenatal education and breastfeeding, as well as preparing children for school. It was first rolled out in Darndale in 2007.



Billy Hendrick, now 14, at Our Lady Immaculate Junior School, Darndale, took part in evaluations of the effectiveness of the Preparing for Life Home Visiting programme at ages five and nine.
Pic: Conor Healy/pictureit.ie

"The fact that cognitive gains seen at school entry have persisted into adolescence, nearly 10 years after programme participation ended, suggests it may have caused a fundamental shift in children's developmental trajectories," said Professor Orla Doyle of UCD's Geary Institute, which carried out the evaluation.

Improvements were consistent across verbal, non-verbal and spatial domains and Preparing for Life had a significant positive impact on working memory, with fewer attention-related difficulties, supporting classroom engagement.

The study is among few global evaluations of the long-term effects of a home-visiting programme into mid-adolescence.

In 2023, the US Department of Health and Human Services recognised Preparing for Life's 'unique approach' to supporting parents.

"This evaluation confirms what families have told us for years, that the impact is long-lasting and meaningful," said the programme's manager, Niall Sexton of Northside Partnership.

"It is about giving families a fairer start, recognising the strengths they already have, and working alongside them to unlock children's potential."

Developed in collaboration with families in Darndale, Preparing for Life is grounded in 'Advantaged Thinking' - a strengths-based philosophy which prioritises potential, dignity, and ambition over deficits.

The approach ensures each family is seen as capable, and each child as worthy of the highest aspirations.

With the backing of Child and Family Agency Tusla, Preparing for Life is now available in ten other communities around Ireland.

Following US recognition, it has been adapted to work with families in Chicago and is currently being rolled out there.

Those interested in accessing the service should email pfl.info@nspartnership.ie or phone 01 877-1509.

Images from the Darndale 50th Anniversary Memory Sharing Event



Darndale Belcamp Village Centre Community Noticeboard

A community noticeboard has been placed at Darndale Belcamp Village Centre.

The aim is to keep Darndale and Belcamp connected.

Local organisations are welcome to share notices, information, and details of events or services.

The board is managed through the Bell Building Reception.

To arrange for a notice to be displayed, please contact at: info@villagecentre.ie or (01) 877 1600.

Let's keep our community informed and engaged!

Darndale Community Fair - a window on local opportunity

Residents of Belcamp, Darndale and Moatview enjoyed a vibrant Community Fair at Darndale Belcamp Village Centre.

The event showcased local services, supports and opportunities.

Locals visited the 'Marketplace of Possibilities' where they explored getting involved in the community and making a difference.

Local services, agencies, community groups and community leaders were available to talk through possibilities.

The Community Fair was organised by Northside Partnership's Empowering Communities team in collaboration with Darndale Belcamp Village Centre.

Northside Partnership is a development company working to improve the lives of people in north-east Dublin.

A vibrant event featured exhibitors from educational, health, legal, youth, childcare and rehabilitation providers, amongst others.

Dr Jack Nolan, chair of the Darndale Together Implementation Oversight Group, said the event was the perfect platform to view positive opportunities.

"The Fair was a wonderful vehicle to learn about ways to make a really positive difference to life in Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview," he said.

Nicko Murphy, CEO of Darndale Belcamp Village Centre, said the Community Fair was a fantastic event which brought together the many services and organisations working within the community.

"It was an excellent opportunity for people living in the area and further afield to make connections, explore opportunities for employment, education and training, and develop an awareness of the wide range of other supports and services available to them."

According to Ger Nolan, Empowering Communities Coordinator with Northside Partnership, there are many opportunities available within the community, but not everyone is aware of them.

"We were really excited to bring together residents of Darndale, Belcamp, and Moatview for a day of celebration and connection," she said.

Local musicians Sharyn Ward and the Priorswood Men's Shed Trad Band provided live music.

Performances were organised by Creative Places Darndale, an Arts Council funded programme supported also by Dublin City Arts Office.



HSE Living Well Programme

A programme designed for those living with chronic pain or long term health conditions is taking place locally.

The HSE Living Well Programme begins on Wednesday, October 29 at Coolock Primary Care Centre, Cromcastle Road, Kilmore, Dublin 5, D05 V026 for six weeks, running until Wednesday, December 3, between 10.30am-1.00pm.

The programme is specially designed for individuals living with chronic pain, or long-term health conditions.

It offers practical skills to help manage symptoms and improve quality of life.

Through interactive workshops, participants learn how to tackle fatigue, stress, and emotional challenges, while adopting healthier habits and effective communication strategies

Participants can self-refer to all HSE Living Well programmes.

If you would like to register for the programme, find out more, or host a group in your area, please contact Leah via email:

Livingwellncc@hse.ie
or phone 087 365 4392.



Images from Dublin City Council's Belcamp Park Family Fun Day





HSE Stop Smoking Service

You are 4 times more likely to stop smoking with our help

- ✓ 12 weeks of **FREE** stop smoking medication: patches lozenge/gum/spray
- ✓ 1:1 support from a HSE Stop Smoking Advisor
- ✓ Learn how to manage cravings

What benefits have you noticed since you quit smoking?

Michael, 16 week's Quit says:

I'm not going out the back of the house or outside for a smoke every 10 minutes for a cigarette. I am very sociable and it's nice not to be leaving the room every 10 minutes.

Would you recommend the service?

I definitely would. I have already told many people about the service, but particularly my brother. He is shocked I have quit, because I smoked more than he did a day. He is going to get in touch with you guys soon.

Thinking about quitting? Contact us

01-897 6124
hwb.dncc@hse.ie

SCAN ME








Local communities recognised for cleaner, greener environments

Darndale and its surrounds was the focus of major celebrations at the Dublin City Council, North Central Area, City Neighbourhoods awards ceremony at the Dublin Airport Hilton Hotel.

The awards recognise the efforts of communities and businesses to bring about a cleaner, greener environment and make local areas more attractive for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Buttercup Buzbees saw reward for their mighty efforts by taking first place in the Endeavour category.

Belcamp Grove Environmental Group took joint first place in the 1-150 Dwellings category for its sterling work.

And Marigold Road and Crescent Tidy Towns was awarded third place in the Best New Entry category – a brilliant start for the group.

Organised by the Waste Management Section of the City Council, Dublin North Central Area winners go forward to the overall city awards.

Entries are managed through Dublin City Council's Public Domain and Community Development teams.



Buttercup Buzbees saw their tremendous hard work pay off with first place in the Endeavour category, presented by Cllr Daryl Barron, at the Dublin City Council, North Central Area, City Neighbourhoods awards ceremony. Pic Fintan Clarke (Coalesce).



Belcamp Grove Environmental Group's sterling efforts were rewarded with joint first place in the 1-150 Dwellings category, presented by Cllr Daryl Barron, at the Dublin City Council, North Central Area, City Neighbourhoods awards ceremony. Pic Fintan Clarke (Coalesce).



Marigold Road and Crescent had a tremendous third place in the New Entry category, presented by Cllr Daryl Barron, at the Dublin City Council, North Central Area, City Neighbourhoods awards ceremony. Pic Fintan Clarke (Coalesce).

Darndale centre of cycling initiative

Darndale is the centre of a new city cycling initiative.

A grant of €39,935 from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to Darndale Football Club has led to the purchase of 10 refurbished bikes, lockers, a bike stand and repair kits.

The equipment was unveiled at the launch of the City Council's Dublin North East Climate Action Project in Darndale.

The bikes are to be shared by various service providers in the area and give opportunities to locals to cycle in a supportive, group-based environment.

The project was launched by then Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr Donna Cooney, at Darndale Belcamp Village Centre.

Other agencies involved include Sláintecare Healthy Communities, local youth service Sphere 17, the Dales Drug Project through D17 Act, and the Darndale-based Discovery Community Training Centre.

Bicycle maintenance lessons were provided for members of Darndale Football Club, who maintain the bikes.

Future projects, as part of Dublin City Council's Dublin North East Climate Action Project in Darndale, include the installation of water stations in Darndale Park and the creation of community artwork, made from repurposed materials.

Dr Jack Nolan, Chairperson of the Darndale Implementation Oversight Group, which oversees Darndale Together, a community focused initiative of the local authority, paid tribute to local input.

"As a tireless advocate for the community, the efforts of Susan French have been critical in bringing this project to fruition.

"She and Daniel Jones have been the central figures in setting up the cycling committee which has driven their vision forward."



Derek Farrell, Area Manager, Dublin City Council; Daniel Jones, Outreach Worker at Dales/D17 Act; Avril Rafferty, Dublin North East Cycling Club; then Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr Donna Cooney; Dean Eaton, Dublin City Council Climate Action Officer and Susan French, Darndale Football Club at the Launch of the City Council's Dublin North East Climate Action Project at Darndale Belcamp Village Centre. Pic: Siobhan Taylor.

Sphere 17 - make a difference

Sphere 17 is a dedicated youth service with centres in Darndale and Priorswood.

These are places where young people can explore, connect, and make a difference.

Sphere 17 aims to create safe spaces for young people to discover their potential, progress skills and hang out with friends.

It offers lots of programmes which focus on creativity, leadership, mental health, the environment, and much more, in a fun and welcoming environment.

This year, Sphere 17 took 15 young people from the locality to Helsinki, Finland, for a week.

They had an amazing experience and look forward to their host group's visit to us in 2026.

Its centres in Darndale and Priorswood are committed to young people experiencing new things.

Whether that be residential, participating in its 'Halloween House', joining in summer programmes, showcasing talent at its Youth Theatre or becoming one of its 'Young Community Communicators'.

Sphere 17 prides itself on a team of experienced and dedicated youth workers passionate about supporting young people and committed to high quality service provision.

Whether looking to join a specific group, access some individual support, chill with your friends at a drop-in, or dive into community projects, there is something for everyone.

If you are between the ages of 10-24 come and be part of Sphere 17.

Follow Sphere 17 on its socials or call in to find out more.

@sphere_17_darndale @sphere17-Priorswood
www.sphere17.ie



Sphere 17 took 15 young people from the locality to Helsinki, Finland, for a week.



The Sphere 17 trip to Finland was an amazing experience and it looks forward to their host group visiting them in 2026.

Northside Partnership – empowering communities

The Northside Partnership Empowering Communities team works with the people of Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview to empower locals to make positive changes in their area.

Under the leadership of Ger Nolan, Empowering Communities Coordinator, and Dearbháil Butler, Empowering Communities Team Leader, the team works with all ages through community projects, supporting emerging groups, education opportunities and much more.

Contact the Empowering Communities team at 087 7569370 for more information or join their WhatsApp group to stay up to date with local supports, services, and events.

The WhatsApp group is set up as a noticeboard, only administrators can post, and members will only be able to see administrators' messages. **Scan the QR code below to join. Or send a message to 087 3947846.**

Northside Partnership
Empowering Communities
WhatsApp community



Community Employment – Health Connectors Project

The Health Connectors project (funded by the HSE) facilitates a team of local Community Employment workers dedicated to improving health and wellbeing in the area.

The aim is to bring a friendly, peer-led approach to supporting residents by:

- › Promoting health and wellbeing for all
- › Linking people with local services and supports
- › Running workshops, information sessions, and community activities
- › Focusing on physical, mental, social, and environmental wellbeing

A healthier community is a stronger community.



Northside Partnership's Empowering Communities Team (l-r) Dearbháil Butler, John Murphy, Susan Fitzgerald, Anne Doyle and Ger Nolan.

Darndale youth in Couch to 5K at local Park

Young people in Darndale have been lacing up their runners for the brand-new Sphere 17 Couch to 5km programme at Darndale Park.

The weekly sessions are all about building fitness, having fun, and supporting each other along the way.

The initiative is open to all young people in the area - whether they want to run, jog, or walk. Everyone is welcome. Sessions take place each Wednesday in Darndale Park at 6.00pm.

There is no need to book - just turn up and join in. For more details you can drop in to Greg, Sparky, or Dean at Sphere 17.

As part of their journey, participants took part in a Recovery Park Run on Saturday, September 27.

It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate their progress and enjoy the community spirit.

Another Way 5K attracts hundreds to Darndale Park

This was the fourth year of the race, which highlights the availability of help for those involved with drugs and criminality and is part of a local campaign to 'Get the Message Out' on alternatives to addiction.

The Another Way 5K is a collaboration between Coolock Running Club, local community organisations, Get The Message Out and endurance athlete, Ger Redmond.

Running played a huge part in transforming his life after imprisonment for involvement with drugs.

The success of the event prompted Ger and his friend Anthony Brady to establish the club in 2023.

It is one of a number of projects backed by the Darndale Implementation Oversight Group, a Dublin City Council initiative to tackle complex and engrained issues in Darndale.

Group chair, Dr Jack Nolan, said such events are needed to show communities affected by drugs that they are not forgotten.

"Darndale Another Way 5K encourages people to consider a different way of life by highlighting opportunities, services and activities," he said.

Coolock Running Club partnered with Active Cities Dublin for the event. Active Cities is funded by Sport Ireland through the Dormant Accounts Fund.

Other supporting organisations included: Archways Systemic Family Support, Northside Partnership, The Dales Centre, Sphere 17 Regional Youth Service, Slainte Care Healthy Communities, Dublin City Council Sport and Wellbeing, Dublin City Council North Central Area Office, Darndale Football Club and An Garda Síochána.



The start of the children's event at the 2025 Darndale Another Way 5K at the local park. Photo by Kevin McFeely for Coalesce.



Mick and Cassius McDonald at the 2025 Darndale Another Way 5K at the local park. Photo by Kevin McFeely for Coalesce.



Fiona Taaffe (r) with daughter Karinann at the 2025 Darndale Another Way 5K at the local park. Photo by Kevin McFeely for Coalesce.

Learning programme sees 90% move to further education

Nine out of ten students who took part in a programme to develop and maintain an interest in learning, developed in Darndale and Priorswood, have progressed to further education, a report has revealed.

Some north Dublin suburbs have historically had one of the lowest third-level participation rates in Ireland - but 90% of students who joined the Challenger initiative are continuing education beyond second-level.

However, an assessment of the project coinciding with its 30th anniversary voiced concerns about its long-term future.

Challenger, developed in 1995 by primary school teachers Dermot Boyle in Priorswood, and Noel Kelly in Darndale, is delivered by local development company Northside Partnership to 200 young people yearly across Darndale, Bonnybrook, Priorswood, Coolock and Kilmore West, working in partnership with DEIS schools.

It provides educational and social support to children with the aim of boosting numbers progressing to further education.

The programme's latest evaluation, by Dr Maria Quinlan of Pink Flower Research, warns that Challenger is restrained in long-term planning and development by a vulnerable funding model.

It is currently co-funded by the SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation) Programme under the Department of Rural and Community Development, the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science through the Higher Education Equity of Access initiative, and the Community Foundation of Ireland.

"As is common in the sector of community development, the Challenger programme is reliant on funding support from Government agencies and public donations," Dr Quinlan states.

"While funding is currently secured for the next four to five years, longer term the programme remains at the whim of funding decisions beyond the control of Northside Partnership.

"This insecure funding model makes long term planning or programme expansion challenging."

Offering structured support to young people from sixth class to sixth year, Challenger works with parents and schools, with 40 sixth class pupils joining each year.

Challenger provides back up to children transitioning from sixth class to secondary school and through their Junior and Leaving Certificates and aids progression to further education.

It aims to challenge young people to reach their full academic, personal, and social potential.

Supports include extracurricular tuition and access to the Gaeltacht, and five-year evaluations of the programme have highlighted significant academic improvement, coupled with emotional growth.

Paul Rogers, CEO of Northside Partnership, said children from the communities it serves have as

much talent and potential as those from more affluent areas, but often lack the chance to fully develop their potential.

"As well as retaining children in full-time education and seeking to ensure they fulfil their potential, it seeks to build a positive education culture within communities, ensuring further education is viewed as attainable and achievable," he said.

"Often, what drives families to join Challenger are the success stories of students who have thrived through the programme."

According to Dr Jack Nolan, chair of the Darndale Economic and Social Plan implementation group, a Dublin City Council initiative for the area, introducing children to the concept of further education is a key component of the Challenger programme.

"Challenger introduces children from areas with complex needs to the idea of further education at an early age," he said. "It supports them to aim high and guides them along the way."



At an event to mark the 30th anniversary of the Northside Partnership Challenger programme, were Challenger graduates Lucy Hutchison and Valentin Terehov. Lucy progressed to study Medicine at Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland having achieved the highest HPAT result of any student attending. Valentin studied Law at DCU. Pic: Lensmen.

Newslines

'Darndale Together After Dark' among city's best Halloween celebrations

Darndale is preparing to host one of the biggest and best Halloween celebrations in Dublin.

The 'Darndale Together After Dark' Halloween Festival, will be spread across several venues between 4-7pm on Friday, October 31.

It will culminate in a fireworks display in Darndale Park at 7.00pm.

It is the perfect Halloween happening for all ages and it is organised by Dublin City Council, in partnership with Darndale Together, the community focused initiative of the local authority, overseen by the Darndale Implementation Oversight Group.

More information is available through Darndale Together social media channels.

Belcamp Community Garden now open

The Belcamp Community Garden is now officially open.

Developed by Dublin City Council's North Central Area Office, in partnership HSE Sláintecare Healthy Communities, the beautiful

new space is designed to bring people together, grow fresh produce, and foster a sense of connection.

Residents of Belcamp and surrounding areas can get involved with the help of a tutor kindly provided by the City of Dublin Education and Training Board who can guide the process.

Workshops have also been taking place as part of the Darndale Pocket Park project.

Special mural at Darndale Park

Darndale's unrivalled community spirit is reflected in the new mural at the local park. The magnificent artwork is a collaboration between Darndale FC, Darndale Park Renewal Group, Susan French and Lisa Wallis.

Darndale Belcamp Village Centre Community Employment participants worked hard throughout the summer on the project.

It was development through a series of creative workshops with renowned mural artist Shane Sutton. It was funded by Sláintecare Healthy Communities project.

Commercial illegal dumping ends

Dublin City Council has ended the recurring problem of commercial scale illegal dumping of waste on lands owned by the authority at Belcamp Park.

The Council has removed tonnes of waste from site. Now, plans will be developed for the site's future use.

Health and Wellbeing Programmes at Northside Partnership

Northside Partnership offers a wide range of health and wellbeing programmes designed to support mental, physical and social health.

Social Prescribing connects people with local supports and opportunities to improve overall health.

There are mindfulness, breathwork and sound bath workshops, stress management sessions, and group programmes such as 'Steps to Excellence and Personal Success', which help manage negative thinking and boost motivation.

The 'Healthy Food Made Easy' six-week programme guides in preparing nutritious, budget-friendly meals, while the community food nutritionist offers practical advice, air fryer workshops, and support to make healthy choices more accessible and affordable.

The 'Stop Smoking - Start Living' programme provides free, personalised support, with flexible options to suit your lifestyle, plus free nicotine replacement therapy.

Contact 01 832 0995 or wellbeing@northsidepartnership.ie

Darndale Belcamp Village Centre Community Employment Programme

Darndale Belcamp Village Centre CLG is proud to deliver one of the largest Community Employment (CE) Programmes in north Dublin, supporting 90 participants each year, across a wide range of roles.

The CE Programme is designed to help people re-enter the workforce, gain valuable experience, and develop skills needed to progress into long-term employment, or further education.

Participants are placed with local organisations, gaining hands-on work experience in areas such as administration, maintenance, cleaning, community healthcare, reception, sports hall assistance, and more.

Each participant has access to accredited courses, skills workshops and learning supports tailored to their needs - building confidence and opening doors to future opportunities.

As part of this commitment, all new CE participants are offered the chance to take part in the 'Taking Control - Leadership for Life' Programme.

This unique training helps individuals with limited, or no previous community leadership experience to actively engage in their own development and become more involved in shaping their community, and wider society.

Darndale Belcamp Village Centre CLG has a strong track record of supporting participants to progress from Community Employment into permanent jobs, training programmes, and further education.

Many past participants have successfully built careers across healthcare, administration, trades, and community services, demonstrating the programme's real impact in changing lives.

There is also a financial advantage. If you are currently on a means-tested social welfare payment, CE offers a guaranteed minimum weekly payment of €271.50, ensuring you are better off financially while gaining valuable work experience.

We are recruiting now! If you are interested in finding out more about the CE Programme and opportunities available locally, **please contact us: (01) 877 1600, info@villagecentre.ie**



DBVC CLG Community Employment participants completed the Taking Control Leadership for Life Programme.

Handy Helpers

Handy Helpers, managed by Darndale Belcamp Village Centre CLG, is a trusted home maintenance and support service for older people living across Dublin 3, 5, 9, 13 and 17.

With support from Pobal's Community Services Programme, Handy Helpers recently expanded its team with one additional full-time staff member, strengthening delivery and increasing capacity to meet growing community demand.

Typical works include minor home repairs, garden work, safety improvements, decluttering assistance, painting and decorating, and the fitting of handrails - all designed to help older people maintain their homes and live with confidence. **For a free assessment, or more information, call (01) 877 1600 or visit www.handyhelpers.ie**



The Handy Helpers' fleet of vehicles.

Golden Years Senior Centre

Since opening in 2014, the Golden Years Senior Centre, operated by Darndale Belcamp Village Centre CLG (DBVC CLG), has become a lifeline for older people in Dublin 17.

More than just a daycare facility, it is a vibrant community hub where members are supported to live with dignity, independence, and joy.

The Centre offers a wide range of daycare and community-based supports, including hot meals, personal care, medication prompting, alternative therapies, drop-in wellness services, and dedicated transport for those who need assistance getting to and from the centre.

Backed by the HSE, Pobal, and the Department of Social Protection, Golden Years operates at the

intersection of public, voluntary, and community collaboration.

The service is open to all, with no separation for those living with dementia, fostering true inclusion, dignity, and a sense of belonging.

The service is fully managed by Darndale Belcamp Village Centre CLG, a registered charity and social enterprise committed to delivering high-quality, person-centred supports for older people in the community.

Members enjoy a packed calendar of activities - from ladies' and men's clubs to arts and crafts, social outings, wellness sessions, and themed celebrations.

The team also delivers hundreds of outreach visits and daily care calls, ensuring those who are housebound or isolated remain supported and connected.

"We are proud to offer meaningful respite and vital support not just to older adults, but to their families and caregivers too," said Darndale Belcamp Village Centre CLG CEO, Nicko Murphy.

"Our work is grounded in community, and our doors are open to all."

Many older people now live longer, but with fewer family supports, making centres like Golden Years crucial to their wellbeing, safety, and happiness.

If you or someone you know could benefit from attending Golden Years - or if you'd like to learn more about its work - it would love to hear from you: **(01) 877 1600, info@villagecentre.ie www.darndalebelcampvc.ie**



Bonnybrook Ladies' Club enjoyed a trip to Wicklow.



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

DARNDALE
Together 50 years