



*North Inner City Drugs &  
Alcohol Task Force  
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**NICDATF MINUTES 10.30AM 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021, ZOOM.**

**2021 DATES AND VENUES**

10.30am	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Zoom
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**Attendance:** Joe Barry NICDATF Chairperson, María Otero Vázquez - Service Users Rep, Máirín Kenny – CDETB, Jan Alvey - Probation Services, Inspector Thomas Gormley - An Garda Síochána, Marie O'Reilly – DEASP, Belinda Nugent, Bridie Flood, Aisling Bruen - Community Reps, Mel MacGiobúin - NICDATF Co-ordinator, Miriam Coffey - Project Resource Officer, Denise Carroll - Administrator.

**Apologies:** Brian Mongey – DCC, Karl Ducque - Community Reps, Gary Broderick - Voluntary Services

**Minutes and Matters Arising**

**HSE representative:** Anita Whyte has moved to a new position in the HSE National Office, and a replacement HSE representative is expected to be appointed.

**Community Representation:** The NWICN Drugs Working Group has not met since the Community Participation worker is no longer in place.

**Action: The Chair will contact the NWICN Coordinator.**

**Replacement Chair of NICDATF:** The process to select a new Chair began at the January 2021 NICDATF meeting when members were asked to confidentially recommend suitable candidates, who were then contacted and asked to indicate their interest. Anna Quigley was the one person who expressed her interest and the Chair held a meeting with her. NICDATF is a company limited by guarantee. The NICDATF monthly meetings are attended by individuals nominated from different organisations and settings. Community representation is central, as the activity of the company is to identify unmet needs within the communities where substance use issues are prevalent. The company has currently two directors and five other signed up members. Membership is open to all attending the monthly meetings, who are encouraged to become members of the company. NICDATF will renew efforts to increase the membership.

The NICDATF works by consensus, and a vote would go against the spirit of the organisation but if a vote is required it is the members of the legal company who elect the Chair. The NEIC PIB offered to help with the selection of a new Chair, and the NICDATF Chair met with the Executive Officer of DPSIU of the Department of Health to discuss this. However there is no role for an external body to be involved in selecting the Chair as this would be outside the legal process of the company.

The Chair recommended Anna Quigley for the role of new Chair, and all 10 attendees expressed their support for this recommendation, pointing out her suitability based on her work experience and understanding of both the issues and the local area, as well as welcoming her willingness to take on the role.

**Action: The governance procedure now is that a meeting of the directors will be called in the next three weeks to set up a meeting to go through the process.**

The Chair noted a press release issued by the Minister of State for Drugs, Frank Feighan, TD, following a meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March with the British Irish Council, where he spoke about the community and voluntary sector being to the fore in raising concerns and issues affecting people in the community. He noted that this indicates a strong mandate for the community being seen as the most important constituency.

The Chair also noted that during his time chairing the NICDATF that statutory representatives have been very committed and the attendance in general has been very high, and that it would be stronger with more public representatives being involved.

**Covid-19 update:** Staff in NICDATF drugs services had commenced the vaccination process with the Astra Zeneca vaccine. This is currently paused and information on resumption is awaited.

The latest 14 day incidence rate nationally is approx. 150, but NIC figure is just under 450, which is now in the top four highest. This is concerning given the high levels of vulnerability and concentrated settings in the area. There have been indications of a number of local outbreaks, including in a homeless hostel. It has been reiterated to all projects to redouble safety messages, precautions and support.

**Prevention & Education:** Meeting scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. The sub-committee is seeking new members. A mix of task force members and others would be desirable.

**Supply & Control (S&C):** Sub-committee met on 10<sup>th</sup> March and a number of actions were agreed:

1. Request an input from the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Chairperson to the NICDATF.
2. Ask how the findings from the DRII report will be absorbed / used in the CSP pilot.
3. S&C to review DRII report and identify recommendations which it might be able to contribute to.
4. S&C will promote awareness of the role and contact information for the local DRI Liaison Officer across the NICDATF area.
5. Request that NICDATF add New Communities to the agenda, to ensure the NICDATF keeps exploring to reflect what is happening in our community with New Communities.

**Treatment & Rehabilitation (T&R):** Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March. There was a presentation of the HSE local evaluation of the Common Assessment Tool (CAT) Pilot which started within 20 north inner city addiction services in 2019. The evaluation found that many services found it was a useful tool, but there were issues raised about the suitability of some questions, queries regarding consent and regarding how data relating to gender and ethnicity is gathered, and how these issues will be addressed. The national evaluation of the pilot has been delayed due to Covid-19. HSE CHO9 is

progressing the development of CAT software, which will be piloted with a much smaller group of services.

The Service User Rep raised that UISCE was also involved in the CAT evaluation and flagged issues. There was feedback that service users felt highly supported by the staff assessing them. She noted that it would be good to know how the input from staff and service users will impact the development of the tool.

**Action: The T&R sub-committee need to write up their findings and how to best move ahead.**

**Garda Representative:** Lots of groups set up with a lot of info coming in reporting open dealing / anti-social behaviour. Invitations went out to community to join S&C sub-committee. ICON DWG will be nominating a rep and will feed back at next meeting.

**DEASP Representative:** DEASP continuing to ensure payments are processed quickly, and all CE participants being paid up to 2<sup>nd</sup> July. She will continue to support Joe Barry and Máirín Kenny in the Recovery Academy going forward.

**Probation Services Representative:** Noted replacement of HSE rep as on-going HSE involvement is vital. She reiterated SCC Chair's feedback that the SCC is keen to have community reps on board. In relation to the layers that are developing in the NEIC, mainly in regard to the NEIC PIB and the Community Safety Pilot, she raised concern about how all these structures are going to work together to avoid competing agendas. She noted from the Probation Service perspective the NICDATF role is vital in the community, and the multi-agency scope this provides has been vital in supporting their clients.

**CDETB Representative** is hopeful that classroom teaching could resume by summer but this is yet to be confirmed. CDETB is planning some research towards a strategic plan for adult education within the North Inner City with the aim to identifying gaps and engaging those who currently are not engaging.

**Community Input:**

Sought update on Amiens St Shop which appears to be still quite active. Garda rep reported that they are at an advanced stage in their enquiries.

DWG contacted DCC regarding drug paraphernalia on Preston St (near City Clinic) and asked if there was a possibility of increased Garda presence to discourage open injecting.

Sought an update on the Dual Diagnosis programme.

**Action: Chair agreed to look for an update.**

It's Talk Time and International Women's Day went very well.

*Residents' issues:*

A lot of drug related activity on Rutland St Lower with a lot of concern by residents.

Serious assault on community member resulting in hospitalisation. Calls coming in about levels of violence.

Peadar Kearney House: dealing in car park. Residents asking for outreach workers to link in.

Liberty House increase in people going in/out, constant dealing

Ballybough House: Extreme levels of violence and intimidation with doors being kicked in:

Mountjoy Garda Station have been meeting with residents which is encouraging.

Sheriff St/Mariners Port, Gardiner St flats, Hardwicke St and Island Quay: Residents reporting high levels of open dealing.

DWG have invited the new Community Safety Pilot chair to give an overview on his role. The community feels that they need something that will be on-going and not just a pilot that will be taken away after the pilot finishes.

Pavee Point: high incidences of Covid cases reported in Traveller community: They are focusing on education and the vaccines.

## **UISCE**

SAOL congratulated on events to celebrate International Women's Day.

UISCE is recruiting a new peer support worker. The project is working on a Strategic Plan and ensuring the voice of peers/clients are included. They are working on the next issue of the magazine and invite inputs from NICDATF projects and initiatives. They are planning to do a feature on SAOL *It's Talk Time*. Lots of training on-going with hopes that more outreach will be possible with the weather improving.

## **Co-ordinators Update**

The Co-ordinator presented the Co-ordinator Update.

## **AOB**

Community Rep reported that NEIC Addiction meeting yesterday focussed on Strategic Planning, Actions and matching programmes to these. Community reps/Service users reps asked that focus not be just on the HSE-led Inclusion Hub and Chrysalis and that all other services within the community be included.

Chrysalis premises hasn't come up. Replacement of Anita Whyte, HSE was raised. Proposal for opening of Recovery Café in Granby Row accepted with funding for fitting out premises to be provided by NEIC. Recovery Worker proposal being considered with further questions to be brought back to the Recovery Academy. "Elder Group" has been set up with NEIC local residents in the community. Presently looking at existing models with a view to deciding how the group will be structured.

## **Next Meeting**

Due to unavailability of Chair on 20<sup>th</sup> April it is necessary to change the next NICDATF meeting to **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 10.30am.**

The Chair thanked Mel, Miriam and Denise for their work and noted that April will be his last meeting as Chair of NICDATF.