



*North Inner City Drugs &
Alcohol Task Force
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NICDATF MINUTES 10.30AM 19TH JAN 2021, ZOOM.

2020 DATES AND VENUES

10.30am	Tuesday 16 th Feb 2021	Zoom
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Attendance: Joe Barry NICDATF Chairperson, Jan Alvey - Probation Services, Brian Mongey - DCC, Inspector Thomas Gormley - An Garda Síochána, Marie O'Reilly – DEASP, Máirín Kenny – CDETB, Gary Broderick - Voluntary Services, Belinda Nugent, Aisling Bruen, Bridie Flood – Community Reps Mel MacGiobúin - NICDATF Co-ordinator, Miriam Coffey - Project Resource Officer, Denise Carroll - Administrator.

Apologies: Maria Otero Vázquez - Service Users Rep, Anita Whyte - HSE, , Karl Ducque - Community Reps.

In relation to representation from the two community networks, clarification in relation to community representation for 2021 to be sought.

NICDATF Coordinator will seek confirmation from the two networks regarding community reps from both areas NWICN and ICON for 2021.

Chair wrote to Anthony Flynn in relation to his non-attendance, no response received. Currently NICDATF has no active elected reps from the local authority. DCC rep suggested writing to Janice Boylan Chair of Central Area Committee, DCC re: local authority representation.

NICDATF Chair will write to Janice Boylan

DRHE representation. Chair spoke with Coilin O'Reilly who agreed to delegate one person who would be able to address all areas. He said he would speak to Brian Mongey and Karl Mitchell to arrange to have one rep from DCC who will be responsible for addressing all relevant issues. No update in relation to this.

Chair will seek an update from Coilin O'Reilly.

Community Participation Project in considerable difficulty – lack of funding and continuing incorporation into NICDATF work.

Action: NICDATF will speak with both networks about enquiring about availability of funds under the Community Development Section.

Action: NICDATF will seek support from Junior Minister with responsibility for Community Development to see if any funding available.

NICDATF will carry out an internal review of CDYSB funded projects which have an overall family focus with a view to the possibility of refocusing funds to meet need for community development funding. This will be done before the middle of 2021 in advance of the DPU's timescale for reallocation of funds. This is the only internal option available to NICDATF.

Action: NICDATF to review funding allocation of child & family focused projects.

Alcohol CHO9 social inclusion is hoping to upgrade its response to the needs of people with alcohol dependence. All TF coordinators are on this and the aim would be an expansion of responses available for those who want to get into recovery and supports for families.

Website reports. Nov minutes finalised and can be put on the website. Policy going forward is that after 2 meetings minutes will go on Website.

Covid- Coordinator tracking local numbers. There is a decrease on a daily basis. Vaccine rollout: demand is greater than supply with different groups advocating for priority.

SCC – met on 25th Nov, and in Dec. Last meeting had to be cancelled but rescheduled before end of the month. Presentation on substances/drug seizures to be presented at next meeting. SC are seeking members from Community Reps and DCC for input and steerage. DRI report to be launched on 26th Jan online. Current DRI programme being wound up but new programme will come under Community Safety Policing Programme under DCC, with recruitment on going.

P&E – It would be good to have more reps from the TF. Looking for representation from NICDATF members. Mairin asked if anyone would like to join to contact herself or Miriam.

Recovery Coaching: Mairin, Joe, Paul to meet regarding Accreditation for the Recovery Coaching Training in Ireland.

CDETb – post Christmas L5, all learning has gone remote and CDETb are supporting learners as much as possible by phone, online, post etc.

HSE – HSE rep is moving post, Feb is her last NICDATF meeting.

Probation: Agreed minutes.

Community Reps: Agreed minutes

New Chair

NICDATF to seek new Chair as current one intends stepping down by end of 1st quarter of 2021. Qualities that would be important: Chair needs to be independent with the ability to work with the stakeholders, have an awareness/understanding of addiction, recovery and also the role of the local community.

Questions from interested individuals may be: what is it like, how long does it take, chair feels it would be better for someone **who is** retired due to time commitment. There is guidance from National Level (came into play in 2012) in line with good practice, that it should be for a fixed term of 3 years, with possibility of extension but no more than 6 years. At times there are further commitments beyond attending TF meetings, e.g meeting staff, meeting stakeholders, meeting people driving national policy.

Action: The sequence/process. TF members to contact Chair/Coordinator directly with types of people they feel would make a good chair and/or suggested names of people. A shortlist of suitable nominees to be approached to ascertain their willingness/interest in taking up the position.

Drug & Alcohol Use Trends and Behaviours Survey Summary

A summary powerpoint presentation of the annual Drug & Alcohol Use Trends and Behaviour Survey completed by NICDATF projects was given. 13 projects took part in the survey and reported working with 1030 individuals during the month of May 2020. 10 projects work predominantly with adults and 3 with children. 92% of projects reported that poly-substance use was creating a problem for individuals with alcohol and benzos being the most problematic. Issues affecting individuals

included financial, family, homelessness, employment, housing, children were the most prevalent. Most problematic mental health issues included addiction, anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, paranoia and thoughts of suicide. Physical health issues included respiratory, blood borne viruses, body function, infections. A more in-depth analysis will be carried out and made available. Intimidation was reported less but there is a sense that it's just been overtaken by other current issues. Opiates featured less as "causing issues". The full survey will be available on the NICDATF website under resources and surveys. Probation raised the age profile reported. They are finding clients are presenting as older. The core group appears similar but there is a growing cohort of aging service users. It was also noted that recent workshops in schools as well as feedback from projects working with young people indicated poly substance drug use among young people was quite common and becoming more problematic.

Covid-19 Presentation

Coordinator gave a presentation on national and local figures. National figures taken from the HSPC's info graphic data 13th Dec to 13th Jan. Dublin North City figures report a slightly lower incidence level than the national figures. Sharp increase of cases in December but numbers appear to be levelling off. 393 local cases reported and projects have worked hard to contain and manage any local cases.

Vaccination

DPU indicating support for priority of vaccination for community/addiction projects. Hopefully there will be an update on this soon. Questions to be answered in relation to individuals taking HIV medication, and individuals in active addiction.

Stat Reps

DCC: Christmas events, Music brought to complexes and Christmas trees along with the Big Cheer festival. Currently looking at projects for flat complexes, housing and events. New initiative: Community Safety Partnership 2 year Pilot programme which will be a replacement for Joint Policing Committee. It consists of a 30 person group – looking at crime, drugs etc. seeking new involvement and a broadening of the approach including residents, renters, private, homeowners, businesses, local organisations and Gardaí, and will cover the whole NIC area. Recruitment process is on-going for 2 employees on a 2 yr contract. Organisation will be based off Foley St and process of identifying people to be involved in the committee is on-going.

Probation Service: Offices open for essential priority interviews but working remotely also. Courts – many cases being adjourned to April 2021, but work is continuing with the client group. Addiction and recovery needs remain prevalent, especially for those recently released. NEIC Case Managers presented in Dec, and now co-working with clients. New Probation Officer, Mary O'Flynn joined team. Chair enquired about the status of the evaluation of Drug Courts

Action: Probation rep will follow up.

CDETB: moved to remote learning along with new level 5 restrictions, managed to get laptops etc. out to various groups in NIC having reconfigured unspent funding to facilitate remote learning environments. Co-ordinator raised issue concerning community childcare providers around changes to QQIs brought up at a recent NICDATF project meeting which may make it more difficult for community childcare providers to keep up with changes.

CDETB meeting with projects next week and will support those who wish to keep their own quality assurance they will support them to re-engage with QQI. The CDETB rep asked NICDATF to let him know of any specific projects who require support

Action: NICDATF are to signpost any relevant projects to CDETB rep for support

SC Update: Garda Rep suggested removing mention of specific premises under community reps update.

Action: *NICDATF to edit minutes appropriately and seek approval from Garda rep and community reps before publishing of minutes .*

T&R update: 14th Jan meeting was well attended. Mental Health Training: Dual Diagnosis Awareness is happening today and in Feb/March. Anti-stigma Training with SAOL / Citywide scheduled for Feb and those interested invited to contact Gary directly. Case Management Pilot: initially supposed to be for 1 year, but it has been nearly 2 years now. A lot of concern raised about some questions in the initial tool but these concerns have yet to be reflected in the document. There is an online tool being developed by HSE CHO9, and concern that issues raised might not be reflected. There was a discussion re understanding around what is Case Management as the term is being used in our area with a presumption that those carrying out interventions are 'case managers' which is not the model that is being followed by projects. There will be a meeting in Feb with Mark Hughes and UISCE who have been doing a localised evaluation. The National Evaluation has gone out to tender and might not happen before March. A possible need for a memorandum of understanding between services was discussed as well as the need for on-going training for appropriate use of the Case Management Tool (CMT) with the possibility that for some organisations it might not be the most appropriate document for the assessment process for the provision of their services. T&R have supported a Case Management approach but it is important that T&R doesn't sign up for a Case Management model that is unhelpful, doesn't follow best practice guidelines or undermines the human rights of its service users and suggested that NICDATF may not want to sign up to such a model. Chair sought clarification from the T&R Chair who reiterated that concerns are around the appropriateness of questions, positioning of questions and how the CMT is implemented, if the CMT is the most appropriate document for some projects to carry out their evaluations with, whether concerns have been heard and will be reflected in local and national evaluations and whether the software being developed will be flexible in making changes to content as deemed necessary.

Action: *Chair suggested following up after the meeting with Mark Hughes*

Miriam has sent a survey to evaluate Recovery Month Sept 2020 and plan for 2021.

Sub-group on unexpected deaths postponed till 29th Jan.

Community input

Update sought as to when the mental health peer support worker roles will be filled in NEIC

HSE rep agreed to follow up at last meeting

A local premises is active again with reports of Xanax and synthetic weed being sold.

Garda rep asked to look into this again

Is the plan to have more stabilisation beds for March/April still going ahead? Growing need for beds noted.

HSE rep to be asked for update

DWG sorry to see DRI case workers posts going as role is really needed, noting the time needed to build a relationship and trust within the community with these workers will have to be repeated as they understand there will be another pilot DRI scheme.

There are gaps in services in the NEIC, for example: there is no men(s) specific harm reduction project and a lack of supports for youth mental health. Could NICDATF carry out/source research to identify gaps in the local area and look at how these gaps might be filled?

Is there any possibility of the Dual Diagnosis workshops being run in DCU being brought more into the local community so it's more accessible/available in the local area?

In terms of young people being groomed into dealing in the area with concerns centring on child protection – is there a specific protocol that services are following to raise these issues?

Liberty house / Ballybough House / Hardwick Street / Island Key/Sherrif St / Gloucester Place upper, Senior citizens complex in Summerhill Court and Summerhill all reported experiencing increased and visible dealing.

A reminder of the Anna Liffey DRI launch next Tuesday 26th Jan 2021: tickets can be booked on Eventbrite.

SAOL/Dublin City Community Coop peer research training in the community with women and HIV is underway.

UISCE linking with SWAY on street-based sex workers outreach and will be doing training on sex work and sexual health.

Coordinators Report

NICDATF Projects' Update

Projects are continuing blended services. Organising supports for those most vulnerable in line with October '20 Level 5 guidelines

Majority of projects were paid a portion of COVID19-related submitted costs

Projects funding application 2021 submissions have been made

Project Reviews; All Project Assessments are now being requested and reviewed.

Bi-weekly zoom meetings are occurring, Parallel short reporting system is on-going; Project presentations will be made

Community Participation; To review CDYSB/ Drugs Policy Unit 'Family focused' programmes towards re-orienting with NDS

Trends & Behaviour Surveys

Trends & Behaviour Survey 2020; This year's surveys are being analysed: Increased levels of consumption of alcohol, crack/cocaine, & tablets High strength weed and Synthetic cannabis are indicated across the NICDATF area.

Large scale issues include; Financial; Family; Housing; Relational violence; Drug-related intimidation; Relapse Intervention; Suicide ideation; People affected by trauma, death and mental anguish due to isolation.

Responses including training Anti-Stigma pilot, Dual Diagnosis & SafeTalk/Start; Meeting held on 14th January. Next meet on 11th February

Strategy & Policy Issues

Mid-term review of National Drugs Strategy; This will commence early in new year: Extensive consultation has been requested: Strand 1 (€10,000/a) will be issued to meet NICDATF identified needs: Strand 2 Supports for Drug Services Users in North Dublin and Strand 3 on Drug-related Intimidation national programme (DRIVE) tender awarded to '3F'

Needs Assessment Research

Surveys & Research are to be undertaken: Mental Health: Alcohol

A DCU programme of Dual Diagnosis in Community context will be delivered in early part of year for project & community workers

Issues of suitable affordable community premises are being explored; Additional sites being scoped

Alcohol Response in North Inner City

Developing Alcohol Reduction Response Strategy; A mapping exercise is underway

Meeting held 14th January

Implementing NICDATF needs assessment for areas beyond the NEIC quarter. – Dorset Street, East Wall & Ballybough areas.

To assess the needs of resident ethnic minorities, migrants and asylum seekers and seek integration supports.

Continuing links with CHO9 Regional framework with further meeting on 4th February

NEIC Programme Implementation Board (Creating a Brighter Future)

Addiction Sub-group 5

Chrysalis case workers now in place

Dublin Inner City Community Coop is recruiting 4 part-time community health workers 'Tackling Health Inequalities through Community Capacity Building' campaigns.

New Recovery coaches training programme to commence in 2021

Enhancing Community Policing / Drugs & Crime Sub-group 1

Meeting held on 14th January

Drug Related Intimidation report is to be launched 2pm, Tuesday 26th January

Community Safety programme team now being recruited and work across NICDATF to replace JPC local work

Fitzgibbon Street Garda Station handover is now delayed.

Next meeting will be held 17th February

Organisational issues

Premises – Progress to identify an affordable local centre will continue

Directors' Business Governance & Finance to meet & initiate 2020 Audit.

NICDATF members 2020 attendance sheet is to be circulated

NICDATF members to be surveyed on internal and electronic communications

NICDATF insurance covered under a national policy is being renewed for 2021

Treatment & Rehabilitation Network

Meeting held on 14th January

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Supply Control Committee

Meeting held deferred from 13th January

DRI NEIC Initiative Presentation; Community Policing Partnership; Drugs Courts; Health Diversion Programme; Community reps on committee;

Presentation of new substances to NICDATF

Next Meetings to be arranged before 16th February

Prevention Education Network

Máirín Kenny, CDETB chairing sub-committee

A final evaluation and report is completed. Youth Conventions report 'Let's be Specific'

HSE Guide for Post-Primary Teachers 'Know the Score' links are available on www.nicdatf.ie website.

Membership to be renewed; Meeting held on 18th January

Next meeting

Next NICDATF 10.30am 16th February 2021