

To the Lord Mayor, chairperson and members of
the North Central Area Committee

Meeting: 21/2/2022

Update on Darndale/Belcamp/Moatview Socio-economic Community Plan

The social and economic issues of the Darndale area in Dublin North have been well documented for many years. Following a series of events in 2019, Dublin City Council assumed a leadership role in tackling these longstanding, complex and engrained issues. As a first step, Dublin City Council engaged Dr. Jack Nolan, retired Assistant Commissioner to undertake an in depth review of the area including identification of the issues and significant engagement with stakeholders and local residents. This process resulted in the publication of a Report "Darndale, A Long View of an Enduring Issue".

Since then, Dublin City Council has established an Implementation Oversight Group comprising of representatives of many of the statutory agencies and groups providing services in the area including HSE, DCC, An Garda Síochána, Northside Partnership, City of Dublin Youth Services Board, Department of Employment and Skills, Department of Justice, City of Dublin Educational and Training Board, Darndale Belcamp Village Centre, the OLI and elected local City Councillors. Crucially its membership are decision makers and, in a position, to advance the recommendations of the underpinning Report.

The Implementation Oversight Group has formally met virtually monthly and has interacted with the community and other agencies on numerous other occasions. Despite the considerable challenges of the past year its achievements include:

- Commencing a bespoke communication programme to create a positive and unique identity for the Darndale area
- Facilitating the establishment of a Garda clinic and enhanced Garda presence in the area
- Initiating a HSE funded Drugs Outreach Programme
- Holding of a Jobs and Apprenticeship Fair in Darndale
- Establishing a Community Representative Forum for residents of the area
- Commencing the pilot of the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) programme in the local schools
- Initiating clean-ups of public spaces
- Enhancement of public realm, i.e. Removal of boulders , Pop up park, Upgrading bollards, refreshing lamp standards, Landscaping of green area at Snowdrop walk
- Supporting initiatives such as Place Based Leadership Programme, Get the Message Out and the Whitetown Department of Justice Programme
- The inclusion of Darndale as a site within the HSE Healthy Ireland Initiative

These are all genuine improvement initiatives that were not occurring a year ago and great credit is due to the vision, enthusiasm, and commitment of the Implementation Oversight Group in making this happen. While significant progress has been made, there is still a long road ahead with many challenges and obstacles to be overcome. We need the continued support and commitment of central government departments to overcome these obstacles and to create a durable and sustainable community in the area that can look forward to a brighter future with the expectation that together Darndale can be better.