



North East Inner City Programme Office,  
Dublin City Council, Central Area Office,  
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01/05/2023

**To the Chair and Members of  
the Central Area Committee**

## **NORTH EAST INNER CITY PROGRAMME OFFICE REPORT**

### **Funding 2023:**

Funding proposals totaling **€3,888,877.14** has been approved by the NEIC Programme Implementation Board. 2023 projects approved to date are listed under the relevant Sub-Group heading on the attached table **Appendix 1**. The table will be updated on an ongoing basis as further funding proposals are approved. The projects approved in April are as follows:

#### **Subgroup 1**

##### Law Engagement and Assisted Recovery (LEAR) Programme €225,375.86

The aim is to support people who have complex and multiple needs such as addiction, criminality, homelessness and mental health to engage effectively with support services and to move away from anti-social behaviour and towards personal recovery.

##### Dialogue with Young People, Youth Workers and Gardaí in Dublin's NEIC €24,650

This project aims to continue and extend the dialogue process between Gardaí and youth in the NEIC using interactive activities and meetings between Gardaí and youth.

#### **Subgroup 2**

##### Larkin C.C. Music Library €7,627.28

This funding will assist in setting up a music library in Larkin C.C. to provide students with musical instruments to borrow and practice on at home.

##### Fighting Words – 2023 €30,000

Fighting Words provide free workshops, creative writing classes and activities for local schools and groups and also work in collaboration with City Connects and the National College of Ireland.

#### **Subgroup 5**

##### Career's EDGE employment Programme €5000:

This funding is for a workshop to facilitate engagement with local stakeholders on the establishment of a recovery community in the NEIC. This is a first phase aiming to bring services to a collective level instead of relying on individual organisations to cover elements of the process and will provide 50 places in total.

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**NEIC Greening Strategy Update  
Report to Central Area Committee  
May 2023**

Diamond Park - The Park itself is near fully complete and we are now moving into the public realm works that surround the Park itself. Plan is to start with a number of soft opening with local stakeholders (Schools, Cllrs, local business's etc.) in the coming weeks. The park is due to open to the public in June.

James Joyce park works have been completed. It is hoped that the park will open to the public at the end of May.

*Gareth Toolan*

*Dublin City Council Parks Department*



**NEIC Intercultural Report  
Report to Central Area Committee  
May 2023**

**Roma Cultural Mediators**

The Roma Cultural Mediator programme was developed to address the significant Roma community. In September 2022, two Cultural mediators were placed within two healthcare centres operating Roma clinics offering twelve hours of cultural mediators between them. In addition to bridging the gap in communication, reports from both centres highlight that the presence of the cultural mediators has greatly enhanced the service in both qualitative and quantifiable ways.

*They have been particularly helpful with Roma families who may be fearful of us, or of our services e.g. childhood immunisations; flu vaccinations; and contraception. Their understanding of the people who come enables them to allay any fears while explaining exactly the particular procedure/advice. We ourselves have tried this for*

*years but the ladies have much more influence and success. They also offer valuable advice/help with schools, hospital appointments, social welfare benefits etc. Indeed in our waiting area they have calmed numerous upset children and reassured many anxious parents. They have also dealt very well with the occasional angry/agitated person. This frees us to do our work and everything runs more smoothly. The waiting time in clinic for our people is much shorter. In total they have worked with approximately 350 people; consultations face to face and some by phone. I sincerely hope this service will continue. It is much needed and very much appreciated.*

*Health Centre Manager*

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The impact of the women on Vaccination rates was noted. *Between Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 and March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022, [nurse] gave 94 vaccines. Between Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 and March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 [nurse] gave 195 vaccines. The vast majority of these were given to children. The Roma cultural mediators have been helping us to give childhood immunisations by educating and reassuring mothers, and phoning parents to remind them that immunisations are due / overdue. Many mothers have told us that they brought their child for vaccination because the Roma cultural mediators assured them that we were trustworthy and that we wish the best for their children. Members of the Roma community in Ireland and other European countries are known to have high rates of Vaccine Hesitancy and very low rates of childhood immunisation (1 - 20% estimates in different countries) compared to the general population (85-95%). Our figures suggest that the Roma cultural mediators helped us to double the number of vaccines we gave to children, which is a huge achievement.*

- *Medical Director*

A third cultural mediator was placed with the school completion programme on a 10 week pilot between December 2022 and March 2023. She worked with five schools in the Dublin 1 and 7 areas, two mornings a week. The programme proved to be of great value to the schools in the area and has been recognised by the Tusla Educational Support Service (TESS) who have extended the service to the end of the 2022-2023 academic year. During the Pilot, the Cultural Mediator mediated in over 120 meetings between parents and school staff including formally organised meetings and impromptu discussions as they arise. She liaised with over 240 extra parents via conversations on the phone. Other roles undertaken include the translation of texts and documents, mediating in discussions with children, home visits and translation services at open days in the school. School staff have reported the presence of the Cultural Mediator as having a very positive impact upon the relationships between parents and the schools.

**Joy Eniola** Intercultural Development Co-ordinator

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## NEIC Sport Recreation & Wellbeing Programme Report to Central Area Committee May 2023

### **Men's Walk and Talk**

This is a group of men ranging in ages from 40s to 70s. The walk and talk programme will help with their mental health and encourage them to open up. They will start with a very steady pace, for a short journey then make their way to Mountjoy square and use the calisthenics equipment in the park. After this they will make their way back to Ozanams House and work on breathing techniques to help create a state of calmness in their life. We will then encourage them to partake in numerous different healthy activities ongoing in the area (gym, walking football, fitness classes).

### **D Light Wellbeing Series**

D Light Studios together with the NEIC are running a range of various health and wellbeing events over spring / summer. Sound baths, Gong Healing, Mindful Movement classes are some of the offering which will be taking place. The first sound bath took place on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April with a 75% off discount for community and the event selling out.



## **Basketball**

The NEIC Basketball Academy is running every Wednesday with over 100 children between 6-12 in attendance at each session. This is being run from Larkin Community College. The NEIC have just finished off its inaugural season as a club, a huge success was had on court with both the boys and girls teams over achieving in year one, both getting plenty of wins. The NEIC is facilitating basketball sessions in a number of different schools in the area through development officer Shane Maughan and Hugh Kilbride.



## **Women on the Move**

This programme was designed to interact with a group of women from the SAOL (SAOL is an integrated programme of education, rehabilitation, advocacy and childcare). The SAOL Project's on-going commitment to the women, children and community members of the North Inner City continues to develop, responding to the changing needs of the women who participate in their project. The woman on the move is helping woman in this particular group to be more active. Some of the woman in this group would not leave there home or interact with other people apart from the time that they are in the Saol programme. We started the programme with going for walks and using the facilities in the area, like the calisthenics equipment in Mountjoy square and then the Basketball court. The following weeks we went down to the Local gym in Sheriff Street, St. Laurence O'Toole. This is where we really started to build up excitement, they loved it. The NEIC decided to support the group with a one month membership, so they could have a safe place to go to and find an activity that was very beneficial to their health.

### **Dance & Drama**

The NEIC are working with City Connects to run Dance and Drama classes in Killarney Court Community Centre. The classes are being offered to primary school children from all schools and will be run after school hours. These classes are into a second week and are being very well received and full attendances reported.

### **GAA**

Our GAA development officers from Scoil Ui Chonaill are still working around all of the schools in the NEIC, with an inter school blitz being run in June in the club. The Gaelic for Mothers and Others Program is running in Ballybough every Thursday night with new members always welcome. The NEIC Nursery 'Hoppers' is running in O Connells Astro pitch every Saturday morning at 12-1 for children aged 3-7.

### **After Care Recovery Group Cycling Programme**

ACRG is a drug-free structured day programme providing a respectful and supportive environment to those recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. Established in 1999 by a group of community activists from Dublin's North Inner City. The project opened officially in April of that year with the objective of delivering a range of practical supports to those in recovery from addiction.

The cycling programme was introduced to the group to encourage them to pursue an activity that will support their recovery. This is an eight week programme, it will help them work as a team and improve their overall fitness as well as the mental health.

The group has really taken to the programme and it has developed into a real team building and support programme. We are now training up to take part in a charity cycle in aid of men's mental health. This is starting to gather up momentum and could possibly be the makings of the ACRG cycling club.

### **Ballybough Youth Service Cycling Programme**

Ballybough Youth Service is a place where young people can come in and relax. They work with young people from the age 10 - 24 that live around the area. In Ballybough Youth Service they do homework clubs, Halloween projects, Christmas projects, film & photography groups, summer project, cooking, dancing, and arts. They also take part in different interagency groups like The Big Scream, What's Your Issue?, visual arts, and Reel Youth.

The cycling programme was put together to support a group of young adults in the service who were planning a charity cycle, for mental health for men. The cycle is for the 27/06/23 and they will complete a 75K cycle in aid of men's mental health. This is a big task and we were happy to support this group in any way that we could. We will bring the group out once a week on bikes that we will provide and teach them how to cycle in a group. As well as that we will build up their level of fitness to complete this big task. This will be a new experience to all in this group and we feel that they will enjoy the experience and even take up cycling as a recreation or even a sport.

## **Little Fitness**

The Little Fitness programme is inclusive for all children and families living in emergency accommodation, family hubs and where children may come up against barriers within their community.

The programme teaches fitness classes in an educational way using different themes, skills and games each week

- Encourage children to have social interaction amongst their peers
- Allow the children participate in a non-competitive programme, where they will experience new and challenging activities
- Build resilience and helping their confidence grow and commitment.



## **Fun with Games and Sport**

The goal of the project, Fun with Games and Sport is to engage with the Kids, encourage them and build confidence in their abilities. Direct them to a sustainable and healthy lifestyle. We have included a sport every two weeks that we could guide them toward a club that they could join and prosper. The Fun with games and sport program is for kids to have fun, enjoy playing sports and to encourage them to get involved with their local sport clubs.

## Tai Chi

Tai Chi is still taking place in the Killarney Court Community Centre on Thursdays at 12pm under the tutelage of Siobhan Power and LYCS. The classes have loyal attendance and although open to all ages often cater for older adults.



## Yoga



Yoga classes are being offered in Killarney Court Community Centre on a Monday at 1pm, and Ballybough at 6pm. Both of these classes are being offered by teachers who trained up through the NEIC Yoga Teacher Training Program. The afternoon class is being run with Hope Recovery Runner but open to whole community with DCC staff even taking part.

RTE Nationwide are currently filming a piece on the NEIC Yoga Teacher Training Course and are interviewing past and present participants from the course. The piece will air in May.



A fun initiative for Youths, 12 years & younger  
Ballybough House Astro Pitch, Wednesdays 3-4pm  
Contact Nicky on 0861276445 or Peter on 0870654031



Comhairle Cathrach  
Sháirde Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council



## Walking Football

The walking football has been running the past few weeks and is being established in the NEIC as a sport in its own right for anybody with any fitness level and gender. Participants really enjoyed being able to get back playing a sport that they felt was beyond them. The social end of the game was very much what they missed, then having a cup of tea and a few biscuits after the game is a big winner. This is really needed for people of a certain age, to help support them to be more active. Huge benefits have been shown for mental health, physical health, slowing down the ageing processes and to prevent the need for medical treatment.



## Circuit Training

We have moved the fitness class in St Laurence O'Toole Recreation Centre to a lunch time class and this has started to generate great energy in the local area from week to week. With the help and support from the NEIC/DCC staff continuously coming to the class has encouraged the people who live local to the area to come to the class. We have encouraged the staff, who are fantastic to teach a class and they have added an active ageing class to their time table.



**CIRCUIT TRAINING**

Laurence O Toole  
Community Centre

All Fitness Levels  
Welcome

**TUESDAYS 1-1.45P.M.**

**Free**

Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

DUBLIN  
NORTH EAST  
INNER CITY



### **Active Ageing with Eddie**

From the amazing energy that has been created from the circuit classes, the DCC staff in St Laurence O'Toole Recreation Centre has started an Active Ageing fitness class with Eddie. This was something that we could see was needed in the area. After discussing this with the staff they were only happy to help. Programs like this cannot be run successfully without the full cooperation of the recreation centre which is much appreciated.



### **St Laurence O'Toole Bowls Club**

St Laurence O'Toole Bowls club is in the early stage of development. We have supplied the equipment and are looking forward to seeing it develop. The Sheriff Street area is largely populated with older adults, women and men. There is a real need to support this group to be active for many reasons, mental health, and physical health, slow down the ageing processes and to prevent the need for medical treatment.

### **Bridge Project**

There has been a generational problem of gang violence from both sides of the Liffey. Working with SWAN Youth Services they have identified nine youths that have been involved in this violence. We have met with the youths and have built up a good rapport with them. They have agreed to meet with us once a week to get involved with weight training and to introduce different sports over the next number of weeks. We are going to spend time with them and support them, try to direct them to a more social and healthier lifestyle.

**For further information on any of the above sports events contact:**

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Senior Sports Officer

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## NEIC Community Arts Programme Report to Central Area Committee May 2023

**The NEIC Community Arts Programme has continued to deliver a range of initiatives this April to support the meaningful development of the Arts across the many different communities of the NEIC.**

### **1: Drama with Older people in Ozanam House**

This April, the writer and Drama Practitioner Margaret Callan Bergin returned to the group of older people that she had been working with before Christmas. The group will work together until the end of June to create and present personal stories of their experiences as residents of the Northeast Inner city.



### **2. Development of NEIC Community Arts Strategic Plan:**

This April the Community Arts Programme continued to develop its consultation process with community groups throughout the area. Over the next few months the programme will organise a number of consultations with a broad range of groups from the area. The programme is working with Community Consultant and Facilitator Peter Dorman to identify a meaningful process that will inform the development of the Programme's strategic plan for Community Arts in the area from 2023-2025.

### 3.NEIC Pilot Arts Residencies:

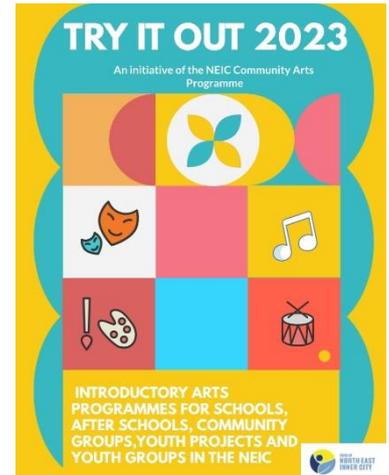
April saw the continuation of the NEIC Community Arts Pilot Programme of Arts Residencies.



- Artist Susie Maloney continued the delivery of her Visual residency for 2023-2024 with 5<sup>th</sup> class boys in St. Laurence O'Tooles CBS .  
<https://youtu.be/v-95wHLXmGA>
- Musician and Early Years specialist Helen Blackmore continued the delivery of her weekly residency with boys in the ASD classes of Laurence O'Tooles CBS.
- Drama in Education Specialist and bi-lingual Theatre Maker Gabrielle Breathnach returned to Scoil Chaoimhín after delivering her Try It Out Programme last year to begin a three month residency with the school.
- Early Years Music Specialist, Helen Blackmore returned to Little Treasures in the North Wall CDP to deliver a six-week early years music programme.
- The Early Years Music Programme continues in Holy Child Rutland St. with Early Years Music Specialist Eamon Sweeney.
- Artist Helen Barry resumed her CPD Programme with the workers from ASESP, North Wall
- Drama CPD for teachers from Scoil Chaoimhin took place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April in the Lab Gallery.

#### 4 Try it Out.

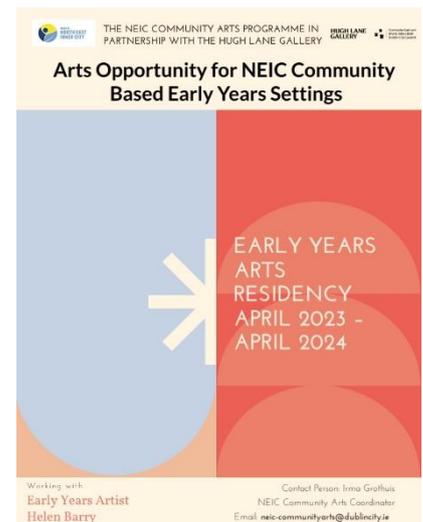
Twenty -Five different Try It Out Programmes have been now been scheduled to take place in the NEIC this May and June. Programmes will be delivered in Visual Arts, Drama and Music across schools, youth clubs and after schools in the NEIC.



#### 5: Early Years Visual Arts Residency in Partnership with the Hugh Lane Gallery:

**Ozanam House** have been awarded The NEIC Community Arts Early Years Visual Arts Residency in partnership with the Hugh Lane Gallery. The residency will now begin in May. Ozanam House will work with the artist Helen Barry and the Hugh Lane Gallery over the next 12 months.

The Community Arts Programme is currently in the process of putting together an alternative Early Years Arts Programme for the eleven other settings who applied to participate in the programme.



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## APPENDIX 1

### NEIC Programme Office – 2023 Funding Proposals Approved to date

<b>Department of Rural &amp; Community Development Community Enhancement Programme Allocation (€2,218,750 M of €7.5M )</b>	
<b>Sub - Group 1 – Enhanced Policing</b>	
<b>Ethnic Policing Forum</b> <i>(Strategic priority 2.2; 2.4; 2.5; 2.6; 2.8)</i>	€7,000
<i>Dialogue with Young People, Youth Workers and Gardaí in Dublin's North East Inner City. (Strategic priority 2.7)</i>	€24,650
Law Engagement and Assisted Recovery (LEAR) Programme <i>(Mulvey Action 1.2)</i>	€225,375.86
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>€257,025.86</b>
<b>Sub - Group 2 Maximising Educational, Training &amp; Employment Opportunities</b>	
Transition Year Work Experience, Employer Relationship-Flash mentoring coordinator	€66,906
Enrichment and Therapeutic Opportunities in ASD Classes	€18,680
Career Leap 2023	€84,576
Translation/Interpretation supports for NEIC schools	€20,000
Larkin C.C. Music Library <i>(Strategic priority 3.4)</i>	€7,627.28
Fighting Words – 2023 <i>(Strategic priority 3.4)</i>	€30,000
<b>Sub – Total</b>	<b>€227,789.28</b>
<b>Sub - Group 3- Family Wellbeing</b>	
Afterschool initiative with 7 to 9yr olds- Belvedere Youth	€106,320
Decider Skills Programme	€4,500
<b>Sub- Total</b>	<b>€110,820</b>
<b>Sub - Group 4 – Enhanced Community Welling and the Physical Environment</b>	
Greening strategy	€525,000
Community Events 2023	€445,000
Community Arts Projects Consolidation Programme 2023	€169,500
Sports, Recreation & Wellbeing	€317,000
Wexford Centre Project	€12,000
D-Light Studio Community Arts and Events programme 2023 <i>(Strategic priority 14.3)</i>	€21,855
NEIC Community grants	€104,000
<b>Sub - Total</b>	<b>€1,594,355</b>
<b>Sub - Group 5 – Substance Use. Misuse &amp; Inclusion Health</b>	
Careers Edge Training programme <i>(Strategic priority 15.7)</i>	€15,000
Access to Community Based Services for Refugees	€110,000

<i>(Strategic priority 16.5)</i>	
Workshop on a Recovery Community in the NEIC <i>(Strategic priority 15.5)</i>	€5,000
<b>Sub – Balance</b>	<b>€130,000</b>
<b>Sub.- Group 6 – Alignment of Services</b>	
NO PROPOSALS APPROVED TO DATE	
<b>Sub – Total</b>	
<b>Overarching Budgets</b>	
NEIC programme Office costs	€220,000
Pilot Social Employment Fund	€1,348,887
<b>Sub – Total</b>	<b>€1,568,887</b>
<b>Total monies committed</b>	<b>€3,888,877.14</b>