



2023

Progress Report



DUBLIN
NORTH EAST
INNER CITY

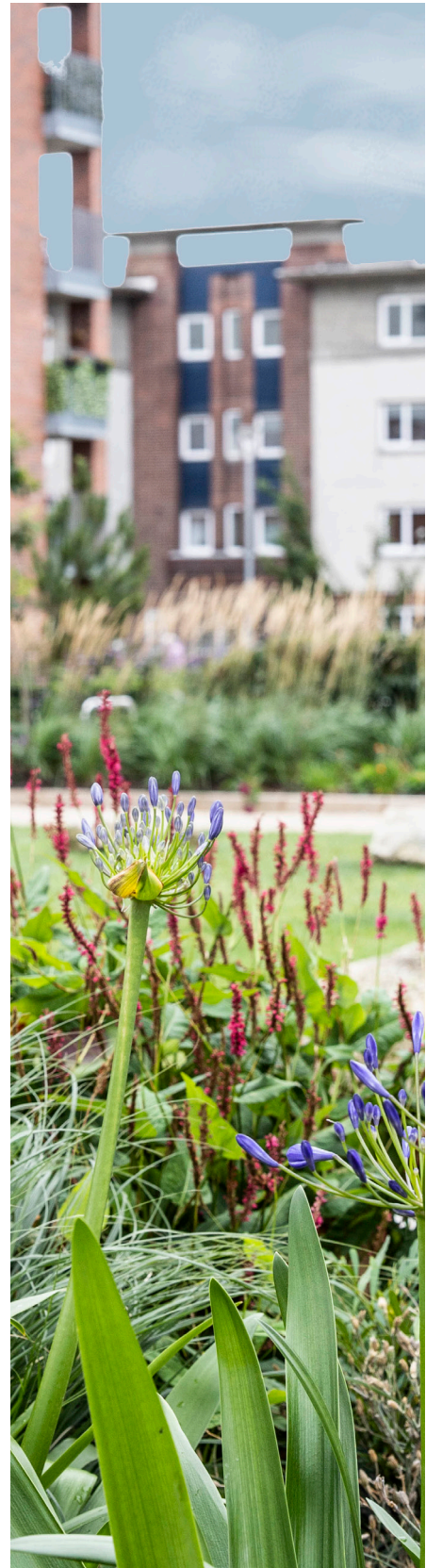




TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Message from the Chairperson	4
2.	Programme Implementation Board	6
3.	Transforming the Physical Environment	10
4.	Community Safety and Engagement	14
5.	Schools and Students	17
6.	Business Engagement with Students	20
7.	Further Educational and Training Supports and Employment Opportunities	24
8.	Supporting Families and Young People	26
9.	Inclusion Health and Drug Misuse	30
10.	Arts, Culture and Events	34
11.	Sport and Wellbeing	39
12.	Greening our Community	46
13.	Community Grants and Community Pride	49
14.	NEIC Funding 2016-2023	51
15.	Strategic Review	52
16.	Programme Office	53
17.	Appendix A – NEIC Funding Allocations 2023	54
18.	Appendix B – Community Grants	57



Ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur romhat roimh Tuairisc ar dhul chun cinn 2023 - ar son Bord Forfheidhmithe Clár Lárchathair Bhaile Átha Cliath Thoir Thuaidh

On behalf of the North East Inner City Programme Implementation Board, I would like to welcome you to our 2023 Progress Report.

In May of this year, I was appointed by the Government as the Independent Chairperson of the Programme Implementation Board for the North East Inner City Initiative. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to my predecessor, Michael Stone, and acknowledge his leadership, drive and commitment to the Initiative since its inception in 2017. The Programme Implementation Board garnered significant achievements under his stewardship and his dedication to the community throughout his time as Independent Chairperson is commendable. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks and well wishes to Michael O’Riordan (recently retired NEIC Programme Manager) who was also devoted to the community and was of immense support to me when I undertook the role of Independent Chair.

My role as Independent Chairperson of the NEIC Programme Implementation Board is to oversee the implementation of the Mulvey Report, Dublin’s North East Inner City: Creating a Brighter Future, which was published in February 2017. The report containing recommendations for the social and economic regeneration of Dublin’s North East Inner City and was further supplemented by the NEIC Strategic Plan 2020-2023.

At the heart of the NEIC Initiative is the vision to make the North East Inner City a safe, attractive, and vibrant living and working environment for the community and its families with opportunities for all to lead full lives.

Over the coming months, this vision will remain central as we embark on a strategic review of the NEIC Initiative. This review is timely as we come to the end of the current NEIC Strategic Plan 2020-2023 and provides an opportunity to reflect on the work progressed to date, identify current and available opportunities, and to maximise the value of the NEIC Initiative. This work will culminate in a new Strategic Plan for 2024 – 2027.

The Government allocated €7.5 million to the Initiative for 2023 and this has allowed the Programme Implementation Board to continue to implement a range of initiatives and programmes as set out in the Strategic Plan and in the Mulvey Report. Throughout this Progress Report you will find details on the projects, initiatives, and pilot programmes implemented throughout the year across the six NEIC Subgroups. While there are too many to acknowledge here, I would like to make reference to some of those achievements.

2023 was without doubt an important year for capital investments and redevelopments in the area. Key among these was Diamond Park, Rutland Street School, and the former Magdalene Laundry site.

In August, Diamond Park reopened following an extensive redevelopment. True to its name, the newly renovated park has become a real jewel in the North East Inner City. It is heartening to see this incredible amenity become a place of pride for the community and we hope to continue to see families enjoying the park for generations to come.

The refurbishment of the former Rutland Street School has been a long-standing aspiration of the Programme Implementation Board and a key objective of the Mulvey Report. I was delighted to participate at the ‘turning-of-the-sod’ event in November and I commend Dublin City Council and all the stakeholders who had the drive and commitment to bringing the project to this significant milestone. This landmark building will soon be re-established as a focal point for the community, safeguarding its use and prosperity for future generations of Dubs.

Alongside the new Diamond Park and the Rutland Street School project, work is advanced to establish a National Centre for Research and Remembrance on the site of former Magdalene Laundry on Sean McDermott Street. This work reaffirms the commitment of the Government and the Programme Implementation Board to deliver on its promises to the community, and when completed, it will contribute to the positive transformation of the area. I look forward to seeing the progress on the National Centre for Research and Remembrance continue at pace in 2024.

The long-anticipated reopening of the Sean McDermott Street Swimming Pool took place in July after extensive renovations and refurbishments, including retiling damaged areas of the pool, and repairs to the roof. We want to see Dublin's North Inner City swimming again, and recognising the impact different disciplines of aquatics has on people and its communities, Swim Ireland has partnered Dublin City Council to bring this exciting and new project to the community.

Our Sports and Wellbeing programme continues to build on existing successful initiatives and activities, and in response to demand, the Programme Implementation Board is supporting new initiatives including weightlifting, walking football, and activities for people residing in homeless hubs in the area. This year we also held the inaugural SwellFest in the historic Mountjoy Square to celebrate sports and wellness, and promote diversity, inclusion, and connection in the community.

Once again, the Programme Implementation Board were delighted to fund numerous cultural events throughout 2023 including the Chinese Lunar New Year, Intercultural Family Fun Day, Culture Night events, and the annual Big Scream Halloween Festival.

The Greening Strategy has remained an ongoing focus for the Programme Implementation Board. By investing and improving the physical landscape that communities live in, we aim to support community pride in this unique part of Dublin. The Programme Implementation Board also believes that 'small stuff matters' and we are proactively engaged with the Dublin City Council and their dedicated waste management unit to help the NEIC community keep their streets clean. Both of these works will continue at pace in 2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the Programme Implementation Board's steadfast commitment to improving

educational opportunities for all in the North East Inner City. Having visited many primary and secondary schools in the area I would like to take this opportunity to commend the outstanding and ongoing commitment by the teachers to the community. I was also heartened to learn during my meeting with the network of NEIC school principals that educational initiatives, such as Pathways to Technology (P-TECH), are having a meaningful and positive impact, with exciting new plans in development for Further Education and Higher Education options.

The 2023 report illustrates the innovative and vital work that has been completed across the six subgroups throughout the year. The Programme Implementation Board is committed to capitalising on these achievements throughout 2024 and focus on achieving the goals and actions that will be outlined in the updated Strategic Plan. Whatever challenges come our way, I am confident in our ability to overcome them and capitalise on the vast expanse of opportunities that lie ahead.

I want to acknowledge my colleagues on the Programme Implementation Board and thank them for their support as I adapted to my new role as Independent Chairperson. I also commend their unwavering enthusiasm, energy and commitment to the NEIC Initiative.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government for the priority and support they continued to afford this Initiative in 2023.

It is no secret that working collaboratively is essential to the ongoing success of the Initiative. The Programme Implementation Board is steadfast in its commitment to make the North East Inner City of Dublin a safe, attractive and vibrant living and working environment for the community and its families with opportunities for all to lead full lives.

In 2024, I look forward to continued close cooperation with the community, businesses, Dublin City Council, Government departments and agencies as we strive, collectively, towards the unanimous goal of Creating a Brighter Future for all in the North East Inner City.



Jim Gavin

Independent Chairperson

NEIC Programme Implementation Board

NEIC Vision

Making the North East Inner City (NEIC) a safe, attractive, and vibrant living and working environment for the community and its families with opportunities for all to lead full lives.

In May 2023, Mr. Jim Gavin was appointed by the Government to the position of Independent Chair of the NEIC Programme Implementation Board. The Programme Implementation Board oversees and drives progress on the implementation of the Mulvey Report and the NEIC Strategic Plan 2020-2023. The Board would like to thank the former Independent Chair, Mr. Michael Stone for his leadership and commitment in driving the work of the North East Inner City Initiative since 2017.

The Board meets every month and is comprised of the key Government departments and agencies that have statutory responsibility for delivery of services, alongside community and business representatives. The minutes of all Programme Implementation Board meetings are made available on the NEIC Initiative's website at: <https://www.neic.ie/publications>.

The Board is assisted in its work by six subgroups composed of Departments, Government agencies and community representatives.



Enhancing Policing

Chair: Chief Superintendent Patrick McMenamin, An Garda Síochána.

This Subgroup works to reduce crime in the community; alleviate gangland threat in the community, build community confidence in the Gardaí; and refurbish and reopen Fitzgibbon Street Garda Station.

Members: An Garda Síochána, HSE, SWAN Youth Service, North Inner City Community Coalition, ACET, Dublin City Council, HAY.



Maximising Educational, Training and Employment Opportunities

Chair: Brenda Boylan, Department of the Taoiseach

This Subgroup works to address blocks for progression of young people in formal education, increasing and enhancing employment opportunities for school leavers, improve adult education level, and reduce unemployment rates in the NEIC community.

Members: D/E, CDETB, Local Area Employment Service, Principles Network, Business in the Community Ireland, NCI, NICCC, D/FHERIS, D/SP.



Family Wellbeing

Chair: Deborah Talbot, TUSLA.

This Subgroup works to improve family wellbeing with a focus on parenting; and improve youth wellbeing.

Members: TUSLA, NICCC, YPAR 0-5 Group, HSE, Principles Network, ELI.



Enhancing Community Wellbeing and the Physical Environment

Chair: David Forde, Central Area Manager, Dublin City Council.

This Subgroup works to improve social cohesion and wellbeing in the community; and enhancing the physical environment, landscape and cleanliness.

Members: NICCC, Dublin City Community Coop, Community Arts, AGS, Clúid Housing.



Substance Use, Misuse, and Inclusion Health

Chair: Jim Walsh, Department of Health.

This Subgroup works to improve health outcomes for people who use and misuse drugs and alcohol; and promote inclusion health for socially excluded groups experiencing severe health inequalities.

Members: HSE, NICCC, SAOL Project, Chrysalis Community Drug Project, Service User Reps.



Alignment of Services

Chair: Orla Corrigan, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

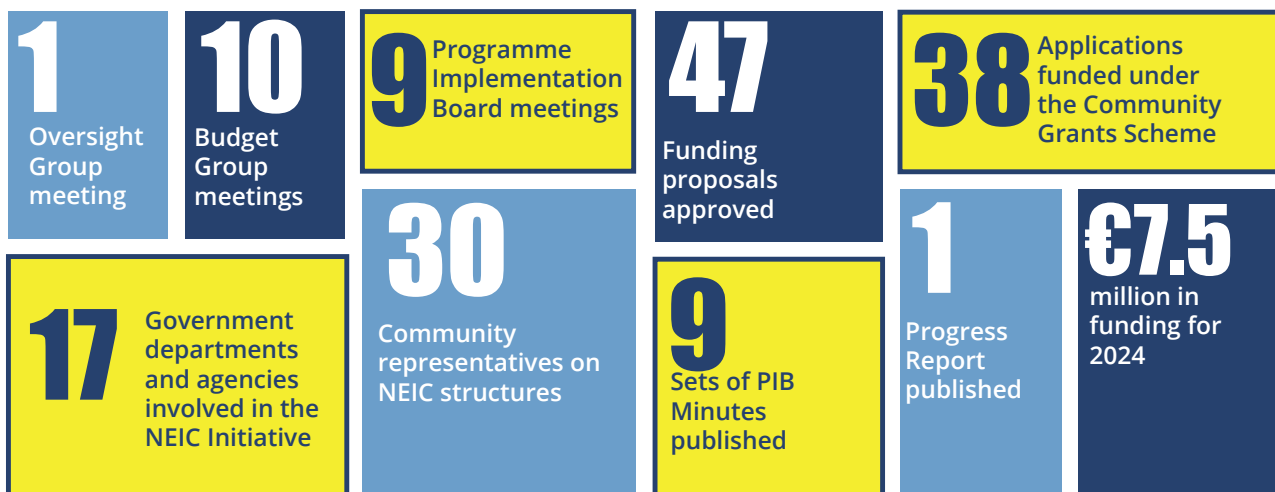
This Subgroup works to integrate and align the delivery of services across government departments, community services, agencies, and institutions; adapt, implement, and evaluate the City Connects model; enhance community leadership; and enhance early years and after-school services.

Members: D/CEDIY, TUSLA, NICCC, CDYS, HSE, Principles Network, YPAR 0-5 Group, Youth Services, community childcare providers.

The Programme Implementation Board's ambition for 2023 was to continue the implementation of the NEIC Strategic Plan 2020-2023, and the Mulvey Report – Creating a Brighter Future. The Board also prioritises long-term, sustainable outcomes for the NEIC.



Capturing our Activity in 2023



Membership of the Programme Implementation Board



Highlights from 2023

see page 11 Diamond Park redeveloped and reopened	see page 10 Rutland Street School redevelopment commenced	see page 39 Swellfest - a free sports and wellness festival
see page 20 P-TECH progression option being developed	see page 21 250 work experience placements for TY students	see page 27 NEIC Parenting Programme
see page 30 Establishing a Recovery Community	see page 32 Tackling DSGBV in the NEIC	see page 31 Support for Refugee and Migrant Services
see page 34 NEIC Community Arts Programme	see page 49 38 applicants supported - Community Grants Scheme	Videos 7 videos produced and 1 more in production

3

Transforming the Physical Environment

In 2017, the Mulvey Report identified the North East Inner City as “an area of significant place assets but one of significant contrasts.” He noted that “alongside state-of-the-art architectural showpieces we have unsightly housing, derelict buildings, waste / litter and unsightly building facades.”

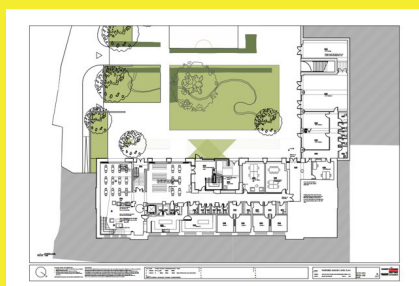
Since 2017, the North East Inner City has been transforming to meet the needs of its residents and communities. This is being achieved through investment by the Government, the Programme Implementation Board, Dublin City Council, and all stakeholders and their unwavering commitment to the Initiative.

Following on from the hugely successful landmark projects already underway and completed, including the NEIC Greening Strategy, the Royal Canal Cycleway, and Fitzgibbon Street Garda Station, the Programme Implementation Board is proud to have helped drive progress on the initiatives below which are physical manifestations of the commitment to deliver on promises made to this community.

Rutland Street School

The 10th of November 2023 was a landmark day in the North East Inner City with a sod-turning event to mark the commencement of refurbishment works at the former Rutland Street School. The NEIC Programme Implementation Board are delighted to contribute funding towards the redevelopment of this iconic building which is identified as a priority project in the Mulvey Report.

On completion, the building will provide modern, state of the art facilities for youth, community, cultural and education services; deliver a new Civic Centre for the wider North Inner City area; and provide business incubation spaces and shared office space on site to encourage entrepreneurship / small business development in the area. Check out our video of the Rutland Street project at www.neic.ie/videos.



Diamond Park

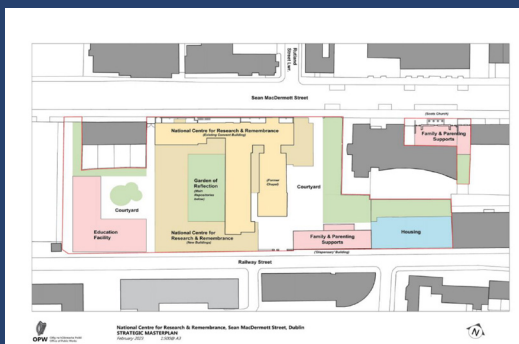
Alongside the community, a vision for the redevelopment of Diamond Park was created, and in August 2023 that vision came to fruition. Work began in July of 2022 to fully redevelop Diamond Park and following 12 months of extensive work, the Park was officially reopened by the Lord Mayor of Dublin Daithí de Roíste and Minister Paschal Donohoe on 14th of August 2023. This beautiful new facility and community space for all in the North East Inner City features new fun playground facilities, open green spaces, shrubs & trees, and new seating areas.



James Joyce Street Park

Building on the refurbishment of the St Mary's Mansions in 2020, work began in March to redevelop the underutilised open space of James Joyce Street Park in front of the complex. As part of the NEIC Greening Strategy, and following consultation with the residents' association and Clúid Housing, this open space has been transformed into a beautiful community resource. The public park now boasts additional new trees, shrubs, plants, outdoor seating, and an outdoor boules lawn which is proving a hit with local community groups.





National Centre for Research and Remembrance

The former Magdalene Laundry site on Seán McDermott Street was identified in the Mulvey Report as a keynote site which had potential as a large scale infrastructural project for the area. In July 2023, the Government approved a masterplan for the National Centre for Research and Remembrance located on the site.

The National Centre will stand as a site of conscience to honour equally all those who were a resident in Industrial Schools, Magdalene Laundries, Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions, Reformatories, and related institutions.

It will also make a valuable contribution to the social and economic development of Dublin's North East Inner City, through the provision of social housing units, further and higher educational facilities, and facilities for family and parenting supports.

To ensure the project is informed by all relevant stakeholders, an open consultation ran from 25th July to 15th September 2023, with a view to informing work on elements of the National Centre project. Further targeted consultations on specific elements of the Centre will take place in due course.

Seán McDermott Street Swimming Pool

Following extensive works to repair the roof, ceiling and broken tiles in the Seán McDermott Street Swimming Pool, this important community facility reopened on the 11th of July. The pool also underwent a facelift with a new façade bringing a fresh look to the building. Swim Ireland took over the management of the pool in November and a full timetable is in operation including school bookings, public swims, and swimming lessons.





Charleville Mall Library

Charleville Mall Library is a rich resource to the residents and schools in the community. However, built in the early 20th century, the building was in need of an upgrade internally. In conjunction with Dublin City Council, the Programme Implementation Board contributed towards a programme of works to bring the library up to current standards, including the addition of fully accessible toilets, automated entrance doors, and a fresh internal design.

These works have ensured that the library is a better space for all as well as being more accessible for all residents in the community.

Garda Operations

Throughout 2023 high visibility and high impact patrols were a regular feature of policing in the NEIC area as part of Operation Cribbage, Operation Canter, and Divisional Drugs Unit operations. These operations continue to target anti-social behaviour and drug dealing criminality in the area and have led to seizures of cash associated with criminal activity, as well as seizures of significant quantities of drugs in the North East Inner City. Collaboration with Dublin City Council and their work in residential areas have assisted An Garda Síochána in the effective policing of anti-social behaviour black spots

Law Enforcement Assisted Recovery (LEAR) Project

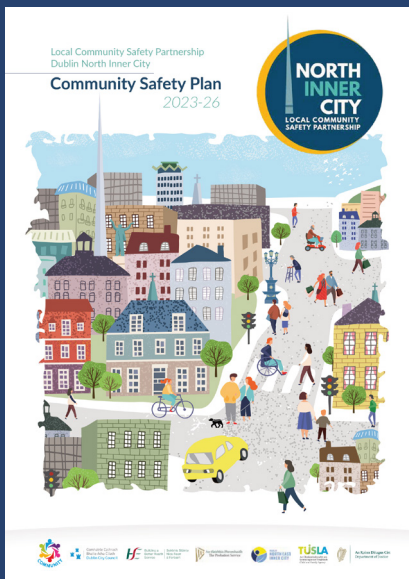
Supported by the NEIC Initiative, throughout 2023, An Garda Síochána, Dublin City Council, and the HSE continued to work with the Ana Liffey Drug Project to provide the LEAR (Law Engagement and Assisted Recovery) project service in the North East Inner City. This free and confidential service, offers case management, addiction supports, referrals and many other types of practical supports to people who need their assistance. Over the past 12 months the team engaged and provided support such as case management, needle exchange or signposting to people involved with substance use, antisocial behaviour, criminal behaviour and/or rough sleeping within the NEIC area.

Drug Related Intimidation

Drug related intimidation, as well as intimidation in a general capacity, has continued to be an area of focus in 2023 for the NEIC's Enhanced Policing Subgroup. The importance of community leadership is imperative for the reconciliation of this ongoing matter. Additionally, the need for community and all other organisations, including our public representatives, to work with An Garda Síochána cannot be understated.

The Gardaí will support anyone who comes forward and will ensure that all avenues open to An Garda Síochána are explored and utilised. Confidentiality is guaranteed to any persons willing to come forward and report such intimidation at (01) 6668000 or dmrnorthcentral.dri@garda.ie or garda.ie.





The Local Community Safety Partnership, the NEIC and An Garda Síochána will continue to work collaboratively along with all partners to achieve our mutual aims throughout 2024 and beyond.



Local Community Safety Partnership

The Community Safety Partnership was established in 2020 as one of three pilots ahead of the national rollout of the new community safety policy in 2024. This policy recognises that building stronger, safer communities is a multi-agency responsibility.

In September, the Dublin North Inner City Local Community Safety Plan was launched under the Chair of Eddie Mullins. The North Inner City Plan outlines 50 actions across the priority areas of:

1. Drugs, Inclusion-Health, Anti-Social Behaviour
2. Family, Youth and Community
3. Education, Life-Long Learning
4. Integration, Ethnic and Multi Faith Inclusion
5. Physical Environment.

Bridge Project

The Bridge Project was established in early 2022 as a response to target conflict occurring between youths from both north and south of the Liffey at the Sean O'Casey Bridge. A multi-agency response involving An Garda Síochána, DCC, Youth Services, the Local Community Safety Partnership, and school representation, has aided the success of the Bridge Project in addressing the root causes of these conflicts.

This strong collaborative group meets regularly and organises activities to engage the young people from the Bridge Project. In June, a football match took place between the Gardaí and the young people. A great day was had by all and the young people have looked for a rematch. Further events planned as part of the Bridge Project include, a follow-up football match in December, a programme with Frontline Bikes, and planning is underway to set up an off-shore rowing club to get the young people from the Bridge Project involved.

Dialogue Process

Since 2018, the NEIC Initiative have supported a dialogue process between Gardaí, youth services and young people from the area in order to build better relationships and trust. This also enables both Gardaí and young people to have a better understanding of each other and their roles within the community. As part of the process in 2023 and facilitated by the Community Action Network, dialogue took place in Store Street Garda Station where youth leaders had open discussions with Community Gardaí. The youth leaders were also given a tour of Store Street Garda station so they could understand the work that goes on in the background in a Garda Station.

Dublin North Central Garda Youth Awards Ceremony

The Dublin North Central Garda Youth Awards Ceremony was held in Croke Park on the 7th of July. This event recognised the outstanding achievements of young people in our community between the ages of 13 and 21 years.



Juvenile Liaison and Community Youth Workers

Across the Dublin North Central Division, An Garda Síochána continued to support and engage in restorative practice dialogue with youth groups and students from local schools and attended the launch of the Restorative Practice Strategy at Belvedere Youth Club.

Gardaí Participation at Local Events

Gardaí from Store Street and Fitzgibbon Street attended and participated in many local events throughout the year including the Lunar New Year, Swellfest and the Big Scream Festival. An Garda Síochána's Community Policing team along with other units had a great year working with youth groups, senior citizen groups, residents and businesses.



City Connects

The City Connects programme, operating in 10 NEIC primary schools, works to provide each and every student the supports they need in order to succeed and thrive in school and achieve their full potential. City Connects Coordinators, based in schools, review the strengths and needs of every student across the areas of – Academics, Social/Emotional/Behavioural, Family, and Health - and then links each child to a tailored set of supports and enrichment opportunities, to build on their strengths and address any needs they may have.

City Connects 2022-2023 at a glance

10 Primary schools

154 community partners

14,598
services recorded as delivered

1750 Pupils

1,736 (99%) of students receiving at least 3 services

North East Inner City Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

The NEIC MDT is an interagency collaboration between Health Service Executive Primary Care and the Department of Education National Educational Psychological Service.

The MDT delivers a high quality, child centred, school-based service across Psychology, Occupational Therapy, and Speech and Language Therapy in 10 Dublin inner city primary schools. It responds to the needs of children, their families, and their schools through targeted training, advice, prevention work, assessment, and therapeutic interventions.

Since its inception in 2020, the MDT has made a positive impact on the many children, families, and teachers that it supports.

Over the past 3 years, 2020-23 the MDT have had:

3,195 consultations held with key stakeholders (parents, school staff, other professionals)

1,039
assessments were completed

2,442
interventions were delivered

21 training sessions annually for parents/ school staff across a range of areas including: trauma informed practice, communication skills, emotional regulation, fine motor skills.



Larkin Community College Music Library

Earlier this year, the NEIC Initiative provided funding to purchase equipment for Larkin Community College Music Library. The music instrument library ensures all students have the opportunity to explore an interest in learning a musical instrument. The keyboards, guitars, bass guitars and assorted musical equipment has proven very popular. It also provides students with the chance to borrow the instruments and practice at home outside of school hours.

Doodle Den

The NEIC Initiative provided funding to ensure three local schools could deliver the after-school literacy programme, Doodle Den. The programme is targeted at children in Senior Infants and focuses on improving children's literacy through a wide range of activities such as games, phonics, art, drama, independent and shared reading and physical activity.

Further funding has been approved by the NEIC Initiative to enable four local schools to deliver the programme over the 2023/24 school year.

In June, a Doodle Den graduation ceremony took place in the National College of Ireland where each child was presented with a certificate of completion.



Quality Circle Time

In 2023, the NEIC Initiative funded Quality Circle Time supports for a number of primary schools in the area. Quality Circle Time has proven successful in promoting better relationships and helping with positive behaviour. The key aims are

Promoting positive behaviour management.

Promoting better relationships between pupils and teachers.

Improvements in student learning.

A more harmonious running of the school.

Fighting Words

Fighting Words facilitated a wide range of creative projects with young people in the North East Inner City area this year, utilising the creative practices of writing and storytelling to empower children and teenagers. The project worked collaboratively with organisations such as St Brigid's Day Nursery and Belvedere Youth Club and with initiatives such as afterschool Word Warrior writing club for 8-12 year-olds and school workshop programmes. Participants greatly impressed everyone with their endless imaginations.

Afterschool Study Programme

The NEIC Initiative continues to support after school study programme for all 6 post primary schools in the NEIC. This programme aims to boost the academic performance and provide a safe, structured and supportive environment for students to complete class-based assignments, engage in research for project work and prepare for exams. The programme also facilitates additional workshops to develop study skills and the wellbeing of students.



Fire Station Artists' Studios (FSAS) Film Club

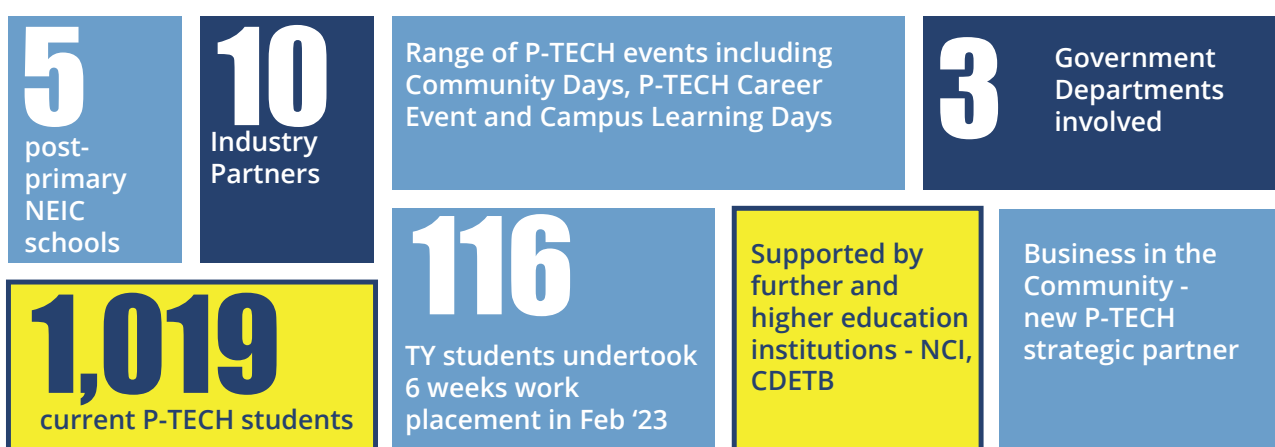
The FSAS Film Club workshop series is a wonderful opportunity for children and young people to learn about filming techniques and discover how to use professional filming equipment. In 2022/3, the first Film Club, in conjunction with City Connects, resulted in a short film created by local 6th class students. This movie was then screened in the Light House Cinema, and in the LAB as part of Cruinniú na nÓg.

The 2023/2024 Film Club has expanded its partnership to include Belvedere Youth Club, broadening the reach of the programme to more young people. Participants are currently working on making a documentary about their football experience which will be screened in the cinema in the new year.

Pathways to Technology (P-TECH)

P-TECH operates across five post-primary schools in the North East Inner City, with multiple partners supporting the programme. It is an education initiative that combines post primary education with elements of further education and workplace experience. It involves a three-way partnership between school, higher/further education institution(s), and industry partners. It includes a structured workplace learning strand with mentoring, worksite visits, speakers, and project days.

P-TECH 2023 at a glance:





NEIC Work Placements

Olive Ojo, the NEIC Work Experience Co-ordinator can be contacted at olive.ojo@ncirl.ie or ncicareersteam@ncirl.ie

Work experience has the potential to make a real difference in the lives of young people. The NEIC Work Experience Placement Programme is one strand in a coordinated effort to open doors, raise awareness and aspirations and ultimately to provide students in NEIC schools with access to and insight into professions and career paths outside their existing network.

2022 / 23 in numbers:

5

Career coffee mornings

20

Zoom flash mentoring events

110

One-to-one mentoring meetings between students and mentors

130

Meetings with companies

250

Work experience placements completed

Supported by 70 organisations in Dublin

66

New mentors vetted across 25 organisations and 14 departments

Over 600 Likes on LinkedIn promotional Posts

4

Sponsored reverse interview experience workshops

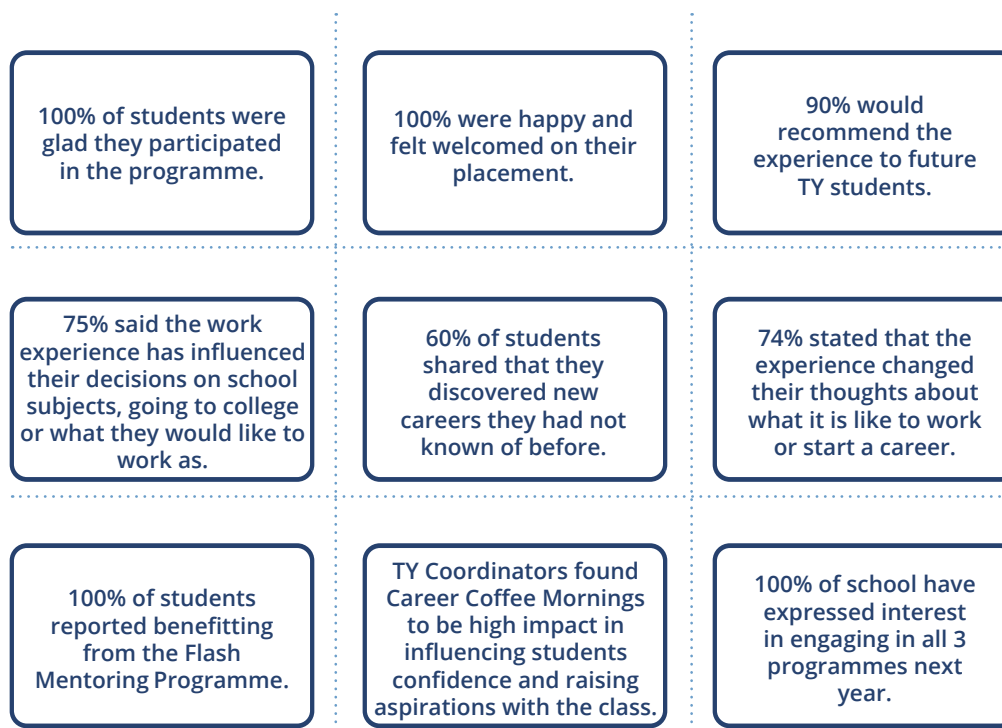
Career Coffee Mornings 2023-2024

The Career Coffee Mornings Initiative provide students with the chance to visit corporate organisations. The format allows students to hear new perspectives, engage with different staff members and learn about their different roles.

As part of the programme, participating organisations provide the students with

- » A tour of their office space;
- » A short day in the life of 2-3 different employees in the office;
- » At least one workshop (introduction to coding, presentation skills, cv& interviews skills etc);
- » Q & A session;
- » Breakfast for the students.

Impact of the participation in the Work Experience Placement Programme

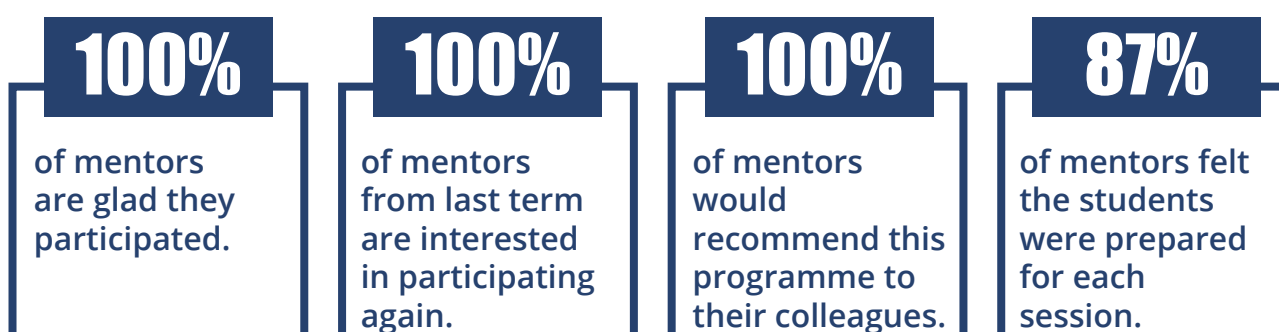


Flash Mentoring

In 2023, students from Mount Carmel, Larkin Community College, St Joseph's Fairview and Marino College all participated in a 4 - 6 week Flash Mentoring Programme. Participating in the programme, 120 Transition Year students across the four schools had the opportunity to speak with different mentors across a range of different organisations. A total of 25 Flash Mentoring events took place between January - May 2023 during which students engaged with a professional on a one-to-one basis.

During the sessions mentors were encouraged to share their career journey and experience with students. The positive engagement between the students and mentors saw several of the mentors going above and beyond by volunteering for more sessions and offering their emails and further assistance to both the students and the schools.

We are delighted that 40 new volunteers have indicated an interest in participating as mentors for the new school year from organisations including the Land Development Agency, Kennedy Wilson, Pinterest and Bord Bia.





Teacher comments

“

Our students really enjoyed the workshop and the feedback from both students and teachers was really positive. The students came to me to tell me how good it was which I think is really telling instead of me asking them! The two teachers who were supporting were so complimentary of the day especially of the content, the organisation, the structure and how you engaged with the students and created a sense of enthusiasm amongst them.

St Joseph's TY Coordinator

”

“

The in-person workshops and visits to companies are so valuable. Chatting with/ interviewing people who may have similar backgrounds to the lads here, seeing that they are not 'other' and being able to see their future selves working in these companies does a lot to break down barriers.

Larkin Community College TY Co-ordinator

”

“

Great to see students reach for the stars - never put limits on what you can achieve. Well done to all the students who have the courage to ask questions that nobody else dared

Policing Authority

”

“

They are an articulate, positive, focused, engaging & interesting group. I love talking to them and learning about their school life and what they want to do later in life.

Talbot Group

”

Mentor comments

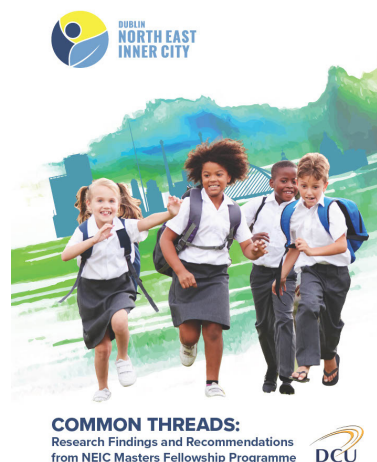
PTECH Progression

The first cohort of P-TECH students entered 6th year in September 2023 and work is underway to develop an education progression option for these students upon graduation. Supported by the NEIC Initiative, D/FHERIS and D/E are working with representatives from CDETB, NCI, QQI, NEIC, PTECH Industry Partners and Schools Programme Manager to develop and deliver a stepped pathway for students to gain a Level 8 Digital and Business Skills degree with exit awards available for those who do not pursue the full four years. Ongoing engagement with industry partners will ensure that graduate skills and employer needs are aligned. This is a vital next step to build on the success of the PTECH project in the NEIC.

Common Threads Research Findings and Recommendations from NEIC Masters Fellowship Programme

The North East Inner City Initiative welcomed the opportunity to work with the primary schools in the area and with DCU in support of the innovative NEIC Masters Fellowship Programme.

The bespoke Masters in Education (Special Option Poverty and Social Inclusion in Education) was created to develop teachers' understanding of educational disadvantage, to the benefit of their students, and to support staff retention in the area. Earlier this year, we published 'Common Threads' outlining the recommendations from this research. The Booklet can be found on the NEIC website at www.neic.ie/publications and is a valuable resource to input into the future work of the NEIC Initiative.



Childcare CPD Bursary

In 2023, the NEIC continued its funding for a Childcare CPD Bursary to support existing childcare workers in community childcare projects located in the NEIC, who have minimum level 6 qualifications to progress to level 7 (Higher Diploma) or level 8 (Honours Degree) in Early Childhood Education. During the 2022/2023 academic year the funds provided by the NEIC enabled 8 Childcare workers in Community Childcare Projects continue their studies.

Adult and Community Education Provision Strategy

In November 2022, an Adult and Community Education Provision Strategy, funded by the NEIC Initiative and the City of Dublin Education and Training Board, was published. Work continues to implement the strategy in the NEIC including developing a brochure of education providers in NEIC, and collaboration on new voter education and active citizenship programme for adult learners via the SOLAS ALL Collaboration Fund. The Strategy can be found on the NEIC website at www.neic.ie/publications.

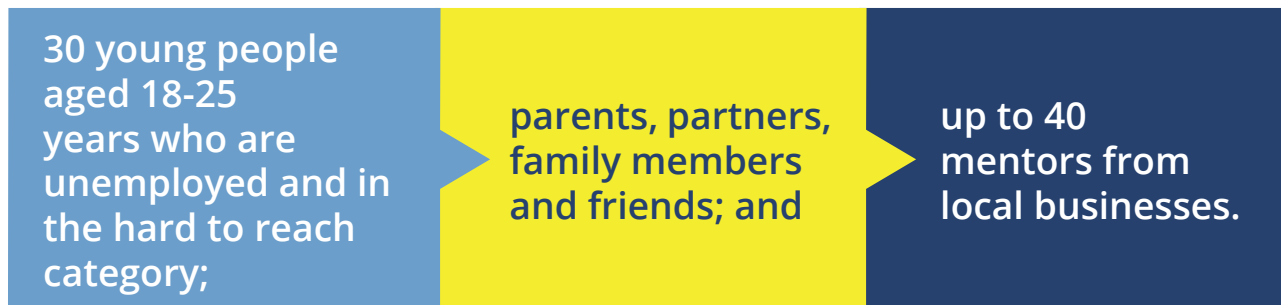
Developing a Strategy for Adult and Community Education Provision in North East Inner City Dublin



Career LEAP

Career LEAP, now in its sixth year, is designed to support young people who face additional and significant barriers to entering the workforce. To date, 177 young people in the North East Inner City have successfully completed the programme of which 85% are in full time employment or full time education.

The NEIC Initiative supported the initiative again in 2023 with the aim of reaching



Social Enterprise Fund

The Social Enterprise Fund, funded by the NEIC Initiative, continued to support 55 posts to enhance local services in the area of childcare, youth projects, eldercare, arts and the environment. The Programme Implementation Board is working to put the funding of these posts on a sustainable footing and work on this will continue over the coming year.



Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) for 0-5 year olds

Research and science points to the need to intervene at the earliest possible period in a child's development in order to have the best outcomes in terms of wellbeing, behaviour, emotional and physical self-regulation; all aspects of communication including language, motor, cognitive academic learning, social skills/friendships, self-esteem and mental health.

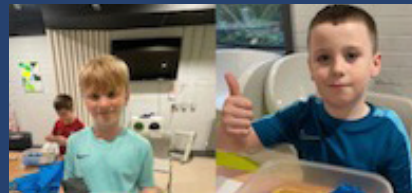
Building on the success of the MDT which operates in the ten local primary schools, the NEIC Initiative provided funding earlier this year to develop an MDT model of social and health service provision for children and their parents, from pregnancy to age 5. The MDT will collaborate with existing service providers in the area and provide support that is not available elsewhere within the community.

This new team will result in a seamless service for all children from the antenatal period to 12 years, in the NEIC with a focus on prevention and early intervention. Parents/carers and Early Years providers will receive support by way of trainings, coaching and advice, increasing their capacity to support the children in their care.

Afterschool Services

In 2023, the NEIC Initiative continued to provide funding to Ballybough Afterschool Service and to Belvedere Youth Club (BYC) to ensure that children 7-9 years of age had a safe and fun space to go to after school.

Additional funding was provided to BYC to enable them to expand their services and facilitate over 200 children in afterschool activities.



Funding was also provided to St. Vincent's Infants Boys School to assist with set-up costs to enable them to engage a childcare provider to establish a new afterschool service based in the school. This service will provide for children during both afterschool hours and school holidays.

NEIC Parenting Programme

Imelda O'Keefe, the NEIC Parenting Coordinator can be contacted at Imelda.okeefe@ncirl.ie or by phone at 086 4666456

The NEIC Parenting Coordinator works to support parents and coordinate services for parents in the North East Inner City. Imelda does this across four key areas.

Increasing Awareness: Developing an NEIC Programmes & Supports calendar, and promoting these programmes and supports directly to parents, as well as through NEIC networks and the NEIC website.

Improving Access: Linking parents with services who provide supports and deliver programmes, and acting as a central link for services and schools looking for information on available supports for parents.

Inclusive: Developing an NEIC Parent Forum which provides a space for parents to discuss their experiences, and ensuring service delivery is welcoming, relevant and accessible to all parents across all age groups.

Needs Led and Evidence Informed: Working together with other services to identify gaps in service provision, develop new responses and the delivering programmes such as Triple P – Positive Parenting Programme.



Throughout 2022/23, Imelda undertook an extensive body of work to build on this engagement.

33

NEIC parenting courses were held with 192 parents in attendance.

172

parents were referred to a service, course or to other support services.

72

parents engaged across 24 tabletop discussions

3

meetings took place for the Parenting Forum

68

professionals from 62 organisations were engaged in the Parent Strategy Meetings to explore how can we use existing resources effectively to support parents.

A website page and calendar were also developed to promote programmes and support services for parents in the NEIC. This can be accessed through the Parenting Coordinator Section of the NEIC website.

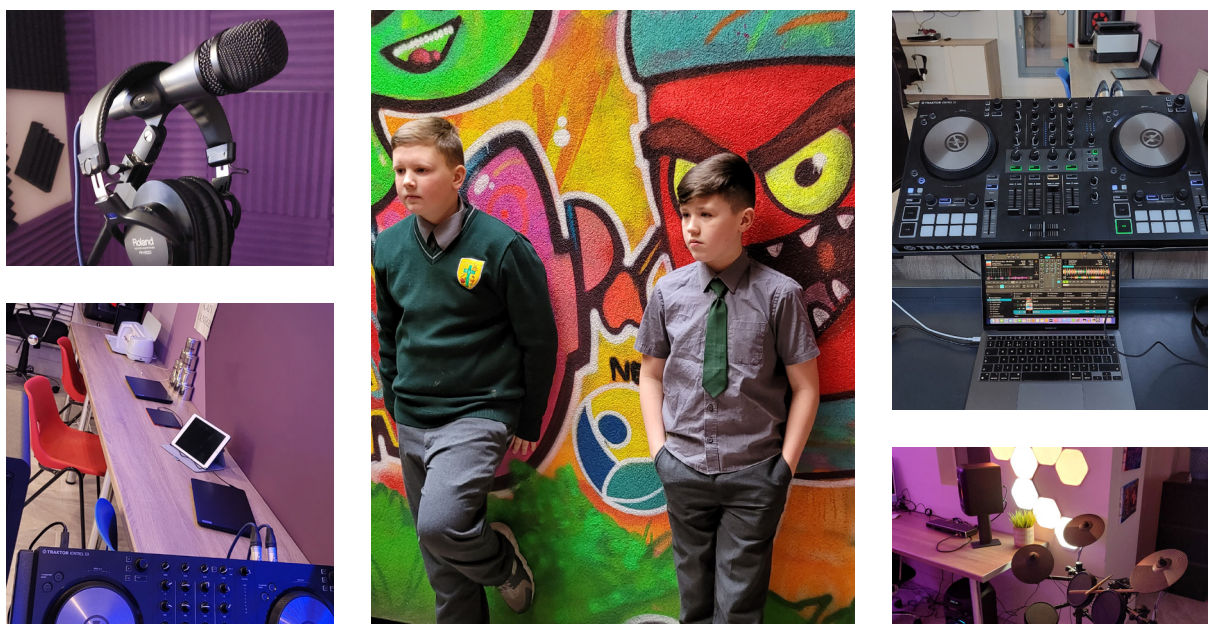
Inter-Cultural Lullaby Programme

An Inter-Cultural Lullaby Programme ran in Hill Street Family Resource Centre from November 2022 to January 2023 as a pilot programme. Eighteen families with children aged between 0-2½ years old were enrolled in programme. The programme supported a diverse and multicultural environment with Brazilian, Chinese, Irish, Italian, Polish, Mexican, Japanese, Turkish and Algerian families all being represented.



HAY Youth Diversion Project

The HAY Youth Diversion Project launched their Technology Hub and their Youth Space in February of this year. The Technology Hub features state-of-the-art equipment including photography, 3D printing, music technology, video making, coding, electronics, and animation.



Restorative Practice

The NEIC Initiative has funded Restorative Practice as part of its work to create a brighter future for everyone living in the area. Having the skills to build positive relationships, have restorative conversations and manage conflict is important for everyone, so the North East Inner City can be a safe, welcoming and happy place for its very diverse population.



In 2022/23, 210 professionals, educators and other stakeholders attended Restorative Practices training, workshops and events both online and in-person.

A further 144 young people (aged 9-20 years) participated in restorative-focused activities facilitated in-person, through primary and secondary schools, youth services, corporate organisations and National College of Ireland.



Throughout 2023, the Early Learning Initiative in NCI worked with local stakeholders to develop a dedicated Restorative Practice Strategy to establish Ireland's first restorative community in the NEIC. The NEIC Restorative Practice Strategy 2024-27 which aims to sustain progress to date and embed restorative practices within organisations, homes, and communities across the NEIC is due to be launched in December 2023.

The NEIC Initiative is working to develop services that are evidence-based and sustainable in the long-term. The involvement of people with lived experience is a core principle of the initiatives being supported. The following initiatives were progressed in 2023.



Citizens Assembly on Drug Use

In October, Jim Gavin, Independent Chair of the NEIC Programme Implementation Board, gave a presentation to the Citizens' Assembly on Drug Use, during which he highlighted the impact of drugs in the North East Inner City and the health-led approach being supported by the NEIC Initiative.

The presentation gave an insight into the work and services being carried out in the area to meet the health and social needs of people who use drugs, including the Inclusion Health Hub, case management for people with high drug dependency, an Employment Access Programme for people in recovery, and an assertive on-street outreach to vulnerable groups.

Establishing a Recovery Community in the NEIC

Funded by the NEIC Initiative, in June 2023 a conference & action planning event was held in association with Trinity College Dublin to explore the establishment of a recovery community in the NEIC. This event, brought together over 40 participants, including international experts, individuals who use drugs, those in recovery, service providers, policymakers and other key stakeholders.

The day focused on exploring what does and doesn't work, the current research, and what changes the community would like to see in addiction recovery services. The report produced from the event represents the collective wisdom of the North Inner City community, and their voices will continue to shape the future of addiction recovery services in the region.



Access to community-based services for refugees & migrants

Funding was provided by the NEIC Initiative for a grant scheme to support community-based groups to meet the needs, and to improve access to their services for refugees and migrants. Following a funding call in April, once-off funding was provided to eleven community-based services.

It is hoped to establish a greater take-up of services by refugees and migrants, alongside the development of a culturally appropriate service provision. These supports will enhance the integration of refugees and migrants within the community and potentially identify unmet needs to create greater awareness for service providers and policy makers.

Older People Who Use Drugs

The NEIC Initiative is working on developing a scoping exercise, including peer-led focus groups, to determine the needs of older people who use drugs. Older people with drug problems are defined as people aged 40 or over. By the age of 40, these people have had a long history of drug use which has had significant impact on their general health and well-being. A large proportion also experience mental health and social problems such as isolation, loneliness, homelessness, ageism, and stigma. Very often they live alone or in unstable accommodation and have little or no family support.

Healthy Communities Project

The Healthy Communities Project continues to be implemented in the NEIC by the Dublin City Community Co-op. The project aims to tackle health inequalities in the NEIC by building the capacity of the community to address health issues affecting them. It runs several community health programmes throughout the year, which continue to garner participation and positive feedback within the community.



Healthcare Navigation Service

Clare Healy, the Care Navigator can be contacted at clare.healy@aldp.ie or by phone at 086 – 1282956.

The transition from prison to the community is a period of high risk for offenders as they can experience discrimination and stigma and struggle to engage with community health services. The Healthcare Navigation Service was established to provide support and guidance before and after release from prison, in all aspects of health and social care.

The NEIC Initiative has provided funding to extend the Service for a second year. Strong links and relationships with other services have been established over the last 12 months and the service is starting to be recognised as an asset to the community and people it serves. In June, the service received a very positive visit from the new Director General of the Irish Prison Service. The value of the service to individuals upon release from prison was strongly recognised and assured support.

Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV) is a whole community issue and requires a whole community approach to respond to it. Funding approved by the NEIC Initiative has enabled a project lead to be engaged to drive the community response to Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the NEIC.

Melissa Agnew, recently appointed to the position, will be based in SONAS in the North Inner City. Melissa will assess community needs and readiness to respond to DSGBV in the NEIC and ensure that services are connected and accessible to those requiring them. She will also work with the national HSE DSGBV health co-ordinator to implement and report on progress on the relevant actions under the national strategy, thus linking up the local and national dimensions.

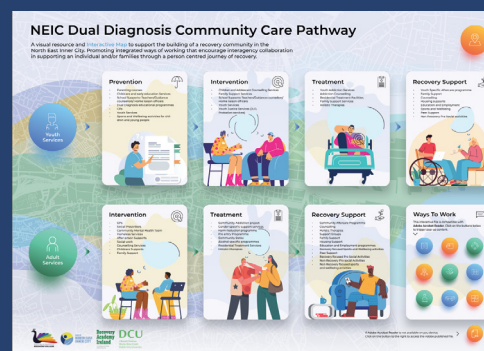


Dual Diagnosis - Community Capacity Building Project

Triona Byrne, the Community Development Worker, can be contacted at triona.byrne@dcu.ie.

The Community Capacity Building Project is working to enhance services and strengthen collaboration for Dual Diagnosis (mental health and substance use issues) in the North East Inner City. Under the project, progress has been made across the several areas including open community dialogue forums, a community engagement session to co-create an integrated community care pathway, trauma informed community workshops, dual diagnosis enhancement skills workshops, the formation of an integrated pathway tool, and the development of an interactive map of services. The Interactive Map can be accessed on the NEIC website at www.neic.ie/dual-diagnosis.

A Report assessing the impact of the NEIC Dual Diagnosis Community Capacity Building Project has recently been published and can be accessed on the NEIC website at www.neic.ie/publications.



Substance Abuse Service Specific to Youth (SASSY)

SASSY is a HSE community service which provides support to young people under 18 years of age, residing in Dublin north city and county for whom drug use or alcohol use is having a significant negative impact on their daily lives.

Funding was provided in Budget 2024 to establish SASSY as a hub for an adolescent dual diagnosis programme. This new service will be of great benefit for the north inner city and wider north city and county.

Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement (DRIVE)

DRIVE is a national interagency response to drug-related intimidation and associated violence. Through funding from the NEIC Initiative, a DRIVE Lead (Jack Sheeran) has been recruited for the North Inner City and will be hosted by the Local Community Safety Partnership. The NEIC DRIVE project will be connected with the national structure and will be supported by the national coordinator to ensure sharing of learning and adherence to the model.

In 2023, the NEIC Community Arts Programme worked with a broad range of stakeholders across many different age ranges and contexts. The programme brokered relationships and achieved its primary aim of demonstrating to many strands of the community, the benefits that long term meaningful arts participation can bring to partakers.

In advance of the development of an NEIC Strategic Plan for 2024 – 2027, the NEIC Community Arts Programme has this year consolidated the work that it delivered in 2022.



Working with Local Community Housing

The St. Mary's Mansions Summer Programme 'Magic in the Mansions' took place in July and August of this year. The Artists created a mystery for participating local children by calling to their doors each week and playing with the children on their doorstep. As members of the Creature Features Detective Agency, they invited the children to help them solve the mystery of the strange creatures that had been spotted around the Mary's Mansions.

Each week, as the children designed and developed their creatures, their stories grew and soon we had fifteen very strange mysteries to solve created by twenty-five very clever storytellers aged between four and twelve.



In Autumn 2023, the Community Arts Programme is working with Focus Ireland to deliver a second Community Arts Programme to residents in direct provision accommodation.

Continued Professional Development (CPD)

As a pillar of its work, the NEIC Community Arts Programme supports workers in the NEIC to deliver meaningful arts programmes to children and young people. All artists engaged by the programme are highly experienced and committed in supporting the professional development of both teachers and workers. CPD sessions in 2023 took place with Holy Child Pre-School Rutland Street, Scoil Chaoimhín, Hill Street Family Resource Centre, Ozanam House, St. Louises Pre-School, ASEP.

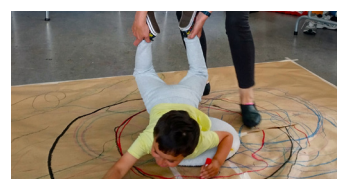


Early Years

Visual Arts Residency

Feedback to the NEIC pilot Early Years Arts Programme in 2022, resulted in developing an opportunity for one pre-school in the NEIC to participate in a 12 Month Visual Arts residency that would be supported by the Hugh Lane Gallery and would provide opportunities for ECEs to learn from a highly specialised artist, in addition to experiencing and accessing a local Cultural Institution.

Following an application process, Ozanam House was selected as the setting that would participate in the residency. Over the 12 months, the residency outcomes are being tracked by an Early Years Specialist. To learn more and see the children in action, check out our video on www.neic.ie/videos.



Early Years Cultural Partnerships

- » A three-month Early Years Music Residency with St. Louise's pre-school in partnership with the National Concert Hall.
- » A storytelling programme of work with St. Brigid's pre-school in partnership with Fighting Words.
- » First steps - A storytelling programme delivered to two local pre-schools in partnership with The Gate Theatre.
- » Seasons and Stories a drama and storytelling programme exploring the seasons and focusing on the 9 developmental schema. This will be delivered to two settings.
- » The Lullaby Project – An Intercultural music and storytelling programme for parents and toddlers with Hill Street FRC.

NEIC Pilot Arts Residencies

For Arts engagement to make a difference it needs to be meaningful, consistent, and long term. This is why our Community Arts Programme is developing its long-term Residency Programme in partnership with local groups and artists. Below is the list of our 2023 residencies:

- » Continuation of a visual residency with the same boys from Laurence O'Toole's CBS, now in 5th class.
- » Continuation of a weekly residency with boys in the ASD classes of Laurence O'Toole's CBS.
- » A three-month residency with Scoil Chaoimhín.
- » The continuation of an Early Years Music Programme in Holy Child Rutland St.

Creativity with Older People

In the Spring of 2023, a programme delivered for older people in Ozanam House culminated in a performance on the 19th of June. The group are continuing to work together and will be presenting a performance this December.

Our pilot Visual Arts Programme for older women in Ballybough began in February, working with twenty-two women to explore their creativity via the medium of clay. The group facilitator explained "the ladies in our group had a great time. They loved the pottery and turned out many beautiful items."

Try It Out Programme

The Try It Out Programme is a short-term programme for clubs and schools and was delivered throughout April, May, and June 2023. Groups were offered the opportunity to participate in a range of creative programmes with the NEIC Community Arts Programme, the Hugh Lane Gallery and the Gate Theatre. Thirty different community and school groups have availed of the programme this year exploring Music, Performance, Drama and Storytelling and the Visual Arts.



Culture and Events

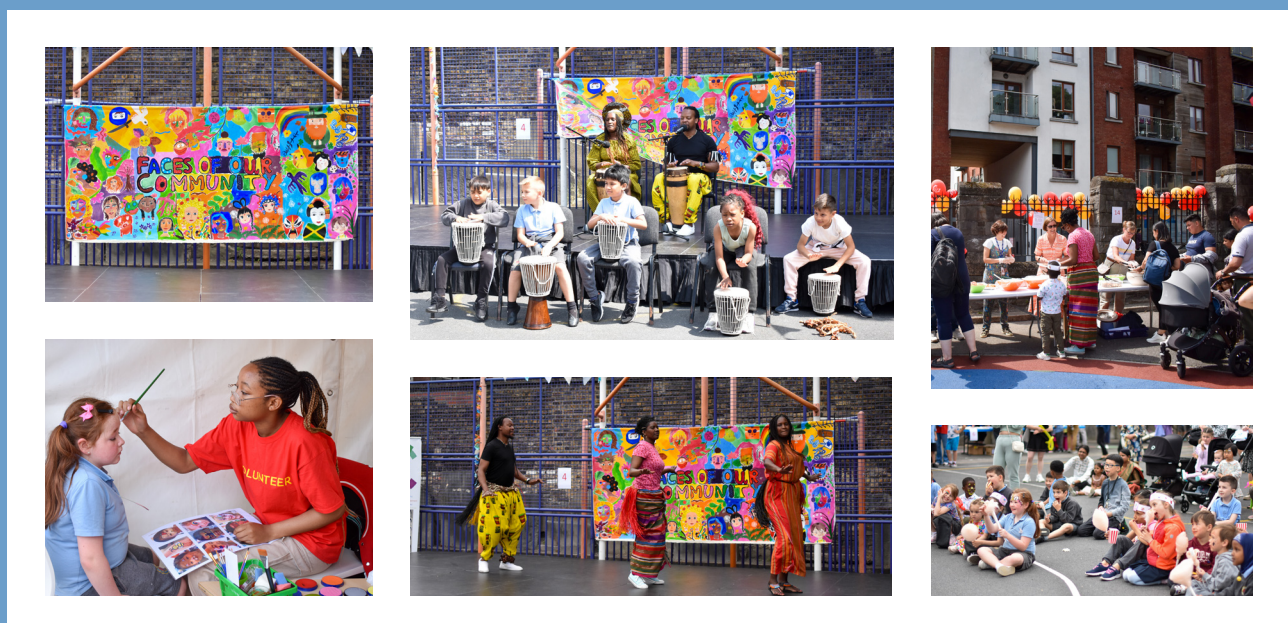
Lunar New Year

The annual Lunar New Year celebration, supported by the NEIC initiative, was held in January in the Hill Street Family Resource Centre. This is an important celebration of the rich diversity of people who reside in the North East Inner City.



Hill Street FRC Intercultural Family Fun Day

On the 29th of June, Hill Street Family Resource Centre celebrated its annual Intercultural Family Fun Day. The day was packed full of fun with games, a magician, performances, music, a puppet show and face painting. This annual event focuses on honouring the culturally diverse and supportive community within the NEIC.



Culture Night

The North East Inner City had plenty to offer for Culture Night on the 25th of September.



The Big Scream Festival

The NEIC Initiative was delighted to support the Halloween Big Scream Festival for 2023, delivering tricks (and plenty of treats!) to all in the NEIC. There was lots to keep all little monsters entertained including scary ghost walks, spooky cinema, a haunted hall of mirrors, and a Halloween carnival.





Peter O'Donnell, Senior Sports Coordinator can be contacted at peter.odonnell@dublincity.ie or by phone at 087 0654031.



Michael Darragh McAuley, Community Sports and Wellbeing Coordinator can be contacted at md.macauley@dublincity.ie or by phone 087 182 2010.

SwellFest

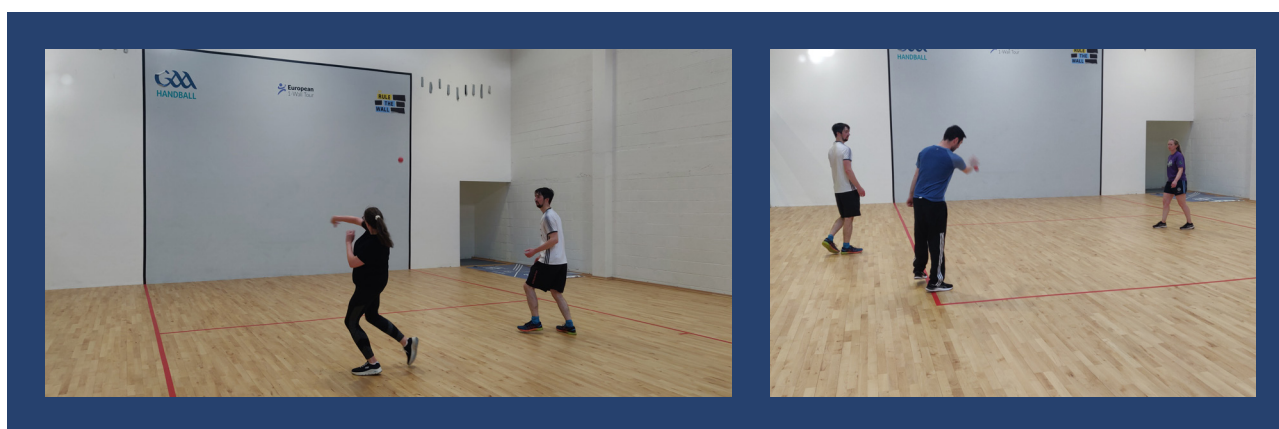
The NEIC Initiative were delighted to support SwellFest, the free sports and wellness festival which took place in Mountjoy Square on the 9th of September. This day-long event was all about celebrating sports and wellness in our community and visitors had the opportunity to enjoy a variety of activities, such as football, rugby, gymnastics, yoga.



Handball

Handball was a focal point within the NEIC throughout 2023. In close collaboration with Dublin GAA Handball and the National Handball Centre, the NEIC Sports and Wellbeing team have worked to introduce handball to schools and outreach resource centres in the area. A summer programme held in Ozanam House for children aged between 7-12 was enjoyed by all and later developments saw the construction of a new handball wall in the community resource centre.

A social handball programme for beginners commenced in June, providing participants with the opportunity to engage with Dublin GAA Handball coaches and to further develop their skills and techniques in the game. The success of handball in the NEIC culminated in International Handball Champion Eoin Kennedy's attendance at SwellFest.



Basketball

2023 was a hugely successful first year for basketball club the NEIC Trojans. The Trojans have become an immense source of pride for the children on the teams, and due to increased popularity and demand, the club has expanded to two boys and two girls teams in the most recent season. In addition to the academy that boasts over 100 participants in regular attendance, the NEIC Trojans also hosted two hugely successful summer camps in 2023.

Running

The NEIC has seen a considerable increase in the popularity of running and we were delighted to offer programmes throughout 2023 to support this heightened interest. The NEIC supported H.O.P.E. (Hands On Peer Education) Recovery Runners who regularly held running groups throughout the year. The success of these running groups was encapsulated by over one hundred community members, as well as many members of An Garda Síochána, who were in attendance for the H.O.P.E. Recovery Run held in September.

Additionally, weekly running sessions by local athlete Ruth Barry have been a great success during the year. Join the lunchtime 'Run with Ruth' sessions which take place every Wednesday from Seán McDermott Street.



Cycling

The NEIC Sports and Wellbeing team have been working to develop a cycling club for the community and worked closely with the Department of Transport and Road Safety Authority in order to facilitate the implementation of the Cycle Right programme in schools within the area.

The NEIC Initiative also partnered with Ballybough Youth Services to encourage young men to partake in a charity cycle to raise funds for mental health. This cycle was a great success and raised funds for a deeply important cause. The newly formed Inner City Cycling club has progressed to setting up their very own cycling route and has taken ownership of their weekly cycles.

Boxing

Boxing in the NEIC was as popular as ever in 2023, with local heroes such as Emmet Brennan and Kellie Harrington inspiring the community. The NEIC Initiative was able to offer support to the Box Cup held in St Laurence O'Toole centre in April. Over 170 fighters were in attendance, with some travelling long distances to partake, and the NEIC was well represented on the day by Saint Saviours, Corinthians, Smithfield and Docklands. The NEIC also offered their support to local boxing legend Emmet Brennan for his new boxing adventure FightR Gym.



Kellie Harrington Fun Day

The NEIC Initiative supported the Kellie Harrington Fun Day held on the 29th of July in Aldborough Place. This event gave community members the opportunity to meet and train with the Olympic Champion and local hero. Kellie's unwavering commitment to her local community was clearly illustrated by the great success of the day. The event was well attended with over 500 people present to enjoy boxing lessons, clowns, balloon makers, and the glorious sunshine.





Comunidade Programme

The Comunidade Programme was launched in partnership with Five Lamps Arts Festival in October 2023. Comunidade (meaning Community in Portuguese) enables children from the NEIC to engage with new cultures and highlights the vital role that intercultural activities and sport play in shaping the minds of young children in primary schools. These initiatives offer numerous benefits that extend far beyond the classroom by celebrating diversity and encouraging physical activity. Throughout this programme students will be offered the opportunity to participate in gymnastics, capoeira, dancing and jiu jitsu.

Little Fitness

The Little Fitness programme is a social enterprise available for children and families living in emergency accommodation, family hubs, or in places where the possibility of facing barriers within the community may be more prevalent. 60 children were engaged from one Emergency Accommodation venue over 6 weeks, as well as 20 children from multiple emergency accommodations for a summer camp. This programme promotes fitness in children through the use of various themes, skills, and games each week. Children are encouraged to forge confidence through peer interactions as well as garnering health benefits through exercise.

SARI Football for Unity Festival

The third annual Football for Unity festival hosted by Sports Against Racism Ireland (SARI) was held in the NEIC in June. The purpose of this festival is to showcase the potential to utilise football as an educational tool which can bring communities together and promote social inclusion. The matches took place across a number of NEIC venues and was rounded off by the finals held in the St Laurence O'Toole Centre. It was uplifting to see the community come together through this year's festival and a true testament to the diversity of cultures that the NEIC represents.





Walking Football

Walking Football has made a sizeable impact on the community throughout 2023, with some participants aged in their 70s. This addition to the lineup of NEIC activities has enjoyed great success and wholly encompasses the idea that sport can be gratifying no matter your experience, age, or gender.

FAI (Football Association Ireland)

The D1 Football Academy is a collaboration with the NEIC, FAI, and DCC to provide a fun alternative to team-based football. The Academy, which takes place in O'Connell's school on Saturday mornings, aims to support the child's development and build their confidence in playing sport, making friends and learning new skills.

In May, the Docklands Business Network and the FAI held the second Dockland 5-a side Football Tournament. This tournament enhances community relations by facilitating the participation of local businesses and community groups in a fun day of football.

Sheriff Youth Club partnered with the FAI to re-establish the Late Night Leagues in September and to help at-risk youths through the reinforcement of divergent behaviour.

GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association)

In 2023, the NEIC worked closely with Scoil Uí Chonaill and the GAA to ensure that every young person was afforded the chance to try Gaelic football, hurling, camogie, and women's football. The NEIC School Blitz was held again this year, and hundreds of pupils from schools in the area competed on the Scoil Uí Chonaill GAA club grounds. The NEIC Scoil Uí Chonaill Nursery also continued in 2023, with children from the age of 3 obtaining the opportunity to play Gaelic Football and hurling for the first time.



Change for Life Programme

The Change for Life Summer Programme promoted fitness and wellbeing amongst adults through the organisation of 20 different activities, including boxing, yoga, walking football, aikido, weightlifting, and HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training) classes. There was significant participation throughout the community, with 220 unique participants engaging with the 20 classes offered over the course of 8 weeks. All classes held across the NEIC were available at a subsidised cost or completely free.

Sail Training

The fourth NEIC Sail Training Project took place over the summer with twenty-six members of the NEIC community taking part in two week-long voyages where they had the opportunity to become part of the working crew of a tall ship. An award ceremony was held in St Agatha's Hall on the 14th of August where participants were presented with Sail Training Ireland certificates in front of their friends and family.



ExWell Medical

ExWell Medical has continued to be a great asset to the local community throughout 2023. ExWell classes are targeted at those living with long-term or chronic illness and aims to assist in their rehabilitation through medically supervised exercise. 115 people attended classes throughout the year and ExWell hope to continue working with local doctors and primary health care centres to identify members of the community who may benefit from the classes.





NEIC Yoga Programme

The NEIC Yoga Teacher Training Programme, now in its second year, saw 20 new fully certified yoga teachers from the local area. Course participants set out on an 11-month journey, working to develop their knowledge of yoga and hone their skills. This course has garnered huge interest both in a community and national capacity and was featured in RTÉ's Nationwide on the 9th of October.

Yoga has become increasingly popular within the NEIC - with schools, club, and residents all reaping the physical and mental benefits. Additionally, Chair Yoga was offered to residents in the NEIC from March. Throughout 2023, numerous classes were held in various school and community groups as well as in Sheriff Street, Ballybough and Sean McDermott Street.

The NEIC Greening Strategy, adopted in 2018, has been changing the visual landscape of the North East Inner City. Areas that were once covered with concrete are now full of trees and buzzing with wildlife among the flowers.

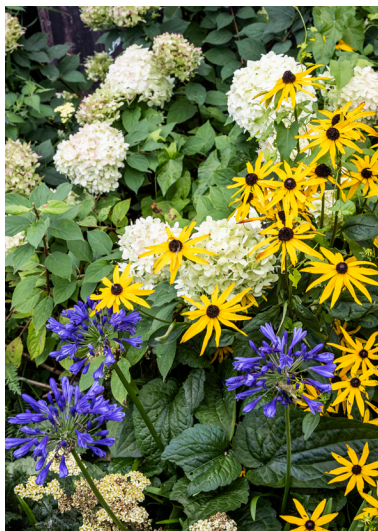
Along with the redevelopment of both Diamond Park and James Joyce Park as outlined in the Capital Investment section of this Report, below you will find some of the other projects progress in 2023 to continue this investment in the community.

Royal Canal Greenway

Tree planting on the Royal Canal Greenway is ongoing as part of the overall Greening Strategy, using a mixture of native and non-native trees.



Sean McDermott Street





Street Tree Greening

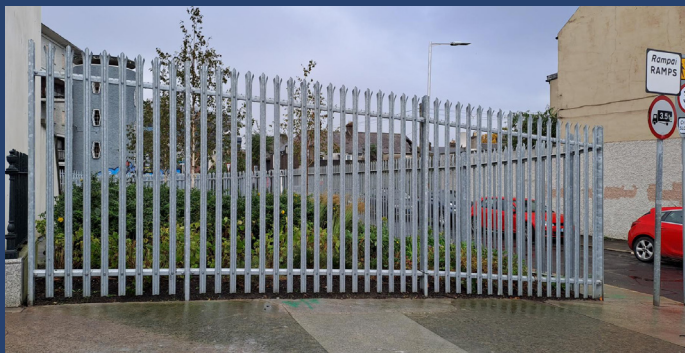
During 2022, the public and public representatives highlighted a series of streets that were void of any greening infrastructure - Emmet Street, Belvedere Avenue and Portland Square, Portland Street North, Russell Street, Summer Street. Throughout 2023, works were undertaken to assess the possibility of greening works on these streets and conceptual drawings prepared. Following a public consultation process these designs were finalised and made available through November for further public consideration.

Subject to approval from all stakeholders, works are envisioned to begin in 2024.

Community Project (Ballybough Pride of Place)

A meeting was held with the representatives of the Ballybough Pride of Place community group, to review the current area and possible greening interventions. A series of projects were highlighted that include the following:

- » Replacing fencing around the Sackville Place Biodiversity Garden with a more transparent ornamental railing
- » The installation of trees along Summer Street.
- » The removal of railings along the front of the boxing club
- » The depaving of a large footpath and the installation of green infrastructure.
- » The adopt a Tree Programme





Green walls

As well as improving the visual character of an area, Green walls provide numerous environmental services such as improving air quality and environmental health for the local community, while also absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. Large walls in a busy city environment amplify noise - green walls can help mitigate this noise as the plants absorb, diffract, and reflect noise, improving the acoustics in their area. Continuing from the successful green wall installation on Seville Place and on St. Joseph's Terrace, two more Green Walls were installed this year Common Street and Liberty Park.

Royal Canal Linear Park – Fitness Trail

A tender process is underway for the construction of a fitness trail along the banks of the new Royal Canal Linear Park, North Dock. The works will involve the removal of paved areas adjacent to the Royal Canal Greenway and the supply, installation & testing of proposed pieces of equipment, including the installation of safety surfacing.

Liberty Park Calisthenics

The Liberty Park calisthenics and accessibility improvement works is seeking to install a multifunctional callisthenics unit including associated site works in Liberty Park. The works involve the altering of an existing boundary wall and railing with the installation of a pedestrian gate, the extension of the footpath network and the supply and installation of a callisthenics unit.

Five-year review

The NEIC Greening Strategy has been in operation now for approximately 5 years. As a milestone year it was a good opportunity to review all projects completed to date and ensure all are performing to the highest level. Following the inspection and assessment it was decided that remedial works were required in a number of areas due to anti-social behaviour and environmental conditions.

Community Grants

The annual NEIC Community Grants Scheme continues to support residents, voluntary groups and clubs whose services benefit the residents and communities of the North East Inner City. The 2023 Scheme was launched in May with the theme of physical realm/environment/streetscape improvements. Congratulations to all of the successful applicants - a complete list of the grants awarded can be found on page 57.



Community clean-ups

We would like to acknowledge all the local communities and residents who volunteer their time and energy to keep their neighbourhoods looking their best.



Responsible Dog Ownership Campaign

A pilot campaign for Responsible Dog Ownership was launched in April with the goal of addressing the issues presented by dog fouling in the area. Cleaning up after your pet means cleaner, safer streets for everyone. The campaign by Dublin City Council saw the installation of 50 new bag dispensers installed around the NEIC as well as a doggy toilet in situ on Sean McDermott Street.



DCC and Green Ribbon

Dublin City Council's Waste Management Team and the Green Ribbon crew have been busy on the ground throughout the year cleaning up our streets.



Since 2016, the Government has provided over €45.7 million in funding to ensure that the North East Inner City Programme Implementation Board have the necessary resources to fulfil the actions in the Mulvey Report and the Strategic Action Plan 2019 – 2023.

The following summary table sets out the sources and amounts of funding which have been provided by the Government for the NEIC initiative from 2016-2023.

Further detail on projects allocated funding in 2023 and Community Grants approved is provided in the Appendices towards the end of this Report.

For 2023, the Government committed €7.5 million in funding to the initiative under the Vote of the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Funding Source Summary

2023	Department of Rural and Community Development	€6,151,112.37
	Department of Rural and Community Development (Social Employment Fund)	€1,348,887.63
2022	Department of Rural and Community Development	€6,264,000.00
	Department of Rural and Community Development (Social Employment Fund)	€1,236,000.00
2021	Department of Rural and Community Development	€5,500,000.00
	Department of Rural and Community Development (Social Employment Fund)	€1,000,000.00
2020	Department of Rural and Community Development	€5,500,000.00
	Department of Rural and Community Development (Social Employment Fund)	€1,000,000.00
2019	Department of Rural and Community Development	€5,500,000.00
	Department of Rural and Community Development (Social Employment Fund)	€1,000,000.00
2018	Department of Rural and Community Development	€2,500,000.00
	Department of Rural and Community Development (Social Employment Fund)	€1,000,000.00
	Department of Justice and Equality	€146,810.00
2017	Department of Rural and Community Development	€2,500,000.00
	Department of Transport Tourism & Sport (Dormant Accounts Fund)	€100,000.00
2016	Department of Transport Tourism & Sport (Dormant Accounts Fund)	€1,040,000.00
	Department of Housing, Planning Community, & Local Government	€3,655,000.00
	Department of Children and Youth Affairs	€165,000.00
	Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs & Dublin City Council	€55,000.00
	Department of Health (Drug specific projects)	€100,000.00
OVERALL TOTAL:		€45,761,810.00

In 2016, Kieran Mulvey was appointed by Government to capture the challenges facing the communities of the North East Inner City and to recommended specific measures which would support the long-term economic and social regeneration of the area.

The Mulvey Report, published in February 2017, presented a clear vision for the NEIC's future, and outlined the drivers for change. It provided a set of recommendations to address the social and economic challenges in the area and led to the establishment of the NEIC Programme Implementation Board to drive the implementation of these recommendations.

In 2019, the NEIC Programme Implementation Board developed a three-year Strategic Plan 2020 – 2022 giving a more structured approach to the programme of work. Due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Strategic plan was extended to end 2023.

Work has commenced on developing a new strategic plan which will re-focus strategic priorities for the next three years, and build on the ambitions of the Mulvey Report and the Strategic Plan 2020-2023. This involves conducting a strategic review of the NEIC Initiative in order to

- » review progress to date,
- » build on the structures put in place,
- » examine pathways for mainstreaming successful pilot initiatives, and
- » inform future planning to identify and address existing, new, and emerging needs and challenges in the area.

As part of the process, a programme of engagement will be undertaken in the new year to ensure that the residents and the community sector of the North East Inner City are given the opportunity to contribute their views on the key areas that the next Strategic Plan should focus on, from their perspective.



The Programme Office supports the work of the NEIC Programme Implementation Board and is based at 51-53 Seán McDermott Street Lower, D01 HW44.

The work of the Programme Office focuses on funding and administration, events, sports development, environmental improvements and sustainability, community supports, communications and engagement, local employment, evaluation, assisting all subgroups and supporting the Chair of the Programme Implementation Board.

The Programme Office meets every month to discuss issues relating to the work of the Initiative. We work closely with the DCC public domain team and the community development section.



Olivia Brody



Niall Fitzpatrick



Leona Fynes



Tanya Ganly



Sarah Philpott



Dermot McAuley



Audrey McPartlin



Elaine Redmond

Throughout the year, the Programme Office promotes event and projects in the NEIC areas and share updates and videos on its dedicated website: www.neic.ie.

The Programme Office continues to interact with and inform local residents and stakeholders through our social media channels: Facebook (North East Inner City – Dublin), Instagram (@neic_dublin), Twitter (@NEIC_Dublin) and LinkedIn (NEIC Dublin).

At time of going to print, the Programme Office had produced seven videos over 2023. These videos which include the reopening of Diamond Park, the turning-the-sod event at Rutland Street School, the SARI Football Unity Festival, and the Early Years Initiative, can all be found at www.neic.ie/videos.

The Programme Office actively encourages residents and stakeholders to get involved and share your views. You can contact us at any of the profiles listed above, or at neic@dublincity.ie.

S/G	Project	Amount	Organisation
1	Ethnic Policing Forum (Strategic priority 2.2; 2.4; 2.5; 2.6; 2.8)	€7,000.00	Acts of Compassion Ministry
	Dialogue process with young people, youth workers and Gardaí (Strategic priority 2.7)	€24,650.00	Community Action Network
	Law Engagement and Assisted Recovery Programme. (Mulvey Action 1.2)	€225,375.86	HSE
	Garda Youth Awards (Strategic priority 2.7)	€5,565.00	Administered via the NEIC Programme Office
	Bridge Project (Strategic priority 2.5)	€8,975.00	SWAN Youth Service
	Subgroup 1 - Subtotal	€271,565.86	
2	Career LEAP 2023 (Strategic priority 4.3)	€84,576.00a	Trinity College Dublin
	Enrichment and therapeutic opportunities in ASD classes (Strategic priority 3.4)	€18,680.00	O'Connell's Primary School
	TY Work Experience Coordinator (Strategic priority 3.4/Mulvey Action 4.2)	€66,906.00	National College of Ireland
	Translation/Interpretation supports for NEIC schools (Strategic priority 3.2)	€20,000.00	Administered by the NEIC Programme Office
	Workshops, creative writing classes and activities for local schools and groups (Strategic Priority 3.4)	€30,000.00	Fighting Words
	Quality Circle Time (Strategic priority 3.4)	€11,320.45	St. Vincent's G.N.S
	Childcare CPD Bursary fund (Strategic priority 3.2)	€36,280.00	Individual learning institutes / colleges
	P-Tech FET/HE Progression Option Development (Strategic priority 4.1)	€125,000.00	National College of Ireland - €95,000 City of Dublin ETB - €30,000
	Film Club (Strategic priority 3.5)	€11,790.00	Fire Station Artists Studio
	NEIC After-School Study Programme (Strategic priority 3.4)	€125,330.00	Individual schools
	Rutland NS Interactive Whiteboards (Strategic priority 3.4)	€11,998.00	Rutland Street National School
	Transition Year Flash Mentoring programme 2024 (Strategic priority 3.4 / 4.2)	€66,906.00	National College of Ireland
	Doodle Den Afterschool's Literacy Programme (Strategic priority 3.4)	€67,000.00	Early Learning Initiative
	JumpAGrade (Strategic priority 3.4)	€22,800.00	Mount Carmel and St Joseph's.

2	Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship Programme for marginalised youth within NEIC (Strategic priority 4.3/5.1)	€7,000.00	Technical University Dublin
	Educational Guidance for Second Level Schools (Strategic priority 3.4)	€50,000.00	Early Learning Initiative
	English Speaking Sessions for Young EAL Learners (Strategic priority 3.4)	€7,000.00	Early Learning Initiative
	Subgroup 2 - Subtotal	€762,586.45	
3	Afterschool initiative with 7 to 9yr olds	€106,320.00	Belvedere Youth Club
	Decider Skills Programme (Strategic priority 8.1/ 8.2)	€4,500.00	Marino College (CDETb)
	Crosscare Ballybough After School Service (Strategic priority 21.1)	€110,000.00	Tusla
	NEIC Parenting Support Coordinator (Strategic priority 6.1)	€60,000.00	Early Learning Initiative
	Restorative Practice Proposal (Strategic Action 22.2)	€43,000.00	Early Learning Initiative
	We See You – After School Club for children with additional needs (Strategic Action 21.3)	€12,257.40	St. Vincent's Boys' school
	Subgroup 3 - Subtotal	€336,077.40	
4	Greening strategy 2023 (Strategic priority 11.2)	€525,000.00	Dublin City Council
	Community Events 2023 (Strategic priority 14.3)	€445,000.00	Dublin City Council
	Community Arts Projects Consolidation Programme 2023 (Strategic priority 14.5)	€169,500.00	Dublin City Council
	Sports, Recreation & Wellbeing programme 2023 (Strategic priority 14.1 / 14.2)	€317,000.00	Dublin City Council
	Electrical upgrades (Strategic priority 14.3)	€12,000.00	The Wexford Centre Project
	Community Arts and Events Programme 2023 (Strategic priority 14.3)	€21,855.00	D-Light Studio
	Music Library (Strategic Priority 3.4)	€7,627.28	Larkin Community College
	Contribution towards astro pitch replacement (Strategic priority 14.3)	€62,000.00	O'Connell's School
	Replacement of soft tarmac (Strategic Priority 18.3)	€12,880.00	St Laurence O'Toole Boys school
	Rutland St School refurbishment project (Mulvey Action 4.7 / strategic priority 12.1)	€2,000,000.00	Dublin City Council
	Green Ribbon (Strategic Priority 4.3)	€100,000.00	Dublin City Council
	Delivery of Interfaith and SAFE HAVEN workshops (Strategic Priority 3.14)	€12,800.00	€6,400 ACET €6,400 Dublin City Interfaith
	No. 53 The Musical - funding returned to the Budget as the project did not proceed	€30,000.00	Five Lamps Arts
	Subgroup 4 - Subtotal	€3,655,662.28	

5	Careers Edge Training Programme for people in recovery from addiction (Strategic priority 15.7)	€15,000.00	Dublin City Community Local Area Employment Services
	Access to Community Based Services for Refugees (Strategic priority 16.5)	€110,000.00	Administered by the NEIC Programme Office
	Developing a Recovery Community in the NEIC (Strategic priority 15.5)	€5,000.00	Administered by the NEIC Programme Office
	Healthcare Navigation Service (Strategic priority 16.2)	€25,836.90	HSE
	Health needs of older people with drug dependency (Strategic priority 16.8)	€2,335.00	SUPPORT Project
	Subgroup 5 - Subtotal	€158,171.90	
6	Multi-Disciplinary Team for 0 to 5 year olds (Strategic priority 20.3)	€636,562.00	HSE
	Subgroup 6 - Subtotal	€636,562.00	
SUBGROUP TOTALS		€5,820,625.89	

Overarching Budgets	Strategic Priority/ Mulvey Action	Amount
Social Employment Fund (SEF)	(Strategic priority 4.4)	€1,348,887.63
NEIC Community grants	(Mulvey action 3.12)	€104,000.00
NEIC programme Office costs		€226,486.48
Community Engagement Events, Launch meeting, Conferences, Workshops, etc		€41,900.00
Communications & Engagement/ Community Outreach		€58,886.48
Office Equipment (Including venue & AV hire costs)		€8,380.00
Professional Services (Including Design & Print)		€108,940.00
Miscellaneous Costs		€8,380.00
Overarching Budgets Total		€1,679,374.11
Subgroup Funding Total		€5,820,625.89
Total Funding		€7,500,000.00

A total of 38 applications were approved for funding totalling €104,000 under the 2023 Community Grants and details of these are outlined below. A number of further applications were deemed more suitable to other areas for consideration and were referred as such e.g. relevant NEIC Subgroup

Group Name	Project Name	Brief Description	Amount (€)
St Mary's Mansions	Outdoor activities/sensory hub	Purchase outdoor furniture, gaming equipment, sensory floating pod chairs & equipment with the intent to creating a sensory area in the future at Marys Mansions	€3,500.00
Larkin Unemployed Centre	Stimulating play equipment for children under 3 years	Purchase of stimulating play equipment to increase the support to families/children under 3 years by creating a physical space that allows their inclusion with activities to support their social and emotional development.	€5,000.00
ATD Ireland	Open Days/Community Project	Improve their community project - bringing in a better quality of wellbeing action through the purchase of new arts material, gardening, kitchen and mindfulness equipment, books, and children's educational toys.	€1,700.00
Our Street	Paint mural on wall, brighten up area	To improve a rundown laneway - Summer Arch (off Summer St North) with the creation of a high-quality mural.	€1,000.00
D-Light Studios	Paint mural on three gates	To create a vibrant and engaging mural on the D-Light gates of the D-Light studio.	€4,000.00
Lourdes Day Care Centre	Flower arranging workshops and trip to Botanic Gardens	Run flower arranging workshops for approx. 20 people.	€1,500.00
St Joseph's Fairview	Outdoor musical equipment	Purchase & install 3 outdoor musical instruments to enhance the sensory garden	€5,000.00
Early Learning Initiative	Creation of a dedicated indoor play space for children aged 0-6 years.	To furnish the play space with child friendly sustainable and high-quality learning materials & resources, which will also be inclusive and suitable for children with additional needs or sensory issues.	€4,000.00
Hugh's House	Garden Makeover	To provide a covered area, so families and children can enjoy the garden in all seasons and new garden furniture and sensory area.	€4,000.00
H.O.P.E. (Hands on Peer Education)	Paint & redecorate premises	Paint premises, purchase a new table.	€800.00
Scoil Chaoimhín	Expand garden in school	Purchase and installation of polycarbonate tunnel and a composter.	€1,200.00
Nottingham Street Residents Group	Replace/upgrade plants in garden	Purchase new plants, hanging baskets, compost/fertiliser, materials to improve their wall garden.	€650.00

Grenville St. & Hill St. Residents Group	Mural and equipment for activities	Paint mural within complex. Provide a series of planting demos with families involved. Purchase of outdoor play equipment.	€900.00
James Larkin Flats Complex	Educational/environment friendly equipment for outdoor activities	Purchase outdoor games, gardening equipment to promote participation and to integrate residents in their physical realm and environment.	€1,000.00
St Brigid's Day Nursery	Purchase of new risky play equipment for children	Purchase of new risky play equipment for children, they are offered optimal risky play experiences and can reach their full potential, and also encourages wellbeing.	€2,500.00
Crosscare	New signage and refresh outside of café	Painting the café, and new signage.	€4,000.00
Mount Carmel Secondary School	Benches for sustainability garden	Purchase benches for garden, which was funded by NEIC last year, to allow for students to fully engage with the space to create a seating area for them to have their lunch.	€1,400.00
O'Connell's Secondary School	Hang flags representing the nationality of students in the school	Purchase flag poles, flags and equipment to have them mounted on wall in the school	€4,500.00
Seville Place Girl Guides	Support a number of troop members to complete the Chief Commissioners Award	Challenge of the award is to organise community events - to provide and develop an understanding of planning, working as a team, working to a budget and responsibility for specific parts of the planned events.	€2,000.00
North Wall CDP	Pressure Washer/Yoga classes/ sensory toys/ gardening supplies	Purchase pressure washer, hold yoga classes for residents, indoor/outdoor sensory toys, gardening supplies for the garden group.	€3,500.00
Hen House Women's Shed	Creation of a safe sensory area/garden	Working outdoors with groups to create a sensory garden including making and painting bird boxes, window boxes, installing a basketball hoop for children all ages. Information demonstrations on planting and care of plants, flowers etc. for members	€2,000.00
Hill Street Family Resource Centre	Outdoor play equipment	Purchase outdoor play equipment to replace some older items. Purchase moveable storage, so items suitable for different age ranges can be stored separately, accessed easily and moved to different locations, both inside and outside.	€4,500.00
Beaver Street Residents Association	Sensory Play items and wall piece & Horticulture activities	To provide a child friendly sensory area that can be erected on the wall for children. Purchase of pot plants, hanging baskets for street.	€1,500.00
CASPR	Create Nurture space	Create a series of nurture/sensory spaces in the Seán McDermott Street location for children with behavioural difficulties related to adverse childhood experiences.	€5,000.00

Annesley Avenue, Taaffe's Place Summer Project	Environmental fun filled day for the residents	To provide a child friendly sensory area that can be erected on the wall for children to use all year long. Purchase giant outdoor games. Include horticulture activities also, pot plants, hanging baskets.	€1,500.00
St Laurence O Toole CBS (Seville Place)	Roof Space refurbishment	To create an exciting, engaging and inspiring outdoor learning environment on school roof. The special classes would use the space for sensory play sessions and outdoor classroom lessons.	€3,500.00
O'Connell's Primary School	Paint & erect sign on side of secondary school	New sign will raise more awareness of the school presence.	€5,000.00
Belvedere Youth Club	Garden in the City Project	Purchase a wide variety of gardening equipment and materials to bring the project to life. It will cater for all ages of people within the community.	€3,000.00
Daughters of Charity Child and Family Service St. Louise's	Outdoor Fence around preschool	Purchase galvanised baskets and stones to provide a fence for our outdoor area of the preschool, required for safeguarding children from accessing a gate and a ramp at one end of the outdoor play area.	€500.00
Parish of St George & St Thomas	Food & biodiversity garden in the courtyard	Creation of a food and biodiversity garden in the church courtyard, which will consist of 6 raised beds, to incorporate benches for seating	€5,000.00
Kiln & Forge Residents Group	Visit Newgrange farm	Visit Newgrange farm with families, visit St. Anne's park to have a picnic	€1,250.00
LYCS Early Years' Service	Repaint playground railings	Refurbish playground railings, purchase wicker garden screen	€2,500.00
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish	To enhance/improve physical surroundings	To replace existing paving slabs and landscape the area to support/create a biodiversity and pollinator space and environment.	€5,000.00
Tom Clarke House Residents Group	Upkeep of garden area	Purchase a lawn edge trimmer, and other garden equipment, compost, flowers to brighten up garden for the residents.	€750.00
NEIC Trojans Basketball	Basketball accessibility initiative	Rejuvenate and clean the old courts in parks, playgrounds, flat complexes. Help to unite club and Community as U14 players and parents will commit to a Saturday over summer to help coaches to get the work done.	€4,500.00
Irish Refugee Council	Improve office space	Paint and improve the reception area, purchase new chairs and welcome signage.	€1,350.00
St Laurence O Toole NS (St Laurence Place East)	Develop an inspiring outdoor learning space	The outdoor space will be scheduled into every class's week, where children can participate in group work, laptop research and access the benefits of being outdoors while learning.	€2,500.00
St Laurence O Toole NS (St Laurence Place East)	Create a garden	Create a garden to grow fruits and vegetables. To purchase a water wall to add a sensory experience.	€2,500.00
			€104,000.00





DUBLIN
**NORTH EAST
INNER CITY**

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