

## Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign – Progress Report 2017

This report outlines progress on 42 actions in our 2017 workplan under three objectives:

1. To support, develop and facilitate the involvement of communities in the structures, the implementation of the existing NDS and in the development of the new NDS
2. Ensure that the experience of communities in dealing with and responding to the drugs crisis forms part of the policymaking process through a partnership approach
3. To increase general awareness of the drugs crisis and campaign on relevant issues

Objective 1 – Actions	Timescale	Progress	Implementation of Actions
1. Structure contact with all DTF community reps to support meaningful community representation and engagement in the new NDS, drawing on 2016 research carried out with community reps	Ongoing	Completed	The key actions from the 2016 research that we focused on during 2017 were 1) developing our outreach work to Local and Regional Task Forces areas and 2) developing a Community reps Manual/ Resource Pack. There were meetings in 7 Regional DATF areas and 12 LADTF areas (remainder to be scheduled early 2018). The content and materials for the Resource Pack have been developed through consultation with the Community Reps and are being printed in January 2018 for circulation during 2018 programme of outreach visits.
2. Organise and facilitate at least two meetings of the DTF community representative’s network during 2017.	March & Oct	Completed	A network meeting of Drugs Task Force Community Reps was held in Dublin in April to update reps on the development of the new National Drugs Strategy. The second network meeting took place in December which updated the reps on the structures of the new NDS and the 50 actions in 2017/2020 Action Plan; also follow up on the issues raised in local and regional areas during our outreach visits.
3. Meet with all community reps in their own DTF areas on a rolling basis to identify issues of concern locally including gaps in	Ongoing	Completed	The outreach meetings with Community Reps in Task Force areas provided ongoing opportunities to feed in local concerns to the development of new NDS and feedback was provided to community reps on all aspects of new NDS as it was being developed.

<p>community representation and to work to strengthen community engagement on all DTF's in the delivery of the new NDS.</p>			<p>Presentations on the role of communities in the NDS were given to a SWRDATF group in Kildare and a CASC group in Ballyfermot. CW facilitated a review session for the South Inner City LDTF and working with Blanchardstown LDATF Community Reps in developing a community action plan. A number of meetings took place with Ballyfermot Community Rep to look at recruiting new reps to the Task Force. Sessions on community participation in NDS were delivered to URRUS course in Ballymun and Ballsbridge College of Education.</p>
<p>4. Deliver induction training programme for new community reps as needed</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Citywide have developed a Manual/Resource Pack for community reps that includes:  The role and function of Drugs Task Forces,  The role and function of Community Reps and other TF members  A checklist for Community Reps to assess their involvement in TFs.</p> <p>An induction video will be prepared, due to the extended timescale on the development of the new NDS and its structures this action will be delivered in 2018.</p>
<p>5. Circulate and invite response from LDTF and RDTF community reps on all information relevant to their representative roles</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The following information was circulated to DTF community reps during 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated Community Reps role information leaflet: <a href="https://www.citywide.ie/download/pdf/20170302141408.pdf">https://www.citywide.ie/download/pdf/20170302141408.pdf</a></li> <li>• Summary report of findings of the community reps research</li> <li>• Updates on the development of the new NDS</li> <li>• New NDS document RHSR</li> <li>• The Citywide decriminalisation evidence base website</li> <li>• Insurance indemnity for RDTF reps travelling to meetings</li> <li>• Information on the Standing Committee and the National Oversight Committee and feedback from the 1<sup>st</sup> meetings of both of these groups</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Public Health Bill (Alcohol) 2017 – updating on progress asking for community reps to contact their local TDs to seek support for this Bill</li> </ul>
6. Participate in national structures that are agreed as part of the new National Drugs Strategy	Ongoing	Ongoing	<p>There was one NCC meeting during the first half of the year which was attended by National Community Rep.</p> <p>The National Community Reps participated in all meetings of the NDS Steering Committee and made written submissions, reviewed draft documents and submitted amendments. A number of meetings to progress specific actions were also attended. An additional meeting was held with the Dept. of Health on outstanding issues and CW liaised with the other NGO networks in relation to these issues and how to resolve them.</p> <p>The National Oversight Committee was set up in September 2017. One meeting of the NOC took place in 2017 and Citywide’s representatives attended. CW initiated a process in October, in consultation with Regional reps, to select a Regional Community Rep to take one of the NOC places.</p> <p>The Standing Committee held its first meeting in November and the Citywide rep attended. CW wrote to Minister in relation to extending committee membership to include other representatives, in particular the DSP due to the core role of DRPs in implementation.</p>
7. Organise regular meetings between the National Community Reps and the DATF community representatives to ensure effective representation of the community sector. Provide administrative support as required to these representatives.	Ongoing	Completed	<p>The National Reps on the OFD and NCC met with the network in April to appraise them of discussions on the new NDS and to discuss issues of concern. Updates on behalf of the National Reps have been circulated on an ongoing basis as the development of the new NDS has continued. At the Community Reps meeting in December the National Reps provided an overview of RHSR and facilitated the discussion on priorities for implementation.</p>

<b>Drug Rehabilitation Projects, Community Drugs Projects</b>				
8.	Develop a programme to highlight and promote best practice in the work undertaken in community drug projects and DRPs	March - Dec	Feb 2018	Three general meetings with Community Drug Projects took place during 2017 and CDPs were updated and consulted on an ongoing basis in relation to the development of new NDS. Initial discussions took place with CDPs on the criteria for developing relevant and appropriate evaluation methods to capture the work of DRPs and a piece of work is being commissioned in 2018.
9.	Organise and facilitate four meetings of the Drug Rehab Projects network during 2017 and meet with the DRP sub-group on a regular basis during the year.	Quarterly	Completed	A total of five Drug Rehab Project network meetings were held in 2017 and individual projects have been in contact on an ongoing basis for support and/or advice on DSP issues. A sub group of the network met on a regular basis to follow up on issues raised both at meetings and through individual project contacts.
10.	Engage with the DSP stakeholders group and other appropriate statutory agencies in addressing issues of policy, operation and service delivery of Special CE for DRPs	Ongoing	Ongoing	CW attended all convened Stakeholder Meetings during 2017 and engaged with policy department of DSP to discuss issues which were impacting negatively on the delivery of Special Drugs CE. There was a focus on the impact of Activation Measures on Drug Rehab Project participants and the need for training of DSP staff in supporting and monitoring DRPs in order to take into account the special nature of their programmes.
11.	Attend all DSP stakeholder group meetings and relevant sub-groups	Ongoing	Ongoing	CW attended all scheduled meetings and prepared inputs based on issues raised through the DRP network.
12.	Attend all NDRIC meetings and sub-group meetings and continue to work with the NDRIC on the implementation of actions in the NDS and the Rehab Report.	Ongoing	-----	NDRIC hasn't met since the end of 2016.

<b>National Community Reps Network</b>				
13.	Support the NACDA community representatives in their role in advising the Government on problem drug use in Ireland in relation to prevalence, prevention consequences and treatment based on analysis and interpretation of research findings	Ongoing	N/A	This committee did not meet during 2018 and has been abolished as part of the new NDS. In the interim, NACDA reps have continued to meet with other national reps for discussions on issues relating to new NDS.
14.	Facilitate National Reps meetings by bringing together the community reps working on national policy committees to discuss the co-ordination of national policy, the dissemination of information and to provide support for each other in these roles.	Ongoing	On track	The National reps group met six times during 2017 to discuss the development of the NDS and to share information across the different representative roles.

**Objective 2: Ensure that the experience of communities in dealing with and responding to the drugs crisis forms part of the policymaking process through a partnership approach**

1.	Continue to offer support to community groups in relation to planning, review, evaluation and related issues.	Ongoing	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued to work with 4 local policing fora on development of Community Impact Assessment Tool, which has been included as an action in the NDS.</li> <li>Participated on the Conference Host Committee for the Club Health Conference which took place at end of May and supported community inputs in to the conference programme.</li> <li>Supported the work of Voice of New Communities Drugs and Alcohol Programme in promoting its services and expanding its interagency links.</li> </ul>
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2.	Provide ongoing information to community groups and individuals on Citywide network meetings, working groups and seminars and encourage their participation through regular email updates.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Updates Circularised on all CW activities on an ongoing basis as outlined in this report Ongoing circulation of information from other organisations on relevant seminars, training, publications etc.
3.	Work with the voluntary sector to support the development of a needs-based approach to the location of Medically Supervised Injecting Centres i.e. where there is a significant local problem of public injecting and unsafe disposal.	As needed		As the first MSIC is currently out for tender and has not yet opened, needs assessment in relation to other areas has not taken place.
4.	Work with partner organisations to ensure that the new NDS is formally framed within a human rights context and reflects this in its language, policies and actions.	Ongoing	Completed	CW liaised with Human Rights consultant and with Pavee Point in relation to developing appropriate and relevant actions for inclusion in the new NDS.
5.	Work with SURIA/UISCE on an ongoing basis to help to circulate, publicise and progress their key objectives and with service user groups to support the development of a National Service Users Representative Forum Network. Support the campaign for an end to urine testing.	Ongoing	Ongoing	There was ongoing liaison with UISCE on a number of issues e.g. development of new NDS, anti-stigma campaign, bill on decriminalisation and they were included on an ongoing basis in our network briefings.
6.	Build on findings from scoping exercise currently underway with new community and migrant representative groups to support their engagement at the appropriate national/regional/local level in the NDS	Ongoing	Completed	The research report by Niall Crowley <b>Stimulating and Supporting a Black and Minority Ethnic Voice on Drugs Issues was published in May 2017:</b> <a href="https://www.citywide.ie/resources/">https://www.citywide.ie/resources/</a>
7.	Follow up on the relevant drug related issues affecting immigrant communities as identified in the scoping exercise and liaise with relevant groups to develop responses	Ongoing	Completed	<b>Step One: Mutual Education</b>  A roundtable event involving community drug service providers, Black and minority ethnic organisations and Drug

		<p>This work is ongoing</p> <p>This work is ongoing</p>	<p>and Alcohol Task Forces was held in Sept. The event was attended by 35 people.</p> <p>The aim of the session was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further build cultural competence and knowledge among service providers about the situation, experience and identity of Black and minority ethnic communities</li> <li>• Develop capacity and commitment among Black and minority ethnic organisations to take up issues of problematic drug use in their policy work.</li> </ul> <p>We continue to work with the minority ethnic groups identified in the research about next steps.</p> <p><b>Step Two: Telling Stories</b></p> <p>Develop and drive a process for gathering stories of a variety of Black and minority ethnic people involved in problematic drug use.</p> <p><b>Step Three: Operationalising Institutional Connectors</b></p> <p>The mutual education event identified three key organisational connectors churches, schools and youth services.</p> <p>An online survey has been designed to identify the level of engagement and connectivity between community drugs projects and Black and Ethnic minority organisations which will be administered in early 2018. The findings of this</p>
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		Done	<p>survey will assist us in designing models for organisational connectors and in developing policy inputs.</p> <p><b>Step Four: Policy Input</b></p> <p>Develop a policy submission in relation to problematic drug use in Black and minority ethnic communities and service provision in this field for the new National Intercultural Health Strategy.</p> <p>Follow up meetings took place with New Communities Partnership (NCP) and CAIRDE to enhance our partnership working and these meetings will be ongoing.</p>	
8.	Meet on a regular basis with BeLong To and other relevant LGBT groups to ensure that drug issues specific to this community are considered at all policy levels and support their engagement at the appropriate national/regional/local level in the design and planning of interventions under the NDS	Ongoing	Ongoing	<p>There was ongoing liaison during 2017 with Belong To Drugs Worker and Drugs Project, in particular in relation to new NDS.</p> <p>CW supported and participated in an event in July to mark 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Belong To Drugs Service .</p>
9.	Work with Pavee Point Drug & Alcohol Programme and other traveller representative groups to support them in addressing the traveller drugs issue. Support their engagement at the appropriate national/regional/local level in the design and planning of interventions under the NDS	Ongoing	Ongoing	<p>Regular contact and meetings during 2017 with Pavee Point Drugs service, in particular in relation to new NDS.</p> <p>CW participated in 2 meetings of Pavee National Drugs Network.</p>
10.	Work in partnership with the Family Support Network on relevant policy & campaign issues and specifically on actions for the new NDS that will integrate family support work in to general drug service provision and promote the provision of more training in family support for mainstream workers.	Ongoing	Ongoing	<p>Ongoing liaison in relation to common roles on NDS Steering Group and Focus Groups.</p> <p>Ongoing liaison with FSN Development Worker on developing supports for family support reps on Task Forces.</p>

			Attended Service of Commemoration on February 1 <sup>st</sup> , attended FSN Annual Conference in November and made a presentation at FSN Anniversary event in December.	
11.	Work with projects engaged in youth work to ensure the new NDS reflects drug work integration and the YPFSF continues to be focused on young people most at risk of developing drug problems	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing contact and initial discussions with a number of youth services, overall piece of work deferred until 2018 due to delay in NDS timetable.
12.	Continue the representative role in the EU Civil Society Forum and relevant sub groups	Ongoing	Ongoing	Involved in Civil Society Engagement Project with 1) circulation of surveys and 2) participation in two-day meeting of CSF members in Ireland at end of June.
13.	Continue to develop bilateral links with a number of our partner agencies from other countries on the Civil Society Forum and through the CSF UNGASS Working Group, International Harm Reduction Association (IHRA) and International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC).	Ongoing	Ongoing	Provided information and feedback to IHRA on their annual country reports. Liaised with Release UK on decriminalisation issues. Ongoing contact with IDPC re international developments as follow up to UNGASS.
14.	Continue representative role on CSF Participation Group developing inputs into 2016 UNGASS discussions. Continue to work on CSF survey on Civil Society involvement in National Drug Policy	Ongoing	Ongoing Completed	The work on the CSF survey was completed and its findings have been followed up during 2017 by the CSF Participation Subgroup, of which CW is a member.

**Objective 3: to increase general awareness of the drugs crisis and campaign on relevant issues**

1.	Hold a seminar to discuss the drug related intimidation report findings and to look at ongoing issues of drug related intimidation in local communities. This seminar will identify responses and recommend actions that can be put in place based on available evidence base in Ireland and internationally. The seminar will also look at how to support ongoing information gathering on intimidation in communities	June	Ongoing	Citywide was invited onto the Expert Panel for the Greentown research programme design, made up of international experts and reps from Dept. of Justice, Gardaí, Probation, DSP, Túsla and academics. There have been four full-day panel meetings facilitated by UL research team and as members of the expert panel CW contributed to the development of an innovative intervention model which will be piloted by DCYA in 2018.
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		Ongoing	<p>We have deferred the seminar to spring of 2018 in order to be able to present the findings of a research project that is being undertaken by Dr. Matt Bowden of The Dublin Institute of Technology &amp; the Centre for Social and Educational Research (CSER) and outcomes of Greentown process.</p> <p>The DIT research involves conducting a series of in-depth, semi structured interviews with a sample of key practitioners identified by Citywide as innovating in this area. The research will explore practitioners and their organisations responses to the involvement of young people in the drugs trade. The interviews will explore processes and relationships at local level for analysing and acting upon local problems and issues. The research will also analyse and distil key documents including evaluations, internal reports and reviews together with available international research evidence on models of best practice.</p> <p>CW met with Gurchand Singh, the Garda Data Analyst about the potential of the Community Impact Assessment Tool in data collection.</p>
<p>2. Launch the Citywide decriminalisation website section which provides an evidence base on the impacts of decriminalisation and criminalisation on the individual, drug use, health, crime etc. Promote this site as a support to help move the debate forward and continue to highlight the need for policy change to the criminalisation of drug use</p>	March	Website live – official launch in Jan 2018	<p>The decriminalisation evidence base is now live. <a href="https://www.citywide.ie/decriminalisation/">https://www.citywide.ie/decriminalisation/</a></p> <p>The site presents the evidence on the impacts of current policies around the world. on <a href="#">criminalisation</a> and <a href="#">decriminalisation</a>. This evidence has been drawn from three recent overviews of the <a href="#">international evidence</a>. The website also provides information on policy and legislation on controlled drugs at <a href="#">international</a> and <a href="#">national level</a>, and the <a href="#">options for decriminalising</a> drug possession for personal use.</p>

			<p>The site has been shared widely with legislators and with civil society.</p> <p>The site was activated in time to provide evidence for Senators in the debate on the Controlled Drugs and Harm Reduction Bill introduced by Senator Lynn Ruane on May 31<sup>st</sup>. CW provided an input into an Oireachtas Briefing session in advance of the debate on the Bill.</p> <p>Citywide participated in SSDP event to mark Support Don't Punish day on June 26<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>In November 2017 Citywide gave a presentation at a seminar for HSE and HSE funded workers in Limerick on decriminalisation and regulation.</p>	
3.	Develop information base on legalisation and regulation, different models of regulation, examples and case studies etc. and use this information to have a debate amongst our own networks and to inform public debate.	June	Deferred to 2018	Significant information has been gathered from a wide range of international sources, including attendance through a scholarship award at the Drug Policy Alliance conference in Atlanta, Georgia in October 2017. A discussion paper on key issues arising for the community sector has been prepared and is being discussed internally within CW with a view to publication.
4.	Develop and launch a public campaign to tackle the stigma that isolates drug users, their families and their communities.	March - Oct	Feb 27 <sup>th</sup> 2018	Citywide have been working with Persuasion Republic to design a public campaign to start to tackle the stigma experienced by people who use drugs. Consultation on a number of campaign options took place with a subgroup of community projects and with other relevant organisations.

			<p>As part of developing the Campaign materials CW worked with one of the community projects to gather the voices of people who have experienced stigma and to highlight the importance of drug projects in limiting the impacts of stigma on service users.</p> <p>A number of campaign tools have been designed including a microsite, a video of voices documenting the impact of stigma on people who drugs, posters, Instagram messaging and a short information booklet. The campaign 'Stop the Stigma' will be launched by Minister Catherine Byrne in February 2018.</p>	
5.	Re-run the Red C knowledge, attitudes & beliefs poll following the public campaign	Oct	Spring 2018	Deferred until after the launch of the anti-stigma campaign.
6.	Hold a seminar on the issue of stigma to increase the understanding of the complexity of drug use and the link between disadvantage and community drugs problems. It will aim to deepen the understanding of the societal benefits of decriminalisation and will enable and resource public representatives to support and advocate on behalf of progressive drug policy	Oct	Feb 27 <sup>th</sup> 2018	<p>The campaign launch of 'Stop the Stigma' will involve a number of contributors including a key note presentation to be given by Dr Charlie Lloyd, Reader, University of York and author of the expert review for the UK Drug Policy Commission on the stigmatisation of problem drug users.</p> <p>We have been in contact with key allied organisations in the NGO sector and the Trade Unions to become involved in supporting the campaign.</p>
7.	Meet with identified TDs and spokespeople from all political parties in relation to their policies on the drugs issue and campaign throughout the year to keep a political focus on community drugs problems.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Citywide contacted TDs and Senators to ask them to support the Controlled Drugs and Harm Reduction Bill. At the request of Senator Lynn Ruane, Citywide joined other experts in presenting information on decriminalisation to an Oireachtas briefing the day before this bill was introduced.

			Citywide contacted TDs and Senators to ask them to support the Public Health Alcohol Bill 2017 and asked our networks to lobby for support for this bill.	
8.	Brief our networks on the responses from Ministers to Parliamentary Questions asked in relation to drugs policy, the National Drugs Strategy and service delivery	Ongoing	Ongoing	Information from relevant PQs is collated and circulated as required.
9.	Meet with sub-committees of the local authorities to provide briefings to highlight the drugs crisis and to stress the importance of meaningful engagement of local representatives at task force level	Ongoing	Completed  Deferred to 2018	Engaged in the review of the Dublin City Council LCDC plan.  Invited by Kildare Co. Co. to make presentation on new NDS.
10.	Work with the Voluntary Drug Sector and social justice advocates in relation to campaign issues.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Co-working with Voluntary sector during 2017 has been mainly focused on issues relating to development of new NDS
11.	Prepare briefing documents and press releases where appropriate to highlight drug related issues to the general public.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Respond on an ongoing basis to media queries on drug related issues
12.	Work with Trade Unions to ensure that drug problems are raised at all appropriate forums and circulate relevant and campaign information through the SIPTU, Unite, Impact ICTU and DCTU	Ongoing	Ongoing	Trade Unions and the ICTU were circulated with the decriminalisation evidence base. In discussions with ICTU about inputs into their members development programme Trade unions will play a critical role in supporting the Anti-Stigma campaign to be rolled out in 2018
13.	Produce and distribute the Citywide E-newsletter on a quarterly basis during 2017	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing email updates to our networks during 2017 in relation to activities outlined in this report
14.	Maintain the capacity of the Citywide website as a communication tool by sharing programmes, good	Ongoing	Ongoing	The new Citywide website is live. <a href="https://www.citywide.ie/">https://www.citywide.ie/</a>

practice and information. Continue to develop a social media profile to ensure enhanced communication.			The site provides comprehensive information on drug use, community responses, Citywide networks, publications and activities in addition to the decriminalisation evidence base
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**Additional activities**

Citywide attended and participated in a number of conferences, seminars and events including: Recovery Ireland Conference, MQI Annual Report launch, Coolmine Therapeutic Communities Conference, Donore Ave Drug Project launch, FAST (Finglas) Strategic Action Plan launch, Tolka River Project AGM (Blanchardstown), Soilse Awards event, FSN Seminar, FSN Anniversary event.