

2021



Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign

Annual Report

What is Community Expertise?

EXPERT

Community Expertise is the knowledge and understanding that people have of what it's like to live in their community and of the impact the drugs problem is having on people's lives and on their quality of life.



Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign

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Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign



Supporting the involvement of communities in the National Drugs Strategy

Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign is a national network of community activists and community organisations that are involved in responding to Ireland's drugs crisis. Set up in 1995 by the Inner City Organisations Network (ICON), to bring together Dublin communities that were struggling with the heroin crisis, we now work nationally linking communities across the country dealing with a range of substance issues.

We work to promote and support a community development approach to the drugs problem - this means involving the people who are most affected by the problem in dealing with the problem – people who use drugs, their families and communities.

Citywide is a company limited by guarantee. Our board of directors come from the community, voluntary, statutory and private sectors.

Drug & Alcohol Task Force (DATF) Community Reps

Meetings with
Community reps
from different
Task Force areas
in 2021:

20

During 2021, Citywide met with DATF Community Reps to discuss issues of concern in local areas and to update reps on national policy developments. Meetings took place with Reps from the following Local Task Force areas: Cork, Dublin 12, Dublin North Inner City, South Inner City, Tallaght, Blanchardstown, Canals, Bray, Ballymun, Ballyfermot, Clondalkin, North East, and with Regional Community reps from: North East, South East, Southern, East Coast, Midlands, North West, Western, and South West

CityWide facilitates the DATF Community Representatives Network. The network meets a number of times each year to exchange information, to identify key policy issues and develop responses and to discuss issues specific to the role of community reps. At a General Meeting in January the main item of discussion was our submission to the Mid Term Review of the RHSR National Drugs Strategy. See submission here:

<https://www.citywide.ie/resources/rhsr-mid-term-review-citywide-march-2021/>

Community Reps participated in workshops at our November conference - a key item on the agenda was the future role of Community Reps.

■ **Consultation with Regional DATF Community Reps**

Community Workers Co-op carried out research with Regional DATF Community Reps to gather their views and experiences in relation to community engagement on drugs issue in DATF areas. A draft action plan based on the recommendations from this consultation was developed and a sub-group of Community Reps established to oversee the implementation of the recommendations. A number of key issues have been identified for follow up including the need for training for Community Reps to support them in their role.

■ **Drug Use and the Drugs Trade – A snapshot from Rural Ireland**

Citywide surveyed community projects and networks (including FRCs and SICAP) to establish an overview of drug use and the drugs trade in rural communities. The survey found that there is a widespread problem with a mix of drugs available and that there was a strong link between disadvantage in rural areas and drug problems. A Snapshot from Rural Ireland was circulated to community networks in November and is available [here](#)

■ **Resource Document for Community Reps**

A Community Reps Resource document was compiled and reviewed in June and circulated to Community Reps in July. The document outlined current community mechanisms for selection and support of DATF Community Reps. This document was also sent to the Drugs Policy Unit and to the Dept of Rural & Community Development and discussed at a meeting in September with Minister for Community Development.

■ **Community Reps Training**

Community Reps have identified as a key issue the need for capacity building to support them in their roles. Following agreement with the DPU to reallocate funding from our 2020 budget, Citywide contracted Urrús Training to redesign and update our existing accredited Community Reps skills training programme and to deliver it online.

Urrús and Citywide presented the training programme to the QQI Independent Review Panel in November and QQI has now approved the programme in line with its additional certification requirements. Recruitment for the rollout of the first course will commence in 2022.

Community Drug Projects

Meetings with Community Drugs Projects, Drug Rehabilitation Projects and Prison Links Workers in 2021:

10

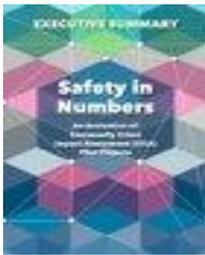
Community Drug Projects provide a range of services and supports to people who use drugs, their families and to the wider community. Citywide provides a network for Community Drugs Projects and Community Employment Drugs Rehab Projects (DRPs) and represents the Community Sector at NDS policy committees. A General Meeting took place in January with key focus on submission to Mid Term Review. <https://www.citywide.ie/resources/rhsr-mid-term-review-citywide-march-2021/>

- **Drug Rehabilitation Projects.**

Meetings took place in February, July & October with Drug Rehab Projects to progress specific issues raised by the network and to monitor issues on the ground.

- **Liaison with Prison Links Workers.**

Citywide facilitated five meetings with Prison Links Workers during 2021. A survey was carried out with Community Drug Projects to establish their work in respect of prison engagement.



Community Impact Assessments (CCIAs)

Community Crime Impact Assessments (CCIAs) are a community-led mechanism for identifying the issues relating to the impact of antisocial behaviour and drug market activity in a particular area, informing a collaborative problem-solving approach to tackle such issues, and monitoring the effectiveness of the response through repeat assessments over time.

Citywide is a member of the core group that oversaw the pilot of the Community Impact Assessment Tool, as set out in Action 4.1.40 of RHSR the National Drugs Strategy, and has also contributed to the evaluation. Recommendations from the evaluation have been brought to the NDS National Committees.

In March 2021 the first workshop on implementing CCIAs took place, with participants from 12 areas. Citywide has engaged with University Limerick on use of CCIA in CSP pilots, in particular in the SIC and Rialto areas as part of the Building Community Resilience Initiative.

Fergus McCabe Memorial Conference - November 18th 2021



It is now 25 years since the publication of the Rabbitte Report and the setting up of the Drug Task Forces which put community engagement and partnership at the heart of our National Drugs Strategy. Our friend and colleague Fergus McCabe has been at the heart of the response to drugs, both at a community level and a national level, throughout all these 25 years (and before). He continues to inspire us in our work every single day.

The Fergus McCabe Memorial Conference took place on 18th November with approx. 240 people in attendance. It was opened with an address by Taoiseach Micheál Martin. Presentations included looking at the key learning from the previous 25 years and looking forward to how drugs policy will develop in the coming years, with a particular focus on the upcoming Citizens Assembly. Presentations have been circulated and a workshop report will be circulated in January 2022. <https://www.citywide.ie/resources/2021-citywide-fergus-mccabe-memorial-conference/>

A short film dedicated to Fergus McCabe was launched – ‘**Community Activism & Partnership with the State – the Story to Date**’: <https://www.citywide.ie/news/2021/11/18/community-activism-partnership-with-the-state-the/>

Communities of Interest

Supporting participation of communities of interest that experience particular exclusion in our society in our response to the drugs problem.

■ **Black and Minority Ethnic Groups**

Five Focus Groups took place during September/October with community leaders to identify key trends and issues arising, face-to-face meetings were considered optimal but it was not possible to do this due to Covid restrictions. A draft report has been prepared based on the findings and is being discussed by Citywide and the New Communities Partnership. Community drug awareness sessions took place with leaders. A plan is being developed for next steps in the process and an initial group of community leaders has been identified to engage in the planning. There was an input by NCP on issues for BEM Communities at the Fergus McCabe Memorial Conference in November.

■ **LGBTI+ Community**

We continue to work with and support BeLongTo drugs and alcohol service and met specifically to develop submission to the Mid-term review of the National Drugs Strategy. There was an input by BeLongTo on LGBTI+ issues at the Fergus McCabe Memorial Conference in November.

■ **Young People at Risk**

Interviews was carried out with 12 key informants in services for young people at risk and discussion paper prepared. A number of follow-up sessions have taken place with the services between September and November and a draft plan has been agreed for implementation in 2022.

■ **Work with partners to address issues through a co-ordinated community approach.**

We meet regularly with Pavee Point Drug and Alcohol Service, and with UISCE, the National Advocacy Service for People who use Drugs in Ireland. Following the closure of National Family Support Network in April, we have provided support to the National Family Support Steering Group. There were inputs from UISCE, Pavee Point and NFS Steering Group at the Fergus McCabe Memorial Conference in November.

Increase general awareness of the drugs problem and campaign on relevant issues

■ Challenge drug-related stigma and its impact in our communities

A training programme on drug-related stigma for delivery to staff in public services has been developed in partnership with the [SAOL project](#). The programme involves people with lived experience of drug use in its delivery and the training content was developed through



workshops with SAOL participants. The template for this programme was developed in conjunction with the School of Nursing and Midwifery in Trinity College. The Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission (IHREC) approved funding to run the pilot.

The Pilot was advertised in January 2021 and run in February with 14 participants, follow-up session with participants took place in March. Project Team meetings took place to facilitate production of Evaluation Report and of Training Handbook. Both documents were produced in June 2021. Discussions are ongoing to put in place a verification process for use of handbook.

The Launch took place on June 14th with presentations on co-design process for training and TCD evaluation report, which has been widely circulated.

We were invited to make presentation on the Stigma programme at NHS National Conference in October and the Project Team participated in presenting and discussion at the conference.

■ Encourage and inform public and political debate on the drugs

A briefing document for politicians was produced and circulated in March.

Briefing document on the Mid Term Review of the National Drugs Strategy was produced and a meeting was held with TDs and Senators on the Mid-term Review of the National Drugs Strategy in November.

■ Engage with our Civil Society partners across Europe and internationally on development in drug policy and practice

The annual meeting of the EU Civil Society Forum took place online in October. We are following up on the issue of IT access/support for people who use drugs and the possibility of funding under EU for Health programme. The new EU Drugs Agenda that was presented by the Commission has been rejected by the member states and Citywide has submitted to the DPU on the new draft.

We participated in a number of consultations – EMCDDA re PWUD, IDPC re Prisons, European Focus Group on Needs of Children, EU Survey on Civil Society Participation.

During 2021 we provided briefings to our members on international developments with follow up workshops on EU Drugs Strategy and World Drugs Report 2021

Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign CLG		Jan - Dec 21
Income		
R.C.S.F Grant		2,000.00
1170 · Drugs Programmes Unit		188,026.00
1198 · IHREC Grant 2019		3,530.00
Total Income		193,556.00
Expense		
3940 · Admin Wages		
376 · Managers Salary		44,579.57
377 · Managers Employers Prsi		4,926.00
382 · Co-ordinator 1 Salary		16,695.77
383 · Co-ordinator 1 Employers PRSI		1,469.16
3961 · Coordinator 2 Salary		58,880.70
3962 · Coordinator 2 Employers PRSI		6,506.28
3970 · Administrator Salary		6,555.01
3971 · Administrator Employers PRSI		576.84
Total 3940 · Wages		140,189.33
3950 · Overheads & Administration		
4003 · Rent		18,000.00
4004 · Office Supplies		
4005 · Postage & Delivery		71.67
4004 · Office Supplies Other		1,619.73
Total 4004 · Office Supplies		1,691.40
4007 · Telephone & Fax		1,907.96
4008 · Light & Heat		3,978.70
4009 · Insurance		1,559.00
4010 · Bank Service Charges		255.76
4011 · Audit/Accountancy/Legal Fees		2,664.50
4013 · IT Expenses		4,130.07
4014 · Sundry Expenses		153.49
Total 4055 · Sundry		153.49
Total 3950 · Overheads & Administration		34,340.88
4050 · Miscellaneous Expenses		-0.54
4090 · Depreciation		
4091 · Depreciation Computers		716.81
Total 4090 · Depreciation		716.81
5000 · Project Payments		
Community Crime Impact Assessment		70.00
4053 · Networking		5,772.00
5013 · Anti Stigma/Training		4,465.13
5017 · Anti-stigma Evaluation		750.00
5021 · VID Drug Projects Showcase 25 Years		3,063.50
Total 5000 · Project Payments		14,120.63
Total Expense		189,367.11
Net Ordinary Income/ Profit for the Year		4,188.89

