

The Fergus McCabe Memorial Summer School Agenda

A Community Development Approach to Drugs – Why it's still needed 30 years on

Sub-title: *30 years of Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign 1995-2025*

Overall Aims of Event

- To consider and discuss the key learnings from 30 years of a Community Development Approach to Drugs
- To identify how we can build on the significant achievements to date of our Community Development approach, while also addressing the current significant challenges to its implementation and how to respond to these challenges
- To set out a Plan of Action as to how we can ensure that the Community Development Approach to Drugs is facilitated, supported and resourced during the lifetime of the next National Drugs Strategy

8.30 – 9am: Registration Tea & Coffee

Morning SESSION 9.15am – 12.45pm

9.15am- OPENING

Welcome from **Dr Deirdre Lillis**, President of Technological University Dublin

Welcome from **Tony Geoghegan**, Chairperson Citywide

Address by **Taoiseach Micheál Martin T.D.**

Opening Words by:

Gary Gannon T.D. Chair of Oireachtas Committee on Drugs

Aodhán Ó Ríordáin MEP, engaging with EU Drug Policy

Poem for Fergus **by Maureen Penrose**, Community Activist & Artist

REFORMING DRUG POLICY – A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Chair - Matt Bowden, Academic Lead of Culture & Society Research Hub at Technological University Dublin

Setting the Scene –International Context for Drug Policy

Overview of current developments in relation to International Drug Policy

- **Ann Fordham**, Executive Director, IDPC
- **Niamh Eastwood**, Executive Director, Release

A Community Development Approach to Drugs - learning from 30 years experience

- Citywide Video – 1995 to 2025
- The Key Issues emerging... **Anna Quigley**, Citywide Co-Ordinator

10.45am – 11am Tea/Coffee Break

11am: Role of Power and Moral Judgement in implementing 'A Health-led Approach to Drugs'

- **Prof Alex Stevens**, School of Law, University of Sheffield, and **Senator Lynn Ruane** in Conversation

Restorative Justice & Repairing the Social Harms of drug criminalisation in Ireland

- Presentation by **Dr Ian Marder**, Maynooth University

Panel Discussion – How the ending of criminalisation can be harnessed to support a Community Development Approach to Drugs

Followed by Open Floor

12.45pm - Lunch

Afternoon SESSION: 1.30pm – 4.30pm

IMPLEMENTING DRUG POLICY - A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

1.30pm: Community Drug Projects; responding to drug-related harms from a Community Development Approach

Core characteristics of Community Drug Projects

- Overview by **Prof Aileen O'Gorman**, University of West Scotland
- Short film piece by **RADE Project**

Measuring & evaluating the work of Community Drug Projects

- Presentation by **Dr Laura O'Reilly**, CEO Ballyfermot Star Project

Setting out a Framework for future Community Engagement & Activism

- ❖ **The current challenges** to implementing a Community Development Approach
 - ❖ The Crucial Importance of the **Right to Dissent**
 - ❖ **The Way Forward** - building on recommendations from Citizens Assembly & Oireachtas Committee
- Presentation by **Anna Quigley**, Citywide and **Noreen Byrne**, Community Activist, Clondalkin

An Inclusive Community - Working with our Community Partners

- Inputs from our **Partner Community Networks**

3.00pm: Tea/Coffee break

Chair: **Sian Muldowney**, Co-Ordinator, Inner City Organisations Network (ICON)

3.15pm: Panel Discussion: *What steps do we need to take now to support and deliver a Community Development Approach at the heart of the next NDS?*

Followed by Open Floor

4.15pm: Closing session

Closing Statement – Plan of Action