

2020

Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign Annual Report



Citywide Drugs Crisis
Campaign

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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 - drug users, their families and communities.

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

ONE IN A MILLION...

We Lost Fergus Mc Cabe on October 14th 2020



Fergus was a passionate, articulate and tireless champion for his own community in the North Inner City and he brought the same gifts to his work with Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign, of which he was a founder member. Over the last 25 years, as part of this work, Fergus travelled to communities all over Ireland to meet with people responding to the drugs crisis, he never said no to a meeting if it was possible for him to make it. Fergus understood what community development is about and he had a gift for it; no meeting was too small or too far away, he shared his knowledge,

wisdom and experience with all of us, and he did it with grace, generosity and a lovely sense of humour ...and of course always a comment on Spurs!

Fergus was a brilliant advocate for our communities, strong, passionate and principled - that great phrase "telling truth to power" could have been written for Fergus, because that is what he did, and in doing so, he won the respect of many of those people in power. He has been a leader, a mentor and an inspiration to all of us in Citywide and to countless others involved with the community response to drugs. We will do our best to honour his memory by continuing to do the work that he did so brilliantly.

Support and facilitate the involvement of communities in the NDS

Drug & Alcohol Task Force (DATF) Community Reps

CityWide facilitates the Taskforce Community Representatives Network by bringing people together to support each other, exchange information and to identify key policy issues and develop responses. The network meets a number of times each year to discuss issues specific to the role of community reps. Up until March 2020, Citywide met with DATF Community Reps in their own Task Forces areas to discuss issues of concern in local areas and to update reps on national policy developments. After March, zoom meetings with Community Reps continued throughout the year.



General meetings of DATF Community Reps

In May we met with the networks of Local and Regional DATF Community Reps to discuss how they could input into the Drugs Programme Unit (of the Dept of Health) Rapid Assessment on the Impact of Covid-19 on the NDS. Inputs on the impact in our communities were incorporated into the report on the impact of Covid-19.

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.

Community Reps Training

The need for capacity building to support them in their role as DATF Community Reps has been identified as a key issue by Community Reps. Following agreement with the DPU to reallocate funding from our 2020 budget, Citywide approached Urrús Training to look at redesigning and updating our existing accredited Community Reps skills training programme to deliver it online.

The use of an online platform will also allow us to develop a number of additional modules that can be used in other relevant settings beyond the Community Reps networks e.g., with Public Partnership Networks, Local Development Companies, Local Community Development Committees.

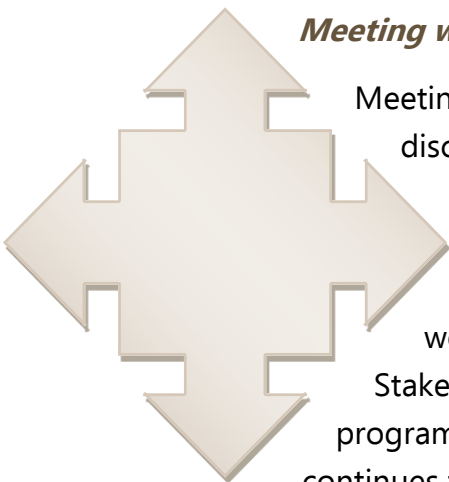
Community Drug Projects

Community Drug Projects provide a range of services and supports to people who use drugs, their families and to the wider community. Citywide networks local Community Drugs Projects and Community Employment (CE) Drugs Rehab projects and represents the Community Sector at NDS policy committees



A Community Drugs Projects network meeting held in early May was attended by over 50 Projects and looked at the issues involved in recommencing group work and our input into the Drugs Policy Unit Rapid Assessment on the Impact of Covid-19 on the NDS. A report combining the findings from the Community Reps meetings and Community Projects discussions was prepared and circulated and submitted to the DPU (see below.) We followed up with Projects in relation to their experiences of restarting group work and this information has been compiled and circulated to all of the Projects to assist them with the restart process.

Meeting with DRPs.



Meetings took place in June and July with Drug Rehab Projects to discuss the challenges of reopening their group work and education programmes and the key issues in relation to participants who have missed out on this vital part of their rehabilitation care-plan during the lockdown period. Citywide worked with DEASP to convene a meeting of the DRP Stakeholders Group to look at issues impacting delivery of the programmes and this meeting was held on Nov 11th. Citywide continues to monitor issues on the ground.

Drug Projects showcase

We engaged a film company to produce a video piece to capture and showcase the work of the Community Drugs Projects and how it is informed by community development principles. It will link in to key findings from Dr Aileen O’Gorman’s research: [Community Drug Projects: Responding to drug-related harms from a community development approach.](#)

Liaison with Prison Links Workers.

Citywide facilitated a weekly meeting with Prison Links Workers to focus on supporting them to gain access to professional video calls with people in prison. Citywide and the Prison Links Workers met with the Irish Prison Service in October to discuss access for the Community Prison Links workers to their service participants.

Support Community Response to COVID-19



Following consultation with Community Drugs Projects and DATF Community Reps as outlined, a Community Sector document on the impact of COVID 19 on the National Drugs Strategy (NDS) was produced and widely circulated to our Community Networks, DATFs, Minister

for Health and Minister for the NDS, and politicians. It was also submitted to the NDS Standing Sub- Committee meeting that took place in June to discuss the impact of Covid-19. https://www.citywide.ie/assets/files/pdf/covid19_impact_on_addiction_cw.pdf?issuusl=ignore

- We facilitated information sharing throughout the year between Projects with the circulation of two Resource Documents based on materials submitted by them in relation to responding to Covid-19.
- We presented on the Lessons from Covid 19 for Future Irish Drug Policy as part of a webinar organised by Help Not Harm on 26th June, which is **International Support Don't Punish Day**.
- We were invited by Community Work Ireland to participate in a group of **Social Inclusion NGOs responding to the impact of COVID 19 on vulnerable groups**. As members of this group, we contributed to a submission that was prepared and submitted to the NPHET Committee on Vulnerable Groups.

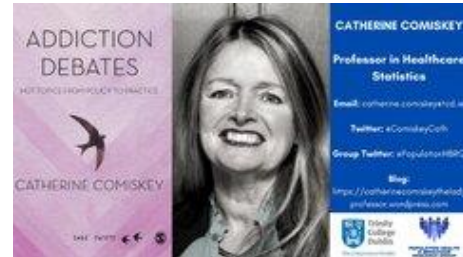
- Citywide made a **pre-budget submission** to the Dept of Finance calling for restoration of budgets to community drugs projects: <https://www.citywide.ie/resources/2020-budget-2021-citywide-submission/>



Key issues identified by Community Networks

1. Current Trends Webinar

A Citywide webinar on Current Trends in Drug Use took place in November. The Key Note speaker was Prof Catherine Comiskey, TCD, who gave a presentation on European and International Trends. Other presentations included Trends in Drug Use in the LGBTI community and Trends in Street Tablet use.



It was attended by over 90 people; follow-up workshops will be organised in 2021.

Presentations from the speakers:

- [Drug Trends in Europe and the new EU Drugs Agenda](#) - Professor Catherine Comiskey, School of Nursing and Midwifery, TCD
- [Drug Use Trends in the LGBTI+ community and how services can respond](#): Shane Smart, Belong To Drug and Alcohol Service
- [Chemsex](#): Graham Ryall, Rialto Community Drug Team
- [Street Tablet Use in Ireland](#) - Trendspotter study on use, markets and harms: Tony Duffin, Ana Liffey Drug Project

2. Mental Health

We worked with Dual Diagnosis Ireland on mental health issues throughout the year circulating information on relevant supports and carrying out an initial analysis of the updated Mental Health Strategy – ‘Sharing the Vision’.

In December, we held a meeting for Community Drugs Projects and DATF Community Reps with Tom O’Brien from the HSE on the implementation of the new Mental Health Strategy.

3. Drug related Intimidation

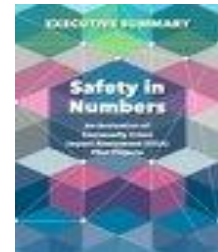
Citywide is a member of the **Steering Group for the NIC Intimidation Worker** project and meetings of the Steering Group continued on a monthly basis. The report from the Steering Group for North East Inner City (NEIC) Intimidation Project has been finalised and the launch event organised.

We were invited to give a presentation on intimidation and other drug-related issues at the **Ethnic Minority Policing Forum** in February, Assistant Garda Commissioner Pat Leahy and North Inner City DATF also presented at the event.

Feedback from Community Drug Projects and Community Reps on the impact of Covid has indicated an increase in drug-related intimidation as noted in the Community Sector report, and this information is currently being updated.

4. Community Impact Assessment Tool

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 RHR, and has also contributed to the evaluation. Recommendations from the evaluation have been brought to the NDS National Committees. Workshop sessions to look at how the CCIA can be used in other areas will take place.

CCIA Launch

One hundred and seventy people attended the online launch of the CCIA tool place on November 23rd with the Garda Commissioner in attendance, 170 people attended the online event. The report, executive summary and CCIA tool are available for download on the Citywide website:

- You can download **Safety in Numbers** - the [full report here](#)
- The **Executive Summary** [here](#)
- The Community Crime Impact Assessment ([CCIA](#)) **Tool**
- Here is a [video explanation](#) of the CCIA process

5. Young people at Risk.

A submission has been sent in to the Dept. of Justice on the Draft Youth Justice Strategy focusing primarily on Young People's involvement in the drugs trade.

https://www.citywide.ie/assets/files/pdf/2020_submissionyouthjustice_strategy.pdf

6. Spent Convictions

A submission has been sent to the Dept of Justice on Spent Convictions focusing on possession of drugs for personal use.

https://www.citywide.ie/assets/files/pdf/2020_submission_on_spent_convictions.pdf?issuusi=ignore

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

1. Support the engagement of Black and Ethnic Minority communities

Work has begun with the New Communities Partnership on peer-led research to gather information on the nature of the drugs problem in BEM communities and to engage community leaders in identifying responses.

Focus groups with a diversity of participants are being established; interviews will be held with people living in Dublin region and Inner City; there will be a focus on young people (over 18s) both migrants and second generation and a specific focus on Roma.

2. Support the engagement of the LGBTI community

We continue to work with and support BeLongTo drugs and alcohol service. A presentation on drug use trends in the LGBTI+ community and how services can respond was given to our Drugs Trends Webinar in Nov. A number of projects linked in with BeLongTo drugs and alcohol service following this event.

3. Work with other community partners to address issues through a co-ordinated community approach.

We met regularly with Pavee Point Traveller Drugs and Alcohol service over 2020 to discuss proposals they are considering in relation to developing their work.

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 is being developed in partnership with the [SAOL project](#). The programme will involve people with lived experience of drug use in its delivery and the training content is being 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) has approved funding to run the pilot.



Addiction
is a health
issue not
a crime

Due to the introduction of Level 5 restrictions the pilot training could not be scheduled for November as planned. IHREC has agreed to an extension of the project until end March 2021. Prof. Catherine Comiskey, TCD School of Nursing will carry out an evaluation of the process and the pilot.

Encourage and inform public and political debate on the drugs problem in our communities



- Citywide produced an election manifesto document and key questions for candidates were circulated to all networks and also to politicians prior to GE 2020:
https://www.citywide.ie/assets/files/pdf/ge_2020_cw_manifesto.pdf?issuysl=ignore



- In March we circulated all TDS in the 33rd Dáil with a briefing document:
https://www.citywide.ie/assets/files/pdf/33rd_dail_briefing_for_tds_from_citywide.pdf?issuysl=ignore
- PQs and Dáil debates relevant to the Drugs issue have been collated and circulated to our networks. PQs and debates for the remainder of the year will be circulated in Jan 2021

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

EU Civil Society Forum

The annual meeting of the 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.

			Citywide Profit & Loss	Jan - Dec 2020
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
		1170 · Drugs Programmes Unit		209,180.00
		1198 · IHREC Grant 2019		7,160.00
Total Income				216,340.00
Expense				
3940 · Admin Wages				
		376 Managers Salary		44,579.55
		377 · Managers Employers PRSI		4,922.43
		382 · Co-ordinator 1 Salary		16,695.77
		383 · Co-ordinator 1 Employers PRSI		1,467.82
		3961 · Co-ordinator 2 Salary		58,880.68
		3962 · Co-ordinator 2 Employers PRSI		6,501.56
		3970 · Book keeper Salary		6,555.01
		3971 · Book keeper Employers PRSI		576.30
Total 3940 · Admin Wages				140,179.12
3950 · Overheads & Administration				
		4003 · Rent		18,000.00
		4004 · Office Supplies + Moving Costs		
		4005 · Postage & Delivery		32.00
		4004 · Office Supplies		852.72
Total 4004 · Office Supplies				884.72
		4007 · Telephone & Mobile		1,748.89
		4008 · Light & Heat		2,037.64
		4009 · Insurance		1,465.00
		4010 · Bank Service Charges		308.70
		4011 · Audit/Accountancy/Legal Fees		2,583.00
		4013 · IT Expenses		8,159.78
		4055 · Sundry		
		4014 · Sundry Expenses		125.78
		4017 · Canteen		35.55
		4055 · Sundry - Other		893.00
Total 4055 · Sundry				1,054.33
Total 3950 · Overheads & Administration				36,242.06
4090 · Depreciation				
		4091 · Depreciation Computers		716.81
		4092 · Depreciation Equipment		88.93
Total 4090 · Depreciation				805.74
5000 · Project Payments				
		Community Crime Impact Assessment		2,314.00
		4053 · Networking		8,195.31
		5012 · Intimidation Seminar		2,000.00
		5013 · Anti Stigma Training		19,670.00

			5016 - New Comm/BEM Follow up seminar	300.00
			5017 - Anti-stigma Evaluation	5,000.00
			5018 - BEM Peer-led Research	2,500.00
			5019 - Women drug trade research assistant	1,000.00
			5021 - Film - Drug Projects Showcase 25 Years	5,000.00
			Total 5000 - Project Payments	45,979.31
			Total Expense	223,206.23
			Net Ordinary Income	-6,866.23
			Profit for the Year	-6,866.23

Citywide Balance Sheet				2020
ASSETS				
Fixed Assets				
6730 - Computer Equipment				
			6731 - Computer Dep To Date	-18,931.79
			6730 - Computer Equipment - Other	21,799.05
			Total 6730 - Computer Equipment	2,867.26
			6732 - Office Equipment	3,970.64
			6733 - Office Equip Dep. To Date	-3,970.64
			Total Fixed Assets	2,867.26
Current Assets				
Other Current Assets				
			6693 - Wages Prepaid	-3.00
			Total Other Current Assets	-3.00
Cash at bank and in hand				
			6681 - Current Account 99/00	28,358.81
			6684 - VISA Card	-219.76
			Total Cash at bank and in hand	28,139.05
			Total Current Assets	28,136.05
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
			2100 - Payroll Liabilities	3,251.59
			8886 - DSP RE REDUNDANCY	12,000.00
			8889 - HSE NDRIC Surf Fund	798.41
			Total Current Liabilities	16,050.00
			NET CURRENT ASSETS	12,086.05
			TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	14,953.31
			NET ASSETS	14,953.31
Capital and Reserves				
			3000 - Opening Bal Equity	5,204.52
			3800 - Retained Earnings	9,748.79
			Shareholder funds	14,953.31