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CITYWIDE DRUGS CRISIS CAMPAIGN

A DECADE OF ACHIEVEMENT
REVIEW OF WORK CARRIED OUT BETWEEN 1995-2005
AND CONSIDERATIONS OF FUTURE PLANS AND PRIORITIES



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STEPHEN ROURKE
APRIL 2005

CHAIRPERSONS INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Board of Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign, we are delighted to present this review of work carried out between 1995 and 2005. From the very first meeting that took place in 1995, the work of Citywide has been made possible by the active involvement and participation of a great number of people from communities from right across Dublin, initially, and communities from right across the country, in more recent years. You are the people who made the drugs crisis a major public issue in 1995, the people who have been working tirelessly since then to improve the situation in your own local communities, the people who have developed services to meet the needs of people in your communities who are using drugs and their families.

On behalf of Citywide, we would like to congratulate you all on your huge contribution to the work during the last ten years and wish you all the very best with your work into the future. We would also like to acknowledge the significant contribution made by the individuals in government departments and state agencies who have shown a commitment to working in partnership with local communities and thank them for their support.

While this review sets out the experience of the last ten years, its most important role is in pointing towards the future. In 2005, it is still as important as it was in 1995 that the drugs crisis is considered as a major priority issue for Government. We want to take this opportunity to call on the Government, all political parties, government departments and state agencies to publicly restate their commitment and continued support for the community-led partnership approach to the drugs crisis that has been in place since 1996. This is essential if we are to make further progress in tackling the drugs crisis that continues to devastate our communities.

We would like to pay tribute to the staff of Citywide for their hard work, commitment and dedication to making the work happen. We would also like to thank the Board members of Citywide for giving so generously of their time and expertise and for their support through the years. Finally we would like to acknowledge our ongoing appreciation to our core funders without which the work could not happen - the Community Development Support Programme in the Dept. of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Family Support Agency. We would also like to thank the Drugs Strategy Unit in DCRGA for their ongoing support of specific events and publications.

Susan Collins
Eddie Glackin
Joint Chairpersons, Citywide
May 2005

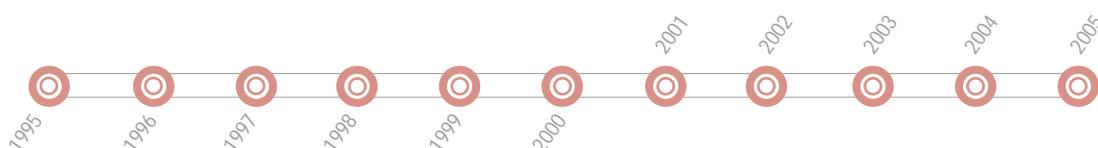
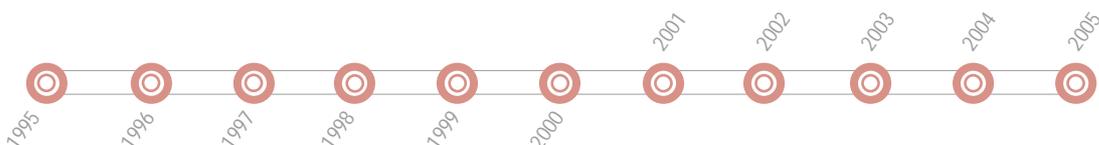


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Activists claim Government failing to honour £20m spending pledge

Campaign to challenge drugs decision

Coroner expresses concern at heroin problem

Anti-drug protesters highlight their cause

FAMILIES JOIN UP TO FIGHT DRUG USE

Funds are secure for local anti-drug group

Pressure intensifies

Drug groups get funding for new premises

State asked to do more to fight drugs

Group calls for national agency to fight drugs

Government's responses piecemeal and disjointed

Massive drug 'explosion'

DRUG centre workers have warned that Dublin

Education key in fight on heroin



TDs TOLD PUT DRUGS BACK IN SPOTLIGHT



New regulations to control methadone welcomed but some drug users suffer

A new addiction treatment system has introduced strict

HEROIN LESSONS NOT LEARNED IN COCAINE WAR

Pressure intensifies on Govt over £20m drug-fight money

activists to hold mass meeting to highlight problem drug use

Job scheme set up for former addicts

Drugs centres to double in Dublin

Marchers call for end to ignorance of drugs crisis

Coroner expresses concern at heroin problem

Appeal for support services as drug use spreads

State asked to do more to fight drugs

Heroin habit on increase outside of Dublin

HOW OUR WAR ON DRUGS CAN BE WON

For first time a national strategy is in place - clear goals set, says Minister

HEROIN KILLS NINE

Cut-price cocaine fear for city areas hit by heroin

By JOHN HUGHES
 Hughes said "Oxycotin habit" was rampant because of 300 prescriptions 1999 in the number of people drinking and abusing heroin in the area.
 He added: "The police are doing their best to tackle this very serious problem in our society and there is a real fear that if this issue is not resolved we will see a real crisis."
 Mr Hughes said police had tried

to reduce the trafficking network and disrupt the supply chain. Mr Hughes said the Coroner's case was based on the evidence of an officer who was part of the Galtee team.
 Shelbourne junior Harry Gibson said Mr Hughes criticised the charges and argued he was even a Mullinsman on the day in question.
 It was Mr Gibson's case there were deficiencies in the police evidence against him.
 Mr Justice Keane refused to



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND TO REVIEW

Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign (hereafter called Citywide) was set up in 1995 as a community based response to the ever worsening drugs crisis in the Dublin area. In 1995 there was a clear identification of the urgent need to establish some type of effective and coherent response to the drugs issue, a response which would serve to bring together a large number of community activists who were involved in tackling the drugs crisis within their own areas.

In the period from 1995 to 2005, Citywide has continued to provide opportunities and mechanisms for community activists to come together in order to discuss and progress issues and concerns relating to the drugs crisis, a crisis which has not gone away or disappeared in the 10 years of Citywide's existence. In addition to creating opportunities for local communities to come together around the drugs crisis, Citywide has also become involved in a range of other activities and initiatives. These include outreach community development work with community drug projects; supporting community representatives on Local Drugs Task Forces; supporting the establishment of family support groups and the national Family Support Network; lobbying and campaigning on a range of issues relating to the drugs crisis.

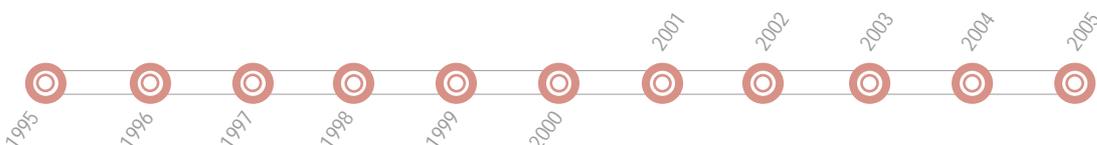
It is considered that Citywide has achieved a significant amount since its establishment in 1995 and has provided advice, guidance and support to hundreds of local people who are involved in tackling the drugs crisis within their own communities. On the basis of the work which has taken place between 1995 and 2005, the management and staff considered it to be useful and necessary to carry out a review of Citywide's activities during this 10 year period.

This review would be used to celebrate the achievements of Citywide and the work of local communities and community activists in developing a co-ordinated community based response to the drugs crisis. The outcomes from the review would also serve to inform and to influence the future priorities and focuses for Citywide over the next 3 – 5 year period.

1.2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the review of the work of Citywide between 1995 and 2005 were as follows:

- To detail the activities of Citywide since 1995 and to assess its effectiveness in meeting the organisation's main objectives
- To consider the ways in which Citywide has impacted upon the capacity of local communities to respond effectively to the drugs issue within their communities
- To consider the roles and functions of Citywide and the ways in which Citywide relates to, and interacts with, other groups and organisations which are involved in the drugs area
- To analyse the changing drugs environment since 1997 and, in particular, the involvement of local communities in strategies, initiatives and projects aimed at tackling the drugs crisis at the local level
- To consider the ways in which Citywide might continue to make an effective contribution to the struggle against drugs over the next 3 – 5 year period
- To make recommendations relating to the ongoing growth and development of Citywide.



1.3 METHODOLOGY

The review of the work of Citywide took place between October 2003 and April 2005. The review involved the following actions:

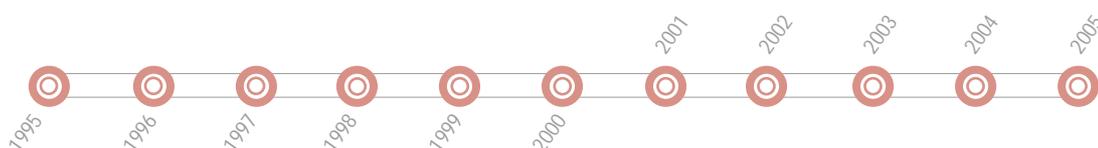
- Interviews with members of the Citywide Board of Management
- Interviews with Citywide staff
- Meetings with community representatives from Local Drugs Task Forces
- Interviews with members of National Drugs Strategy Team
- Interviews with people involved in other support and advisory organisations e.g. National Advisory Committee on Drugs
- Interviews with workers employed by community drug projects
- Analysis of documents and reports which have been produced by Citywide
- Analysis of statistical information relating to the levels, extent and nature of drug use/misuse
- Analysis of other relevant information which has been produced in relation to the drugs issue.

A total of 68 people have been consulted during the course of the review of Citywide.

An interim review report was presented to the Board of Management and staff of Citywide in June 2004. The interim report formed the basis for a half day facilitated meeting of the Board and staff; and the outcomes from this meeting helped to inform and to shape the conclusions and recommendations contained within the final review report.

1.4 STRUCTURE OF FINAL REPORT

This introductory section of the report will be followed by a description of the development of Citywide between 1995 and 2005 (Section 2) and of the main focuses of Citywide's work in this 10 year period (Section 3). Section 4 will analyse the impact of Citywide in relation to the drugs crisis and Section 5 of the report will consider the key challenges and issues which still need to be addressed by Citywide and by other agencies and organisations which are working in the drugs area. The final section of the report (Section 6) will make a number of recommendations concerning the ongoing development of Citywide over the next 3 – 5 years.



2. CITYWIDE – THE STORY SO FAR

2.1 ORIGINS

Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign was formed in response to the very serious and very dangerous drugs problem which existed in Dublin in the 1990s, a problem which has persisted until the current day. In the 1990s the drugs crisis was characterised by large numbers of drugs related deaths (especially amongst young people), by open and visible drug dealing, by the absence of treatment and rehabilitation services for drug users and by entire communities being ravaged and destroyed by the drugs problem.

At the time when Citywide was formed in 1995, there was an inadequate and ineffective response to the drugs crisis from relevant statutory agencies – from An Garda Síochána, from local authorities, from Health Boards. In this context local communities and community activists were left with no option but to become more directly involved in tackling the drugs crisis. These community interventions, in those parts of Dublin most affected by the drugs crisis, included forcing drug dealers out of local communities and the organisation of community meetings to decide upon the most effective ways to tackle the drugs problem.

Citywide emerged from a mass meeting of community activists and other local residents which took place in Liberty Hall in 1995. At this meeting, organised by the Inner City Organisations Network (ICON), participants clearly identified the need to set up some type of structure or forum which would enable individuals and groups to come together on a regular basis to progress a whole range of issues and proposals relating to the drugs issue; and to put pressure on relevant statutory agencies to deliver practical and effective responses to the severe drugs crisis which was destroying the lives of so many people and so many families within particular communities in Dublin.

At the time of the establishment of Citywide, community activists and other local residents were also acutely aware of the fact that the drugs crisis in Dublin really began in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The re-emergence of the crisis in the 1990s was a reflection of the failure to put in place adequate supports, services and facilities during the time of the earlier drugs crisis in the late 1970s/early 1980s. In this context, those people involved in the establishment of Citywide in 1995 were anxious to ensure that the responses to the drug crisis this time around were substantial, meaningful, targeted and co-ordinated. Citywide was one of the mechanisms through which this coherent, collective and co-ordinated response could be achieved.



2.2 DRUGS CRISIS AND CITYWIDE – KEY DEVELOPMENTS 1995 – 2005

The next section of this report will outline the main work areas and main activities of Citywide between 1995 and 2005. Prior to examining these work areas in some detail it is considered useful to map out some of the key developments which have taken place around the drugs crisis and around the evolution of Citywide during the last 10 year period.

1995

DRUGS CRISIS

- Levels and extent of drug taking and drug dealing reach crisis proportions

CITYWIDE

- Inner City Organisations Network organise meeting in Liberty Hall
- Citywide Drug Crisis Campaign set up to bring local communities together to campaign for the policies and resources needed to tackle the drugs crisis
- Formation of Steering Committee by Citywide

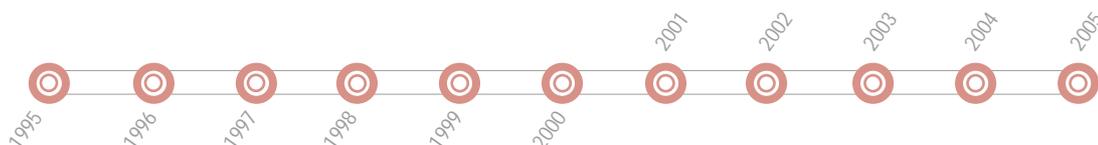
1996

DRUGS CRISIS

- Street campaigns are organised on the houses of drug dealers and on political institutions
- The murder of Veronica Guerin leads to a greater political focus on the drugs problem
- Enactment of Proceeds of Crime Act which formed the basis for establishment of Criminal Assets Bureau
- Production of first report of Ministerial Task Force to Reduce the Demand for Drugs in October 1996

CITYWIDE

- Citywide organise two conferences in early 1996 in order to put together policies around the three strands of health/treatment, justice/supply and prevention/education
- Citywide produces its first comprehensive policy document – ‘Responding Together’ – in May 1996



1997

DRUGS CRISIS

- Establishment of Local Drugs Task Forces – 12 in Dublin and 1 in Cork
- Production of second report of the Ministerial Task Force to Reduce the Demand for Drugs
- Enactment of Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act aimed at curbing anti-social behaviour, including drug dealing, within local authority estates and flats complexes
- Establishment of Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund
- Drugs features as a key issue in manifestos of political parties contesting General Election

CITYWIDE

- Organisation of campaign to ensure that budgets for Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund are not cut
- Citywide facilitated first meeting of local Drugs Task Forces community representatives
- Citywide is recognised as a Support Agency within the Community Development Programme in order to develop the capacity of local communities to tackle the drugs problem
- Employment of a Co-ordinator and three other full-time workers – funded through Community Development Programme
- Establishment of management group (previously Steering Committee) to guide and direct the work of Citywide
- Citywide is constituted as a Limited Company

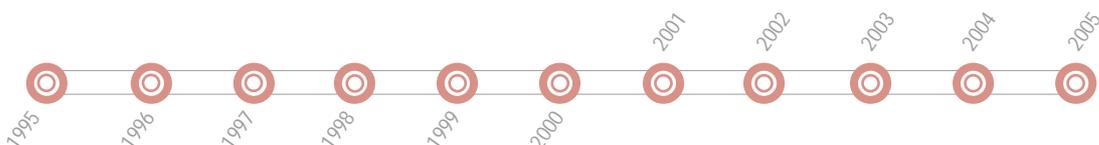
1998

DRUGS CRISIS

- Introduction of methadone protocol by Department of Health
- Drugs crisis continues – figures produced by Merchants Quay Project demonstrate that 20 new people each week are presenting themselves for support, advice and treatment
- Government approves funding and support to Local Drugs Task Forces for a further two years

CITYWIDE

- Full staff team in place – co-ordinator, four outreach workers and administrator
- Organisation of seminars on community policing and on treatment
- Drugs Education/Prevention Charter
- Citywide facilitates a group of community representatives to make presentation to the Public Affairs Committee of the Houses of the Oireachtas



1999

DRUGS CRISIS

- Numbers in treatment rise from 1,861 in 1996 to 3,675 in 1999
- Number of opiate users in Dublin is estimated at 13,640 (in research produced by Dr. Catherine Comiskey)
- Evaluation of drugs projects and mainstreaming of a large number of projects being supported by Local Drugs Task Forces
- Production of report from Drug Court Planning Committee – this leads to establishment of pilot Drug Court
- Establishment of Community Policing Forum in North Inner City

CITYWIDE

- Production of second comprehensive policy document, 'Responding Together : The Crisis Continues'
- Establishment of Best Practice Working Group with Eastern Health Board
- Organisation of seminar on family support which was jointly hosted with Community Response

2000

DRUGS CRISIS

- Allocation of €15 million to Local Drugs Task Forces for period covering 2000 and 2001

CITYWIDE

- First Service of Commemoration and Hope held in Sean McDermott Street church on 1st February 2000. This service was organised by Citywide and by family support groups from across Dublin
- Establishment of Citywide Family Support Network
- Submissions to the review of the National Drugs Strategy
- Citywide organise two meetings for community representatives from outside of Dublin in order to explore networking options and the support needs of communities outside Dublin being affected by drugs



2001

DRUGS CRISIS

- Production of Government drug strategy document entitled 'Building on Experience, 2001 – 2008'. This strategy sets out 100 specific actions around the four pillars of supply reduction, prevention, treatment and research
- Announcement of establishment of Regional Drugs Task Forces
- Establishment of Community Policing Forum in the South Inner City/Rialto/Inchicore area

CITYWIDE

- Citywide organise a conference to consider the role of local communities in the implementation of actions within the 2001 – 2008 National Drugs Strategy
- Provision of information to Community Development Projects about Regional Drugs Task Forces
- Ongoing development of Family Support Network and launch of joint report with Community Response Family Project

2002

DRUGS CRISIS

- Delays in the delivery of plans produced by Local Drugs Task Forces and through the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund
- Delays in implementation of actions within National Drugs Strategy
- Growing concerns about the prevalence and use of cocaine within local communities
- Drugs does not feature as a key issue in the General Election

CITYWIDE

- Production of third comprehensive policy document, 'Responding Together : The Campaign Goes On'
- Organisation of Family Support Network annual conference in April 2002
- Organisation of march in June 2002 to highlight the need for the drugs issue to be given a higher political priority
- Training sessions for community representatives on Local Drugs Task Force
- Organisation of meeting for community groups across Dublin in relation to cocaine use



2003

DRUGS CRISIS

- Serious concerns about extent to which many actions within the National Drugs Strategy are likely to be implemented in an effective manner within the agreed timescale

CITYWIDE

- Organisation of cocaine awareness seminar
- Organisation of major meeting in September 2003 to consider the ongoing drugs crisis in local communities
- Survey of community drugs projects carried out to determine the extent of cocaine use in local communities
- Organisation of two national seminars for community representatives on Regional Drugs Task Forces

2004

DRUGS CRISIS

- Establishment of Mid Term Review of National Drugs Strategy

CITYWIDE

- Facilitation of submissions to the review of National Drugs Strategy from community representatives on Local Drugs Task Forces
- Participation in cocaine sub-committee set up by Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
- Collection of information from political parties about their strategies and plans in relation to drugs issue
- Production and launch of Family Support Resource Pack



2.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Since its emergence as a campaigning organisation in 1995, Citywide has developed and refined its aims and objectives, both as a campaigning group (based on the trilogy of 'Responding Together' policy documents) and as a Support Agency for local communities and Community Development Projects (in relation to the drugs problem within local areas). The aims of Citywide, which have remained fairly consistent since 1997, are as follows:

- To respond to the present problem of drugs in the Dublin area in a proactive manner
- To develop the capacity of communities in designated areas of Dublin to respond to the drugs problem in their area
- To encourage an inter-agency response to the drug problem, including government departments and agencies, trade unions, community and voluntary bodies and other relevant agencies

In addition to these broad aims, Citywide has also drawn up a number of objectives in relation to its role as Support Agency within the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs' Community Development Programme. These objectives are as follows:

- To provide ongoing support, facilitation and networking to local groups working on the drugs issue, either in areas already linked to Citywide or other areas where communities may not be as well organised
- To provide assistance to local communities in developing a cohesive response to the Local Drugs Task Forces
- To promote models of good practice in community development and identify the issues for community development arising from this work.

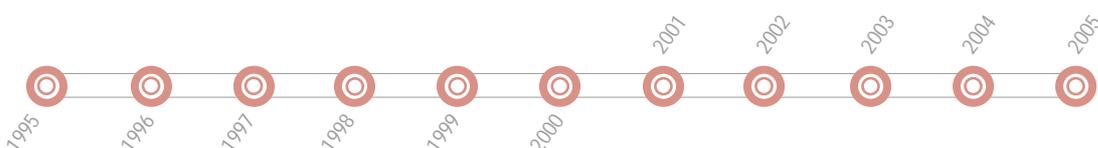
The ways in which Citywide has striven to achieve its stated aims and objectives will be considered in Section 3 of this review document.

2.4 ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF CITYWIDE

The Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign was set up in 1995 as a broad-based network of community groups, voluntary organisations and trade unions to bring together people from across Dublin to support each other, to share experiences and to identify issues of common concern in relation to the drugs crisis. At the start, people involved in Citywide did not know how long the campaign would last for or if there was a need to secure long-term funding to maintain and develop Citywide.

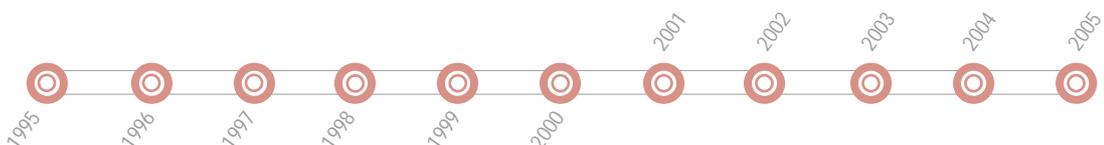
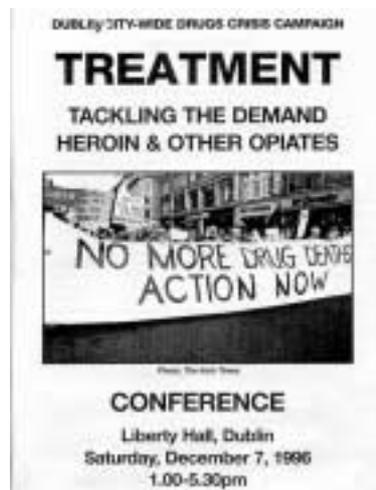
During the course of 1996 and 1997, it became more apparent that the community based struggle against drugs was going to be a long-term and protracted campaign. It was also evident that local community drug projects and Local Drugs Task Forces were going to be given a particularly prominent role in the development of locally based drugs strategies. It was considered that local residents involved in these projects and structures would require certain levels of training and support and that Citywide could evolve into an organisation which might provide this training and support (whilst also being actively involved in the campaigning work which provided the initial impetus for the establishment of Citywide).

Since 1997, Citywide has played an important role both as a campaigning organisation and as a Support Agency within the Community Development Programme of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Citywide receives its core funding through the Community Development Programme and this enables Citywide to employ a co-ordinator, a team leader, outreach community development workers and an administrator.



In making the transition from a loose network to an organisation which receives public money and has responsibility for employing staff, Citywide has also put in place appropriate organisational structures. These include the registration of Citywide as a Company Limited by Guarantee and the selection of a Board of Management (many of whom are also Directors of the Limited Company) to replace the original Steering Committee.

Whilst recognising the necessity of the organisational changes which have taken place, it is also important to note the fact that Citywide has continued to adopt an inclusive approach (through trying to involve as many relevant people/groups as possible in its work) and that the current membership of the Board of Management has tripartite representation from the community sector, the voluntary sector and the trade union movement, on behalf of ICTU, SIPTU and DCTU (the same type of representation as the original Steering Committee back in 1995).



3. KEY FOCUSES AND WORK AREAS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

In its first 10 years in existence Citywide has had a particular focus on a number of key work areas. These work areas, which have been prioritised and progressed by Citywide between 1995 and 2005, are as follows:

- Outreach community development work
- Development of family support groups and the Family Support Network
- Facilitating the participation of community representatives on Drugs Task Force
- Promoting the role of community development within (the) context of drugs prevention strategies
- Campaigning for the implementation of effective drug strategies
- Development of linkages with key sectoral groups

This section of the review document will consider the ways in which each of these key areas have developed and evolved between 1995 and 2005; and the extent to which proposed actions within each of the work areas have been effectively progressed and/or implemented.

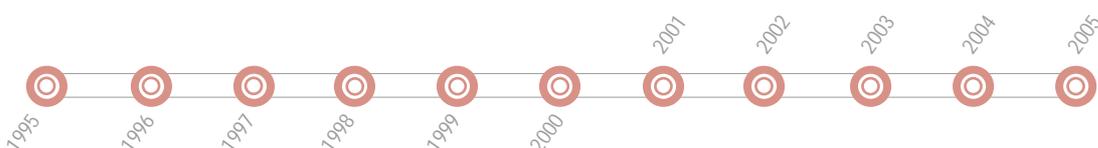
3.2 OUTREACH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORK

Citywide has provided developmental support, advice and training to over 70 community based groups and organisations in the period from 1997 to 2005. This support and training service is primarily delivered through the outreach community development workers employed by Citywide. Over the last eight year period Citywide has worked with local groups and projects in each of the Local Drugs Task Force areas in the Greater Dublin area. The primary focus of this work has been the development of plans and actions to tackle the drugs crisis within local communities.

The nature of the support provided by Citywide has been largely determined by the particular needs of local groups/projects. Citywide has not adopted a proscriptive one-size-fits-all approach. Rather, it has tried to provide individual responses to the needs of individual groups and projects. Assistance provided by Citywide has included helping groups to clarify aims and objectives; facilitating groups to construct work plans and work programmes; enabling groups/projects to set up appropriate management and staffing structures.

In the period from 1997 to 2005 there has been a noticeable shift in the types of supports and services provided by Citywide to local groups and projects. Whilst the emphasis of this work for the first few years was upon assisting groups/projects in the start-up phase (e.g. forming management committees, agreeing aims and objectives etc.), there has been a transition in recent years to carrying out review and evaluation work with local groups and projects – they have been in existence for a number of years and have requested the assistance of Citywide to review what they have achieved and perhaps to plan ahead for the next period of time.

The feedback from groups and projects consulted during the review of Citywide has been extremely positive about this aspect of Citywide's work. There is a clear sense that Citywide staff have an understanding about community development and an understanding about drugs related issues – this combination of skills and experiences places Citywide in a particularly strong position to provide support, advice and guidance to community based drug projects.



Local groups and projects also respect and appreciate the open-mindedness and flexibility of the Citywide approach to developmental issues, with the pace and length of any support/training intervention by Citywide being clearly informed by the situation and circumstances of the local group or project. Therefore, in some instances a one-off two hour facilitated meeting might suffice to meet a particular need whilst in other instances local groups/projects might request that Citywide work with them over a number of sessions (e.g. to formulate a detailed work programme).

It is considered important that Citywide should continue to maintain its outreach community development work. This is a valuable support and service to local groups and projects who otherwise would have some difficulty in accessing people with significant skills in both community development and drugs issues and might not have the resources to pay for the assistance which is required (Citywide does not charge for its services). Citywide has helped to build up the capacity of local communities which have been ravaged by unemployment, educational disadvantage, lack of investment and drug addiction; and has been a particular source of advice and guidance about drugs related issues to Community Development Projects within these communities.

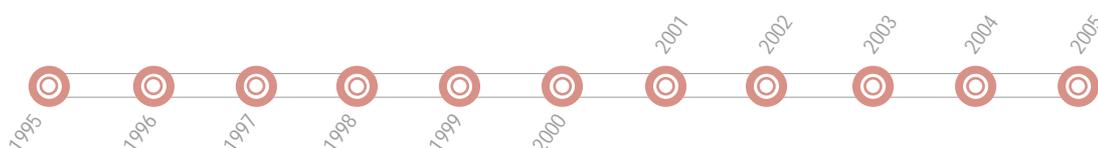
The extent to which Citywide continues to provide developmental support and assistance to local groups and projects will be largely determined by the resources available to Citywide. Support and training is delivered directly by Citywide staff and there are only so many groups/projects with whom staff members can work at any one time. In this type of situation where demand might exceed supply (i.e. not enough staff to meet the requests of local groups/projects) Citywide should give some consideration to the production of training and resource materials which can be utilised by drug projects (around issues like producing a three year work plan focused on the drugs issues and good practice guidelines for community drug projects).

3.3 FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS AND FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

The family support aspect of Citywide's work has evolved from the outreach community development activities of Citywide in the late 1990s. These activities and the contacts established with local communities around Dublin clearly indicated the desire of people affected by drugs to come together with other people who have been affected by the drugs crisis – this especially applied to family members who have been bereaved through drugs. Family support groups are often key structures in the early stages of community development work within local areas, providing the first opportunity for those affected by drugs to come together and to begin addressing the issues that are impacting upon themselves and their communities.

Citywide has played a very significant role in the establishment and development of family support groups over the last eight year period (since it began to employ staff in 1997). This role has involved providing information and advice to parents and other family members who are interested in setting up a family support group within their own area. It involves many of the same components as the outreach community development work e.g. assisting groups to draw up aims and objectives, providing guidance about ways in which groups might structure and organise their activities, assistance in producing plans and funding proposals.

In the period from 1998 to 2005, Citywide has facilitated and supported the establishment of over 40 family support groups. Whilst the initial focus of the family support work was on the Greater Dublin area, Citywide has subsequently provided advice, information and guidance to emerging family support groups throughout the island of Ireland.



Citywide has also created opportunities for the family support groups to network and to discuss issues of common interest and concern. At an early stage, the need for solidarity and mutual support was identified as a clear priority for family support groups whose members had been affected by the drugs crisis.

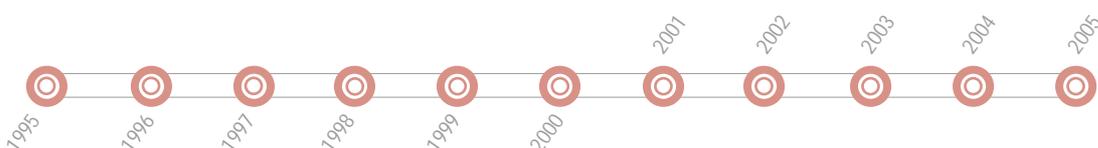
One of the clearest and most poignant ways in which the family support groups expressed their commitment to solidarity and to remembering their loved ones is through the annual Service of Commemoration and Hope which takes place each year in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Sean McDermott Street. The first Service of Commemoration and Hope took place in February 2000 and was attended by approximately 1,000 people. Subsequent annual Services, organised by Citywide and the Citywide Family Support Network, have also attracted full attendances and are a high profile reminder of the devastation which has been caused, and still continues to be caused, by the drugs crisis.

The initial Service of Commemoration and Hope in 2000 encouraged local family support groups to consider ways in which they might come together on a more structured and more regular basis – there was clearly an enormous amount which they could learn from each others experiences. It was decided to set up a Family Support Network and this network held its first conference in Dundalk in April 2002 (a conference attended by over 200 people).

The Family Support Network has played a strong role in helping to set up new family support groups; in producing a resource pack for local groups; in organising the Services of Commemoration and Hope; and in organising the annual general meetings of the Family Support Network. There are currently about 70 family support groups affiliated to the Family Support Network. Citywide provides the network with virtually all of its administrative and staffing support.

The emergence and development of the family support groups and the Family Support Network have contributed greatly to the supports and services available to people who have been bereaved and affected in other ways by the drugs crisis. Comments by these people would suggest that they had felt very isolated and very alone and that participation in family support groups was a huge boost for them, as it gave them the opportunity to talk about things with other people who had gone through similar emotional and personal experiences. It is also evident that in many situations participation in family support groups was a catalyst and a springboard for new leadership to emerge in communities which have been most affected by the drugs crisis.

It is considered important that Citywide should continue to facilitate and to enable the growth and development of family support groups and the Family Support Network. There is a natural and organic link between the overall aims of Citywide (relating to the promotion of a community development approach to the drugs crisis) and its work in helping to set up and establish family support groups. These family support groups have the potential to spawn community development activities within local communities and to create opportunities for potential community leaders. Family support work is an essential element within the Citywide genepool and should remain a priority work area for Citywide over the next 3 – 5 year period.



3.4 PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ON DRUGS TASK FORCES

The 13 Local Drugs Task Forces (12 in Dublin, 1 in Cork) were set up in 1997 as a direct response to one of the key recommendations in the first report of the Ministerial Task Force on Measures to Reduce the Supply of Drugs. The Bray LDTF was set up a couple of years later. The membership of the Drugs Task Forces included a significant representation from the community sector in each of the designated areas. At an early stage, in 1997, a number of community representatives asked Citywide to facilitate a meeting of community representatives from all of the Drugs Task Force areas. This meeting led to a more significant and structured relationship between Citywide and community representatives from Local Drug Task Forces, a relationship which has been a constant element in Citywide's work over the last eight year period.

Through its work with community representatives, Citywide has provided a forum where they can support each other and exchange information and experiences; where they identify issues of common concern and progress ideas around these issues; and where they can identify their own training and support needs (and have these needs met through training events organised by Citywide).

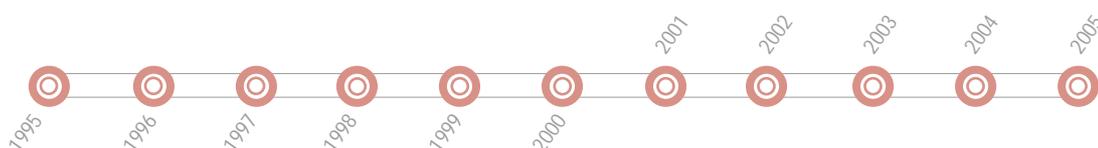
In relation to its support for community representatives, the role of Citywide has evolved over the years and now involves two main strategies or approaches: general meetings of community representatives from all of the Drugs Task Force areas and training/support events aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of community representatives. Citywide convened and organised over 30 meetings of the community representatives from Local Drugs Task Forces in the period from 1997 to 2005.

In addition to the ways in which individual community representatives have benefited through their participation in events and activities organised by Citywide, it is also evident that the community representatives network has also been a very useful and important mechanism for enabling those at the community level to input into policy discussions and consultations which are taking place at the national and regional levels. The community representatives network convened by Citywide is the only community based forum which straddles all of the Local Drugs Task Forces and is uniquely positioned to pull together and to present the collective concerns of those communities which have been most affected by the drugs crisis.

Citywide has facilitated the community representatives network to contribute to significant policy discussions (e.g. it has organised collective meetings around the review of the National Drugs Strategy) and to meet with key decision makers (e.g. Government Ministers, senior civil servants) in relation to particular policy issues.

It is evident that the meetings of community representatives on Local Drugs Task Forces which have been convened and organised by Citywide between 1997 and 2005 have been a significant source of support, advice and information to the community representatives who have attended these meetings. Many of the community representatives consulted during the course of the review of Citywide have stated that the collective meetings of community representatives are often the most important and most effective ways of receiving information and updates about issues relating to community and local development (e.g. new funding programmes) and to the drugs crisis (e.g. the nature and extent of the cocaine problem).

In addition, Citywide provides the type of access to key decision makers and policy makers which is much more difficult to negotiate for locally based community representatives who are often working in relative isolation and do not have the links into Government Ministers and senior civil servants. It should also be noted that, in all of Citywide's work in relation to LDTFs, the community representative on the NDST, Fergus McCabe, has been an ongoing and invaluable source of information, expertise and support.



It is important that Citywide continues to support the participation of community representatives on Local Drugs Task Forces. In addition to organising general meetings of community representatives Citywide should also keep exploring training needs and training opportunities and ways in which community representatives can learn new skills, upgrade existing skills and acquire new knowledge.

Community representatives on the Local Drugs Task Forces are an essential element in the overall community drugs infrastructure in Ireland and Citywide can play a key role in providing support, in organising training and information sessions, in facilitating the production of policy documents from the community representatives and in helping to ensure that community representatives do not get too disillusioned or burnt out by some of the difficulties in implementing the National Drugs Strategy at the local level (e.g. in relation to issues like reducing the supply of drugs, the provision of ongoing mainstream funding for community drugs projects, the lack of drug rehabilitation services and programmes within many communities).

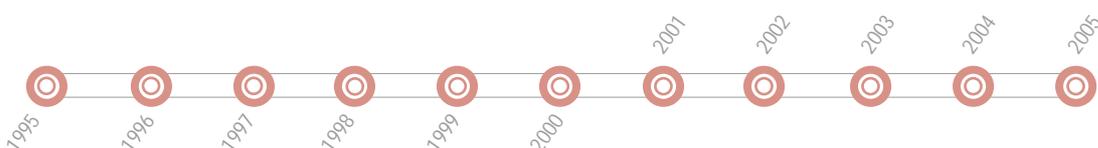
3.5 PROMOTING ROLE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WITHIN PREVENTIVE DRUGS STRATEGIES

Citywide believes that tackling problems relative to poverty, social exclusion and socio-economic disadvantage is the most effective antidote and preventive strategy in tackling drug misuse within local communities. It is no coincidence that the areas most affected by the drugs crisis are the same areas that are characterised by relatively high levels of unemployment and educational disadvantage, by low income families and by limited access to the type of life opportunities which are available to people living in more affluent areas. In this context, Citywide has clearly identified the need to tackle poverty and disadvantage as an integral aspect of its core work around the issue of drugs and especially around preventive drugs strategies.

Since its recognition as a Support Agency within the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Community Development Programme in 1997, Citywide has been working closely within individual Community Development Projects, other Support Agencies and relevant national organisations like the Combat Poverty Agency. A key aspect of this work has been in trying to get a clearer perspective on the role of Community Development Projects and other community organisations in the development of preventive drugs strategies at the local level. Discussions around these issues have resulted in a range of conclusions and recommendations around the role of community development within the overall drugs issue; and Citywide has ensured that these conclusions and recommendations have been fed into national policy forums and national drugs strategies.

In working from community development principles, Citywide has also tried to ensure that it is representative of the views of local communities in relation to the national committees in which it has been involved. Therefore, Citywide has played an important role in bringing a community development perspective to the work of groups such as the National Assessment Committee of the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund and the National Advisory Committee on Drugs.

In addition, Citywide has brought a community dimension and a community development approach to its involvement in more specialised committees like the Drug Court Implementation Committee and the Community Policing Monitoring Committee. As well as the involvement of Government Departments, statutory agencies and other direct service providers on these types of structures, it is considered that the participation of Citywide provides a strong and authentic community input into the work of the aforementioned groups and committees.



Whilst the primary focus of Citywide work has been in the Greater Dublin region, Citywide has also played a role in supporting the development of Regional Drug Task Forces outside of Dublin. The main emphasis of Citywide's activities in relation to these Regional Drugs Task Forces has concerned the support for community representatives. Citywide has used its experiences of working with community representatives from Local Drugs Task Forces as a means of informing discussions and decisions about the most appropriate ways to nominate and to support community representatives on Regional Drugs Task Forces.

Citywide participated in the regional information sessions organised by the Department of Tourism, Sports and Recreation and made submissions to the National Drugs Strategy Team on the most appropriate ways of trying to secure effective community participation on the Regional Drugs Task Forces. Following the establishment of the Regional Drugs Task Forces in 2003, Citywide has provided ongoing support and assistance to community representatives e.g. through organising national meetings for the community representatives from all of the Regional Drugs Task Forces.

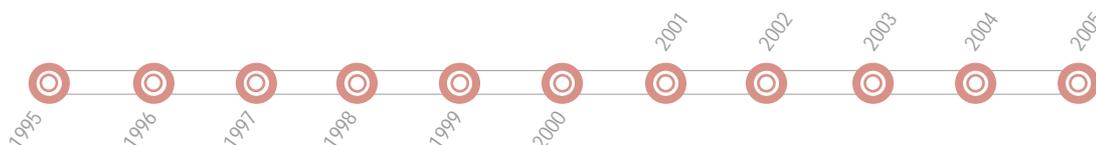
Through its activities both within the Dublin region and at the national level, Citywide has tried to ensure that there is an effective community development contribution into the committees, structures and initiatives in which it is involved. This community development input is considered to be most important and helps to balance the contributions being made by statutory bodies and by other social partners. It is also recognised, however, that the staff resources available to Citywide are extremely limited and that whilst many inter-agency committees and groups could benefit from the participation of Citywide it is necessary for Citywide to be selective about the groups/committees which it is able to join (especially when this involves work outside of the Dublin region).

3.6 CAMPAIGNING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF EFFECTIVE DRUG POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

When Citywide was formed in 1995, it was set up as a campaigning and lobbying movement – a movement of community groups, voluntary organisations and trade unions which was committed to tackling the drugs crisis which was threatening to destroy many communities in the Dublin area. Whilst recognising that Citywide became a Support Agency within the Community Development Programme in 1997 (and assumed responsibility for providing guidance and advice to community sector organisations developing strategies around the drugs issue), Citywide has also maintained a clear and explicit focus in lobbying for positive change in the period from 1995 to 2005.

This campaigning and lobbying role has evolved over the 10 years that Citywide has been in existence. At the outset, the initial public meeting in Liberty Hall in 1995 was followed by the establishment of three working groups – around the three strands of health/treatment, justice/supply and education/prevention. The collective work of these three groups resulted in the production of Citywide's first composite policy document in 1996, entitled 'Responding Together'. This was followed by two subsequent policy documents – 'Responding Together: The Crisis Continues' in 1999 and 'Responding Together: The Campaign Goes On' in 2002.

The three 'Responding Together' policy documents are clearly rooted in the reality of peoples own experiences at the community level and are an insightful and accurate record of the main challenges being faced by local communities living in areas affected by the drugs crisis. It is considered that the collective 'Responding Together' documents which draw on the experiences of community activists and community representatives from across the Dublin area and further afield are extremely strong



campaigning tools; and that they serve to complement the research and analytical work being carried out by statutory agencies and academic institutions around the issue of drugs.

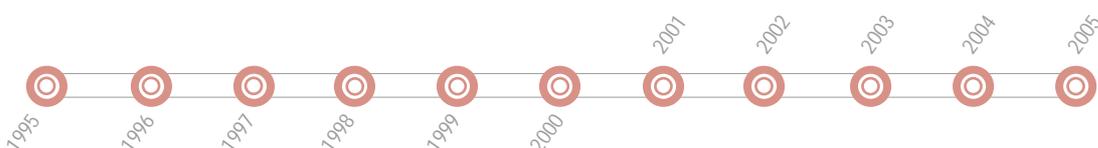
In addition to the production and dissemination of the 'Responding Together' documents, Citywide has also engaged in other campaigning activities that have been useful and effective. These include the successful campaign in 1997 to ensure that the budget for the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund was not reduced; the organisation of a major conference in December 2001, attended by over 200 people, which drew up plans and proposals for the involvement of the community sector in the National Drugs Strategy; creating greater public and political awareness around the cocaine issue; and the political work which has involved Citywide directly questioning political parties and election candidates about how they propose to tackle the drugs crisis.

Much of the campaigning work of Citywide has been informed by the working groups and focus groups which have been set up by Citywide to progress particular issues. These groups include the Education Focus Group, the Prisons Working Group, the Local Labour Inclusion Programme group, the Community Drugs Projects Network, the Community Employment Social Projects Network, the Childcare Working Group.

In addition to these groups which have been set up by Citywide, Citywide has also participated in inter-agency groups set up by statutory bodies e.g. the Eastern Regional Health Authority's working group on Hepatitis C, the Mental Health Commission's sub-committee on Drug Use and Mental Health, the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs' sub-committee on cocaine and working group on street homelessness in Dublin. All of these policy forums have created opportunities for Citywide to highlight and to progress a number of the recommendations within the 'Responding Together' policy documents.

It is considered that Citywide has remained true to the campaigning spirit which was the primary motivation for its establishment in 1995. This campaigning spirit has not been compromised by the fact that it is now in receipt of statutory funding through the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs' Community Development Programme. Citywide utilises a variety of campaigning and lobbying strategies ranging from the more public (e.g. challenging political parties about their commitment to the drugs crisis, creating public awareness about the cocaine issue) to the more discreet (e.g. representation on inter-agency working groups and committees, written and oral submissions to statutory policy forums).

The combination of lobbying techniques has served to ensure that the voices of local communities are being heard when discussions are taking place concerning drugs (e.g. the implementation of the National Drugs Strategy). Citywide has played a lead role in creating the structures and the mechanisms through which people from local communities across Dublin can influence and have an impact upon the policies and priorities of relevant Government Departments and statutory agencies. It is considered that this is a role of Citywide which might be expanded, resourced and developed further over the next number of years.



3.7 DEVELOPMENT OF LINKAGE WITH KEY SECTORAL GROUPS

At an early stage in its development, Citywide identified the clear need to build relations with key and influential sectors within Irish society. It was considered important that sectors like the business community, the churches and other civil society groups had an understanding of the intensity and the depth of the drugs crisis which was afflicting many communities in Ireland. Whilst it was to be expected that the voluntary/community sector and the trade unions would have some awareness of the devastation being caused by the drugs problem (through their day-to-day work and their involvement in the management structures of organisations like Citywide), this awareness often did not extend to other sectors and groupings within Irish society.

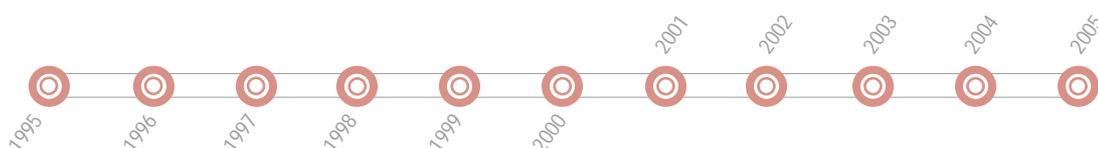
Therefore a key aspect of Citywide's work in the period between 1995 and 2005 has been to increase awareness and understanding of the impact of the drugs crisis on local communities and on families and individuals within these communities. This objective has been progressed in a number of different ways. In relation to the statutory sector, it is considered that the participation of Citywide in working groups, review groups and task groups set up by Government Departments has helped to increase awareness about the drugs issue amongst politicians and public servants. In relation to the business sector, Citywide has developed linkages with IBEC (Irish Business and Employment Confederation) and has participated in a Labour Inclusion Programme with IBEC, the Irish Council of Trade Unions and the Northside Local Employment Service.

In addition to its targeted work with individual sectors, Citywide has also produced more generic information and resource materials which are widely distributed and widely available to a large and diverse range of groups and organisations. These include the information leaflets and newsletters which are produced by Citywide, the policy documents formulated by Citywide, the resource packs compiled by Citywide and the website being designed by Citywide. All of these information and communications tools are intended to increase awareness and understanding about a range of key issues relating to the drugs crisis in Ireland.

In the period from 1995 to 2005, Citywide has accepted a significant number of invitations to make presentations and to participate in discussions at seminars and conferences organised by a large number of different agencies and organisations. As with other aspects of its work, the capacity of Citywide to become involved in conferences and seminars is limited by its staff resources. The experiences between 1995 and 2005 would suggest that Citywide has largely been re-active in responding to requests for inputs and contributions at various conferences and seminars.

Perhaps if it had more staff, Citywide would be in a position to become more pro-active and more strategic about the types of sectors and groups within Irish society with whom it needed to build up relationships and to influence e.g. groups like the gardai, prison officers, staff employed by local authorities and the Health Service Executive, the churches.

It is recognised that the development of public awareness, information and communications strategies often require a significant investment of time and money. It is also recognised that there are other agencies and organisations in Ireland which are involved or who should be involved in raising awareness and providing information about drugs related issues. In this context, it is considered important that rather than becoming involved in some general or universal type of information campaign, Citywide should clearly identify the sectors and the groups with whom it needs to engage – sectors and groups which are in a position of some influence and/or some power. It is suggested that Citywide might identify 4/5 key sectors or groupings within Irish society and put together strategies for working with these sectors/groupings over the next 3-5 year period.



4. ANALYSIS OF IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- Since its establishment in 1995, Citywide has made a significant contribution towards tackling the drugs crisis within the greater Dublin area. Citywide has played a particularly important and crucial role in mobilising and co-ordinating the drugs related work of local communities across Dublin; in ensuring that these communities are provided with opportunities and mechanisms through which they can contribute to the development of policy positions; and in supporting the development of Local Drugs Task Forces (especially community representatives), community drug projects and family support groups
- Citywide is a recognised, respected and influential part of the infrastructure which has developed over the last 10 years in relation to the drugs crisis. When Citywide was established in 1995, there were virtually no supports or services available at the local community level for treatment and rehabilitation of drug users, for drug prevention and education programmes, for actions to reduce the supply of drugs into local communities.

In the period from 1995 to 2005, Citywide has played an important role (together with other agencies and organisations) in campaigning for initiatives which have served to radically improve the responses to the drugs crisis. These initiatives include the establishment of the Local Drugs Task Forces, the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund, the National Advisory Committee on Drugs, the pilot Drug Court, the development of Community Policing Fora.

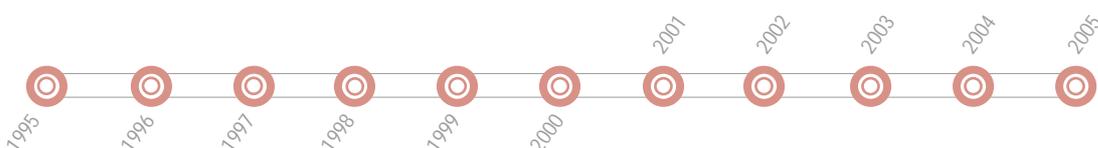
4.2 COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Citywide has provided developmental support and assistance to a large number of community drug projects across the Local Drugs Task Force areas. On the basis of the consultations which have taken place during the review and planning exercise, it is evident that many projects/groups are appreciative of the ways in which Citywide has helped in the formation of their structures/committees, has assisted them to formulate work priorities and work programmes, has carried out review and planning activities, and has been available to help them overcome difficulties or crises which they might be experiencing.

The feedback from these projects/groups would suggest that Citywide has a particularly important set of skills and experiences to bring to the work of local drugs projects/groups – skills/experiences which include a combination of a clear understanding and knowledge of the drugs issue on the one hand and expertise in the areas of community development and facilitation on the other hand.

- Citywide has provided ongoing support and assistance to the community representatives on Local Drugs Task Forces. A large number of these community representatives have stated that they felt isolated and unsupported within the Local Drugs Task Force in which they were involved, that they were unsure of their roles and what they could contribute, that they did not have the same levels of confidence or skills as representatives of statutory agencies.

In this type of context, it is evident that Citywide has played a major role in providing opportunities for community representatives from all of the Local Drugs Task Forces in Dublin to meet together on a regular basis, to discuss issues of common interest and concern, to participate in joint training and educational activities, to become involved in Citywide working groups.



This process has served to break down feelings of isolation and skills/confidence deficits and has empowered community representatives to make more effective and focused contributions to the Local Drugs Task Forces in which they are involved. It is a positive step that Citywide has started to work on the organisation of structured and accredited training programmes for community representatives which would build upon the training activities which have already taken place and which would aim to enhance competencies around issues like community development, facilitation and groupwork skills, understanding and knowledge of drugs related issues.

4.3 FAMILY SUPPORT

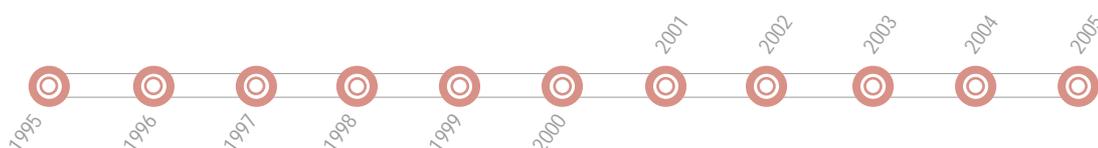
- The development of family support groups, the establishment of the Family Support Network and the organisation of conferences by the Family Support Network represent some of the most impressive outcomes from the work of Citywide since its establishment in 1995. There can be little doubt that the development of family support groups was a positive and important response to the needs of many hundreds of families who have been affected by the drugs crisis.

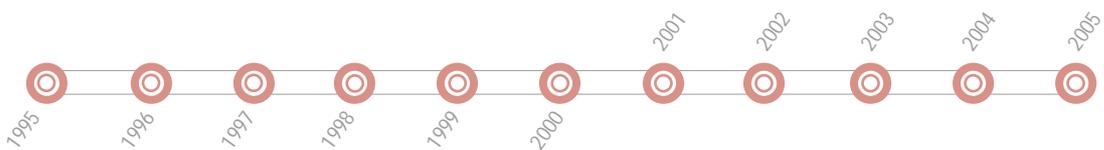
The number of family support groups (i.e. over 70), the number of people involved in these groups (i.e. over 500) and the numbers attending the annual conferences of the Family Support Network (i.e. over 200) are a clear demonstration of the ways in which the overall family support process has succeeded in providing an outlet and a source of support/solace for people who have been bereaved or affected in other ways by the drug taking of family members.

Citywide has played a significant and influential role in the family support process. It has provided developmental support and advice to new/emerging family support groups; it has set up the Family Support Network; it has organised and secured funding for the Family Support Network conferences; it has produced the Family Support Resource Pack which provides contact information about the various family support groups in Ireland and how to go about setting up family support groups within local areas.

- One of the most prominent and high profile activities of Citywide and the Family Support Network is the annual Service of Commemoration and Hope which takes place in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Seán McDermott Street. Many of the people consulted during the review and planning project felt that the annual service is a deeply moving and evocative event, an event which serves to highlight the ongoing human consequences of the drugs crisis and the fact that the drugs crisis has not gone away. Through the process of organising the annual service (which attracts about 1,000 people each year and is covered significantly in the national and local media) Citywide plays its part in trying to keep the drugs issue on the public/political agenda.

It is also evident that the Services of Commemoration and Hope have been very important and symbolic expressions of solidarity and mutual support between a very large number of families and communities from across the Dublin area (and from further afield – Cork, Northern Ireland, Glasgow, Liverpool etc.) who have been affected by the drugs crisis. In a fairly short period of time, the annual Services of Commemoration and Hope have become key events in public/political life within Dublin (attended by the President of Ireland, An Taoiseach, Government Ministers, other elected representatives) and are perhaps the single most important expression of the legacies, consequences and scale of the ongoing drugs crisis.





4.4 POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- From its establishment in 1995, Citywide has prioritised the need to influence public policy and to try and ensure that the Government puts in place the policies, programmes and resources which are required to tackle the drugs crisis in a substantial and meaningful manner.

Citywide has been a conduit and a mechanism through which local communities and local groups can highlight the drugs related needs that exist within their areas and Citywide has in turn collectivised their local experiences in its policy submissions and policy documents to Government and to relevant Government Departments.

This process of using local experiences and local knowledge to influence public/national policy has been achieved through the working groups and networks set up by Citywide and by the organisation of seminars, workshops and conferences around issues which are of particular concern to local communities.

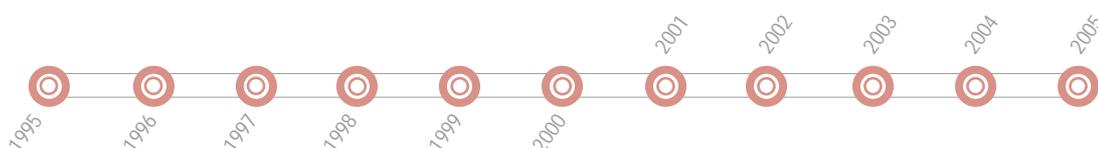
Over the course of the last ten years, campaigning and lobbying for positive change in public/Government policy around the drugs crisis has been a constant and ongoing focus for Citywide. This is reflected in the excellent series of Responding Together publications (produced in 1996, 1999 and 2002) – these publications encapsulate in a very clear and accessible manner the main developments that need to take place around treatment, rehabilitation, education, prevention and the supply of drugs into local communities. In addition, Citywide has asked direct questions of political parties and local politicians about their commitment to implementing the 2001 – 2008 National Drugs Strategy.

Whilst recognising the effectiveness of some of these actions, there is also some concern that Citywide do not have the same type of resources or skills base as some other lobbying and campaigning organisations (within the private and voluntary/community sector); that political lobbying is becoming more and more sophisticated and professionalised; and that in order for Citywide to achieve the optimum impact (in relation to influencing public policy and programmes around the drugs crisis) it might need to review the effectiveness of its existing lobbying/campaigning strategy and, if considered necessary, to devise a new strategy which might require additional resources and/or skills.

4.5 NETWORKING AND DEVELOPMENT OF LINKAGES

- Citywide has played an important role in various networks, advisory groups and statutory bodies in which it has been involved. In many instances Citywide is considered to be the representative voice of local communities across the Dublin area in relation to the drugs issue, and in this role, it has been asked to nominate representatives onto various groups/bodies. These include the Monitoring Committee of the pilot Community Policing Forum, the National Advisory Committee on Drugs, the Assessment Committee for the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund, the Implementation Committee for the pilot Drug Court Programme.

The participation of Citywide has helped to ensure that the community sector is represented on these structures/committees; and it is considered to be very useful that Citywide has the working groups and the networks which enables it to develop a collective and representative response to issues being discussed by the various organisations/committees in which it is involved.



This type of collective process is preferable to representatives from individual communities purely representing the interests of their own areas; and it is evident, on the basis of consultations during the review and planning project, that Citywide is trusted 'to do the right thing' and that there is a general recognition of the integrity and fair-mindedness of Citywide (i.e. that Citywide will adopt honest positions which are a reasonable reflection of the views of the members of the Citywide organisation – members of the Family Support Network, members of the community representatives network, members of working groups etc.)

It is considered that Citywide has developed effective alliances, relationships and networks with a whole range of statutory, voluntary and community organisations over the last nine years. Citywide has aimed to be collaborative in its approach and, where possible, to engage with partner agencies and organisations. This commitment towards collaboration and co-operation was recognised during the course of the review and planning project e.g. 'Citywide's commitment to collaboration is excellent'. Citywide has been not territorial or defensive in relation to the work in which it is involved. Rather, it has recognised the benefits of having as many groups and organisations as possible involved in trying to combat the drugs crisis.

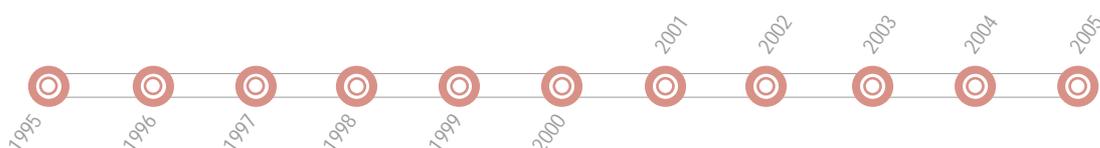
Whilst recognising that there are certain resource constraints in building and maintaining relationships with a large number of different statutory and community/voluntary organisations, it is considered that Citywide's commitment to the community development principle of collective action should be retained as a core aspect of Citywide's work.

4.6 INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

- Citywide has played a role in disseminating and distributing information about drugs related issues to the individuals and groups which are linked into the various Citywide networks and working groups. Whilst appreciating the information which has been circulated (about meetings, about new initiatives, about publications, about the work of Citywide), a number of people consulted during the review and planning project felt that Citywide could be distributing information on a more regular and more intensive basis.

Positive references were made to the newsletters which have been produced by Citywide and there is a view that the regular publication of these newsletters (perhaps on a quarterly basis) would be of great assistance in keeping local groups/projects and local activists informed and updated about relevant developments which are taking place in the drugs area in Ireland and in other countries.

It was also recognised that the Citywide newsletter and the website currently under development will profile models of good practice in relation to drug treatment, drug rehabilitation, drugs education/prevention, drugs research – the profiled projects would be selected from the hundreds of projects being supported through the Local Drugs Task Forces and other relevant agencies.



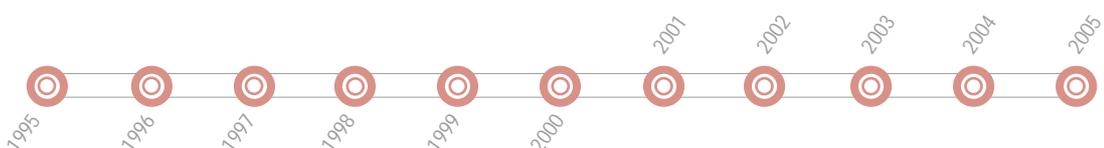
4.7 SUMMARY

- In the period from 1995 to 2005, Citywide has put in place initiatives and supports which have helped to facilitate the effective participation of local communities in the struggle against drugs within their own areas. The establishment of family support groups and the Family Support Network, the network of community representatives on Local Drugs Task Forces, the Services of Commemoration and Hope, the developmental support and advice provided to local projects and the distribution of accessible and relevant information about drugs have all served to build up the skills, the knowledge and the feelings of solidarity and togetherness amongst people/groups involved in the struggle against drugs within local areas.

It is considered that virtually every community in Ireland with a serious drugs problem has benefited through the services and supports provided by Citywide – perhaps a family support group has been set up with the assistance of Citywide; perhaps community representatives on the Local Drugs Task Force have benefited through the Citywide community representatives network; perhaps information has been received from Citywide about a development or initiative which might be relevant to the local drugs situation; perhaps people living within the local area have participated in one of the Services of Commemoration and Hope. Through these types of actions Citywide has impacted on those communities most affected by the drugs crisis and has enabled them to link into a range of supports and services which might otherwise have been difficult to access.

In addition to the direct work at the local community level, Citywide has also been actively involved in trying to influence public policy and political priorities (of Government parties and opposition parties). This influencing work has been clearly informed by the Citywide networks and working groups which are comprised of people living and working within the areas most affected by drugs. This enables Citywide to bring a particularly important and critical community perspective to policy discussions concerning drugs related issues.

It also reflects a clear belief that it is necessary to work at two levels at the same time – at the top down level (through influencing the priorities and decisions of relevant Government Departments and statutory agencies) and at the bottom up level (through supporting and facilitating the work of groups/projects which are involved in tackling the drugs crisis within local communities).



5. KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

5.1 INTRODUCTION

In the process of carrying out the review of the work of Citywide, interviewees and other respondents highlighted a number of key issues and challenges in relation to the drugs crisis in contemporary Ireland. This section of the review document outlines these issues and challenges, issues and challenges which are considered relevant both to Government Departments and statutory agencies empowered and mandated to deal with the drugs crisis and to voluntary organisations and community based groups which are involved in providing drugs related services and supports. This section of the document will initially consider the key issues and challenges from the perspective of the overall drugs situation and then proceed to consider some of the main issues and challenges for the Citywide organisation.

5.2 DRUGS CRISIS: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

(i) Role of local communities

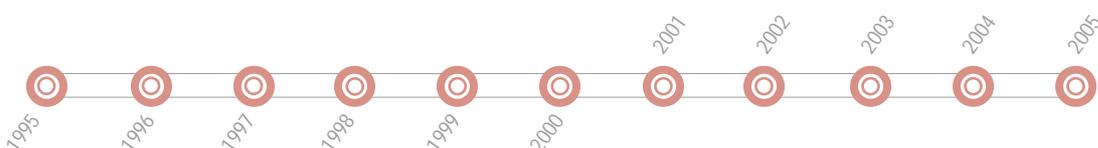
- There is an urgent need to re-energise and to re-motivate local communities around the drugs crisis, a crisis which has now spread beyond the main urban centres to virtually every medium sized town in Ireland. There is a strong sense that the drugs crisis is as serious as ever and that many local people are simply burnt out, worn down and exhausted after having expended so much time and energy in tackling the drugs crisis and having witnessed no tangible or significant improvements in the level and extent of drug abuse within the communities in which they live.

Feelings of exhaustion and disillusionment have been exacerbated by the difficulties which people in local communities have experienced in accessing and securing sustained, mainstreamed funding for drugs projects and other drugs initiatives within their areas – in the words of one community activist *'it is always a struggle and always a battle and we are just getting tired of it all'*.

- New strategies and new approaches need to be put in place to create a new momentum in the community struggle against drugs. Previous community based organisations and movements such as Concerned Parents Against Drugs and Coalition of Communities Against Drugs have either expired or are less active than they were in the past. A number of interviewees felt that whilst Citywide provided support to community drugs projects and to community representatives on Local Drugs Task Forces, there is also a need to mobilise and to energise entire communities around the drugs crisis.

This could perhaps result in a situation where local people are expressing their anger, their passion and their resolve to tackle the drugs crisis in a similar way to the community based initiatives in the 1980s and 1990s – as one interviewee said *'what we need now is a new high energy, grassroots movement which engages thousands of people in the battle against drugs'*.

- The placement of drug treatment and drug rehabilitation facilities within local communities is still a highly divisive and contentious issue and it appears that little significant progress has been made in delivering some type of mechanism or formula to resolve differences between local residents who do not mind drug facilities being located in their areas (*'we need to look after our own drug users'*) and local residents who are vehemently opposed to drugs services being sited in their areas (*'it will become a magnet for drug dealing and other types of anti-social behaviour'*).



There is a need to develop more innovative and effective forms of mediation and conflict resolution in order to ensure an even spread of drugs services and facilities within those communities most affected by drugs.

- There is a need to provide supports and training for people at the community level who are already involved and who are getting involved in drugs related projects and initiatives within local areas. These supports and training relate both to community development issues (e.g. how to get involved in local groups, how groups are organised and managed, how to secure funding and support) and to direct drugs issues (e.g. the different types of drugs, the impact of these drugs both individually and collectively, information about treatment and rehabilitation options).

Many interviewees consulted during the review of Citywide felt that there is a huge information gap in relation to these types of issues and that local people need to be more informed, more aware and provided with appropriate support and training if they are to play an active and effective role in drugs projects and other drugs initiatives within those communities most affected by drugs.

- The role of local communities and local community representatives should not be undermined or undervalued by the review of local development and community development structures which is currently being carried out by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Local communities have made significant contributions to the work of organisations/structures such as Area Partnership Companies, Community Development Projects, Local Drugs Task Forces and RAPID, and it is considered important that the community dimension of these organisations/structures should be strengthened and re-enforced as a result of the review of local development and community development structures.

There is some concern that the role of local communities and the community sector might be diminished and down-graded with more authority and responsibility being given to statutory agencies – this could be a negative and retrograde move in the context of community empowerment, community self-help and community development.

(ii) Involvement of drug users and family members

- Strategies need to be developed to encourage and facilitate the involvement of recovering drug users and family members in structures and organisations which have been set up to address the drugs crisis. Local Drugs Task Forces and the management committees of community drugs projects should have places reserved for people who have been directly affected by, and have a personal awareness and understanding of, the drugs crisis – in much the same way as disability groups involve people with disabilities and lone parents groups involve lone parents.

It is considered that the work of organisations like UISCE (Union for Improved Services, Communications and Education) and of the family support groups assisted by Citywide provide a basis for developing mechanisms through which those people most directly affected by drugs can participate in the various drugs related structures and organisations that have been set up in recent years.

- Groups that have been formed by drug users (e.g. UISCE) and by family members of drug users (e.g. family support groups) need to be adequately resourced. In a similar way to which core funding is being provided to community drug projects and to Family Resource Centres, support groups set up by drug users and family members should also be able to link into ongoing, core funding for their activities.



The level of financial assistance required by many of these groups is unlikely to be excessive (many are fairly small and do not aspire to become too large or to employ staff). However, if relatively small scale funding was available to local drug users groups and family support groups to cover overheads and other running costs, it would allow these groups to spend more time on their primary role i.e. providing support, comfort and encouragement/hope to people who have been affected by the drugs crisis.

(iii) Development of community based drugs supports and projects

- There is concern about the mainstreaming arrangements which have been put in place for many of the community drugs projects being supported by Local Drugs Task Forces and relevant statutory agencies. Whilst these projects have to a certain extent been mainstreamed following the evaluations carried out through the National College of Ireland in 2000, there is still a significant degree of uncertainty and frustration about the funding arrangements between the local projects and the statutory funding sources – frustration about cutbacks in funding (although monies for drugs projects was supposedly ringfenced in national drugs strategies), about inability or unwillingness to provide additional funding for new services or expansion of existing services, about not being able to engage in long term planning on account of absence of clarity about medium-to-long term funding.

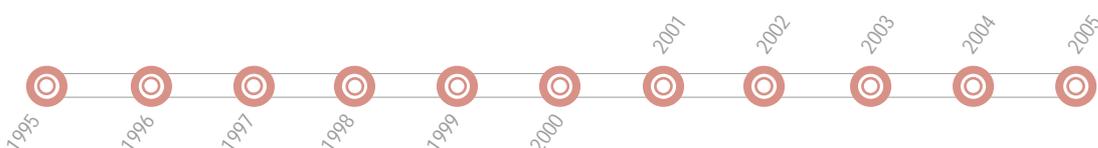
In this type of context it seems to be important that the funding arrangements between statutory funding agencies and local drugs projects should be reviewed and amended, in order to provide local projects with the re-assurance that they know what grant assistance they are likely to receive over perhaps a three year period. This re-assurance could subsequently enable the projects to enter into longer term relationships with clients and other groups with whom they are working (safe in the knowledge that their funding situation is secure for the next three years).

- The diversity and range of drug treatment and drug rehabilitation options for drug users need to be expanded and broadened. In relation to drug treatment, a number of the interviewees who participated in the review of Citywide commented upon the fact that there was an over reliance and over dependence on methadone maintenance. There is a need to put more resources into other forms of treatment for drug users and to have treatment options more centred on the individual needs and circumstances of individual drug users. The need for more diversification in drug treatment options is particularly necessary given the recent trends and patterns in drug misuse e.g. greater use of cocaine and prescribed drugs, polydrug use.

In relation to rehabilitation it is considered critical that drug treatment be complemented and supported by effective rehabilitation mechanisms to rehabilitate drug users into mainstream society (e.g. through training, education, employment, individual mentoring and guidance, safe and secure accommodation etc.). It is considered that rehabilitation services and projects for drug users are extremely limited in Ireland and that there needs to be a major expansion of drug rehabilitation services and places over the next five year period.

(iv) Trends and patterns

- It is important to recognise the current trends and patterns in relation to drug misuse in Ireland and the changes which have taken place since the formation of Citywide in 1995. These include the emergence of cocaine as a danger drug; the extension of the drugs crisis beyond the main urban centres; the increasing prevalence of polydrug use; the increased usage of prescribed drugs such as



benzodiazepines; the seemingly growing acceptance of drug misuse as being a fairly normal feature of contemporary life in Ireland. All of these aspects of the drugs crisis present real challenges for statutory agencies, voluntary organisations and community based groups which are involved in tackling the drugs crisis.

- Analysis of issues and challenges in relation to the drugs crisis also needs to take account of the changing demographic profile of the Irish population. In particular, there is a need to recognise the significant levels of inward migration into the country and the fact that the Ireland of 2005 is far more of a multicultural society than the Ireland of 1995 (when Citywide was established).

It is natural to assume there is as much likelihood that drug-related problems exist within the non-indigenous population of Ireland as exist within the indigenous population. On account of the relatively significant number of immigrants living in Ireland, it would appear to be useful and necessary to put in place drugs services and supports which are particularly focused on the needs and circumstances of refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers.

(v) **Co-ordination and co-operation**

- There are significant levels of concern about the absence of co-operation and co-ordination between some of the key Government Departments, statutory agencies and voluntary organisations which are involved in drug related work. Whilst certain improvements have taken place during the course of the National Drugs Strategy (e.g. new protocols, new working arrangements), there is still a sense that a lot more can be done to improve the ways in which agencies and organisations work together in the best interests of drug users and young people who might be vulnerable to drug misuse. A key challenge over the next period of time is to enhance the levels and quality of interaction between the various Government Departments, agencies and organisations which are involved in tackling the drugs crisis in Ireland.

5.3 CITYWIDE – ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

(i) **Maintaining drugs on political agenda**

- There is significant concern about the ways in which the drugs crisis seems to have slipped off the political agenda and about the fact that the general public might have the impression that the drugs issue is not as serious or pernicious in 2005 as it was in the mid-1990s. All available evidence would suggest that the drugs crisis is still one of the major problems confronting contemporary Ireland and that one of the key challenges for politicians and policy makers is to maintain a clear and explicit focus on the drugs issue (and to ensure that the necessary resources and structures are put in place to tackle the drugs crisis).

It is recognised that Citywide, together with other voluntary/community organisations, has worked towards trying to prioritise the focus on the drugs crisis and to ensure that Government commitments (in the National Drugs Strategy) are honoured and implemented. It is considered important that Citywide should reflect upon the effectiveness of existing political lobbying and public awareness strategies and to determine whether there are other strategies which might be deployed in order to heighten political/public awareness about the need to give a renewed emphasis and priority to tackling the drugs crisis.



(ii) Focus on illegal drugs

- Citywide has had a particular focus on issues relating to the consumption of illegal drugs rather than the consumption of alcohol or prescription drugs (e.g. sedatives, tranquillisers, anti-depressants). It is apparent, however, that there is an increasing focus on all types of addiction/drugs with less of a distinction being made between legal and illegal drugs. This is reflected in the outcomes from the Regional Drugs Task Force consultations (which have a particular focus on alcohol abuse and binge drinking) and in the policy statements being produced by political parties like Fine Gael (which recommend the development of a National Addiction Strategy which would merge the existing National Drug Strategy with a national alcohol strategy).

Whilst it is recognised that Citywide has a particular concern about polydrug use which might involve combinations of illegal drugs, alcohol and prescription drugs, it is considered important that Citywide should be clear about the extent to which it will continue to focus primarily on illegal drug use or whether it will also concentrate on the causes and consequences of alcohol abuse and the effects of prescription medication addiction.

(iii) Primary roles of Citywide

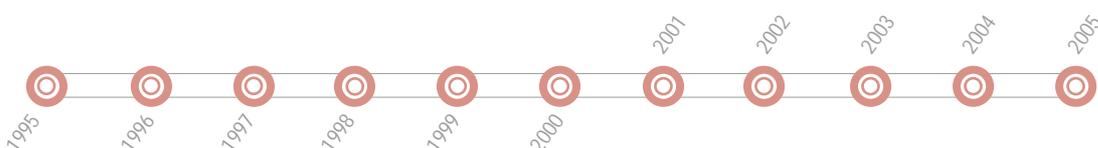
- When Citywide was established in 1995, it was a primarily a campaigning organisation which involved itself in the production of policy documents, the organisation of public meetings around the drugs issue and the formation of working groups which focused upon particular aspects of the drugs crisis. Subsequently, Citywide accessed core funding through the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs' Community Development Programme (as a specialised Support Agency).

Over the course of the last ten years, Citywide has succeeded in maintaining a strong campaigning role whilst also fulfilling its obligations under the Community Development Programme (in relation to providing advice/guidance to Community Development Projects, supporting community representatives on Local Drugs Task Forces, facilitating the development of community drug projects).

It is not considered that the campaigning role of Citywide has been compromised or neutered by the fact that it is in receipt of statutory funding through the Community Development Programme. There is always a need, however, to ensure that Citywide (given its limited resources) strikes an appropriate balance between its campaigning work on the one hand and its project development and facilitation work on the other hand.

- Citywide is limited by the resources which are currently available to the organisation (through funding being provided by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Family Support Agency). At present, it employs four people with developmental roles and responsibilities to carry out the family support work, to produce policy statements and to influence the political process, to support community representatives on Local Drugs Task Forces, to produce newsletters, to provide developmental support to local projects. This seems like an onerous work load for a small staff team. In addition, staff from Citywide are involved in a number of networks and policy forums and Citywide has played a prominent role in the establishment of Regional Drugs Task Forces (especially in relation to community representation).

There is a real danger of Citywide overstretching and over extending itself and trying to take on too many different tasks and perhaps not delivering effectively on some of these tasks. In this context, there is a clear need for Citywide to prioritise within the constraints of existing resources or for Citywide to secure additional resources which would then enable it to take on some of the new



challenges which might present themselves (e.g. a more significant role in the area of information gathering and information dissemination, a more substantial policy analysis role, provision of support to the community representatives from Regional Drugs Task Forces).

(iv) **Family Support Groups and Family Support Network**

- Earlier references have been made in this discussion paper to the outstanding achievements of Citywide in helping to set up a large number of family support groups, in establishing the Family Support Network, in organising the Services of Commemoration and Hope for family members affected by the drugs issue. There is general agreement that, in the long-term, the Network is looking towards assuming a more independent or autonomous status. This proposition is based on a view that the family support aspects of Citywide's work are becoming so large that they could best be managed through an independent body.

Whilst recognising the fact that there is a need to provide greater clarity about the relationship between the Family Support Network and the overall Citywide organisation (e.g. Is the network a sub-committee of Citywide? What are the levels of responsibility and authority between the Citywide Board and the Family Support Network?), it is suggested that for the next couple of years the Family Support Network and Citywide should continue to consider the future development of the Network, as it moves towards being an independent entity.

(vi) **Identity and profile of Citywide**

- Whilst groups and individuals who are actively involved in the drugs issue generally have a clear understanding and knowledge of the work and activities of Citywide, there is some concern that the general public and people employed in various statutory agencies and other relevant bodies are not aware of what Citywide does and the impressive range of important services which it provides.

There is a view that the organisation should consider re-naming and re-branding itself in order to more accurately reflect the main focuses of its work – whilst the word 'drugs' is included in the full name of the organisation, there is also a sense that 'drugs' should be mentioned in the working title of the organisation (the working title is currently Citywide).

In addition, there is a view that if Citywide decides to adopt a more national role (e.g. through providing support to community representatives on Regional Drugs Task Forces) the name of Citywide (which relates to the city of Dublin) would not be an accurate description of its nationwide presence and might lead to some confusion. It is suggested that Citywide should give some consideration to re-naming and re-branding itself, perhaps to coincide with its tenth anniversary in 2005.



6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 OVERALL THRUST OF CITYWIDE'S WORK

- Citywide should continue to maintain a strong focus on those work areas which have formed the core aspects of its work over the last ten years. These are developmental assistance to local drugs projects; support for community representatives on Local Drugs Task Forces; the development of family support groups and the Family Support Network; the organisation of the Services of Commemoration and Hope; political lobbying and public awareness work in relation to the drugs issue; the production and dissemination of drugs related information which would be of interest/relevance to local communities.

6.2 DEVELOPMENTAL SUPPORT TO LOCAL PROJECTS

- Citywide staff should continue to make themselves available to local projects who could benefit from external support and facilitation. It is likely that the nature of this facilitation will change over the next number of years. Rather than Citywide assisting groups/projects at the establishment, start-up stage, it is more likely that Citywide will be facilitating review and planning meetings of groups/projects that have been in operation for a number of years and who have identified the need for an overall review of their work, priorities and achievements.
- Citywide should consider producing resource materials for community drug projects/groups which are either at the start-up stage or which are involved in a process of reviewing their activities and planning for the next period of time.

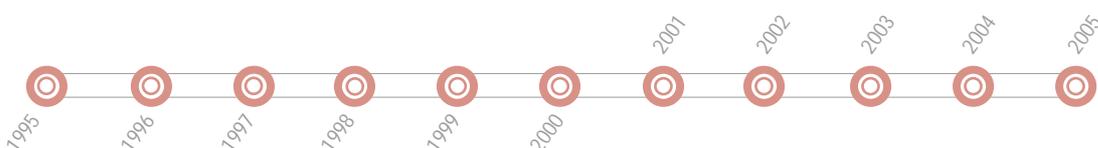
On account of its small number of developmental staff it is going to be difficult for Citywide to provide direct facilitation to a large number of groups/projects. The production of resource materials (which would draw upon examples of good practice in the community development and community drugs areas) represents another way in which Citywide can support the development of new/emerging and established groups and projects.

- Citywide should continue to develop its training initiative for the co-ordinators/managers of community drug projects. It is considered that these people have a particular set of training needs (in relation to issues like staff support and supervision, employment legislation, financial control, project planning, review and evaluation activities) which are currently not being met.

It is recognised that Citywide is currently in the process of bringing co-ordinators/managers together to explore future training and educational possibilities. On the basis of the feedback from the Citywide review and planning project, it is apparent that the development of a training initiative for co-ordinators/managers would be welcomed by this particular group of people.

6.3 ONGOING SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL DRUGS TASK FORCE

- Citywide should continue to provide support to community representatives on Local Drugs Task Forces on a regular and consistent basis. Citywide should endeavour to ensure that it is fully engaged with all of these Drugs Task Forces and should endeavour to ensure that direct contact is established with Drugs Task Forces (and, especially, community representatives) on at least two occasions each year. This is considered to be particularly important for community representatives from Drugs Task Forces who have not participated in the community representatives network in recent years.



- Ongoing consideration should be given to the training and education needs and aspirations of community representatives. It is recognised that Citywide has already organised training activities for community representatives. These training activities should be consolidated and built upon, and Citywide should explore the possibility of setting up a longer-term and more intensive training programmes for community representatives which will be accredited by an organisation like the Further Education and Training Advisory Council (FETAC).

Citywide should also set up short induction sessions for new community representatives, at which information would be provided about issues relating to the role of community representatives; the development of national policies in relation to drugs; the role and functions of Local Drug Task Forces, the Citywide community representatives network and other relevant matters.

- Citywide should examine the type of support which it may be able to provide to community representatives on Regional Drugs Task Forces. This support will be influenced by the direction in which the Regional Drugs Task Forces go, by the support needs of community representatives and by the resources available to Citywide to extend its work with community representatives beyond Local Drugs Task Forces so as to include Regional Drugs Task Forces. It is suggested that community representatives from Regional Drugs Task Forces should be invited to participate in training programmes which might be organised for community representatives on Local Drugs Task Forces.

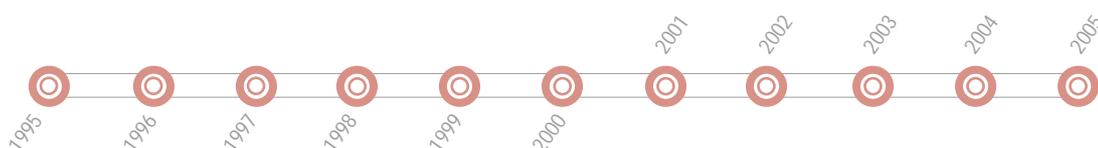
6.4 FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS AND FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

- Citywide should continue to facilitate the growth and development of family support groups. Whilst the Family Support Resource Packs will be of assistance to a number of these groups at the start-up stage, the experiences of Citywide over the last number of years would suggest that many emerging and embryonic groups welcome the opportunity to meet and to be advised directly by Citywide staff.

On the assumption that new groups will be formed and that existing groups will need to be supported, it appears likely that Citywide will require additional staff to effectively progress and support the development of the family support groups which are members of the Family Support Network – there are currently over 70 Family Support Groups within this network.

- The Family Support Network should continue to support local family support groups, it should continue to organise the highly symbolic and important Services of Commemoration and Hope, it should continue to bring together family support groups from across Ireland for its annual conferences and it should continue to produce resource and training materials which would be of interest and benefit to the large number of family support groups which have been established in recent years.

In essence, the Family Support Network should continue to build upon the achievements of the last number of years and provide the type of support, services and encouragement which will strengthen the work of the existing family support groups and lead to the establishment of new family support groups (especially in areas where the drugs crisis has had a significant impact and where no family support group currently exists).



6.5 LOBBYING, CAMPAIGNING AND INFLUENCING

- Citywide should continue to lobby and campaign in relation to the issues and recommendations contained in the 'Responding Together – The Campaign Goes On' policy document which was produced by Citywide in 2002. Citywide needs to give some consideration to the most effective ways of progressing the recommendations in this document, some of which will require changes in political priorities, changes in public spending priorities and a far more significant Government focus on issues relating to poverty and social exclusion.

Political lobbying and influencing public policy and public spending decisions is becoming a highly sophisticated business and Citywide needs to consider whether it needs to bring in new resources and new skills in order to strengthen its lobbying and campaigning work e.g. skills relating to research, needs analysis, policy analysis, media manipulation, public awareness campaigns.

- Citywide should produce an updated and revised 'Responding Together' policy document in 2005. This would serve to maintain the pattern of producing updated 'Responding Together' documents every three years since the time that the first document was issued in 1996. Citywide should continue to link into its various networks and working groups, so as to ensure that the policy and public spending recommendations contained in the 2005 'Responding Together' document are an accurate and honest reflection of the key needs which still exist in those areas most affected by the drugs crisis.
- Citywide should continue to pressurise and to harry the Government and political parties in relation to the effective implementation of the 2001 – 2008 National Drug Strategy. Whilst it is generally accepted that the strategy does include all of the key changes and developments which need to take place to tackle the drugs crisis, there is disappointment, frustration and anger about the tardiness and the delays in implementing many of the commitments made in the strategy.

On the basis of the fact that public money will be more plentiful in the run-up to the next general election, it is critical that organisations like Citywide put as much pressure as possible on the Government to implement the National Drug Strategy. Citywide should consider organising a coalition of like-minded groups within the political system and within the voluntary and community sector, in order to build up a strong lobby which would campaign for the full implementation of the National Drug Strategy.

6.6 COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

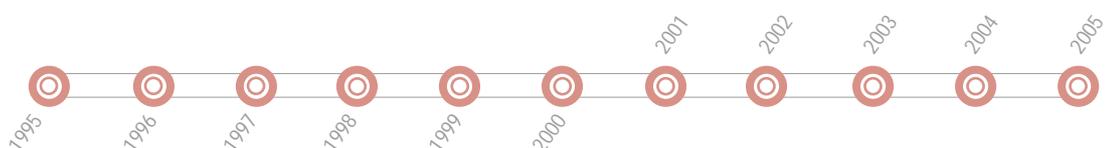
- Citywide should produce regular newsletters, on a quarterly basis, which would provide information on issues relating to drug patterns and trends, on the work of Drugs Task Forces and community drug projects, on developments within Citywide, on upcoming meetings/workshops and on any other matters which would be of interest to the broad membership of Citywide.

On account of the rapidly, ever-changing situation in relation to drugs, it is considered that a three-monthly newsletter to be produced by Citywide would be a significant benefit to local groups (in keeping these groups informed of relevant developments which are taking place within Ireland and within other countries).



- Citywide should consider producing profiles of community drug projects. In the opinion of many people consulted during the Citywide review and planning exercise, an enormous amount of learning is being lost due to the fact that there are no profiles or descriptions of the large number of projects being supported through the Local Drugs Task Forces i.e. 450 projects of which 122 have been mainstreamed. It is considered that a significant level of cross-learning could take place between these projects if there was some more information about work and activities of the various projects.

It is suggested that Citywide should seek to secure funding for a major information gathering project which would aim to pull together information from community drug projects (based on some type of common template) and to disseminate this information in the form of a directory or a whole series of project profiles which would be updated on a regular basis.



7. CONCLUSIONS

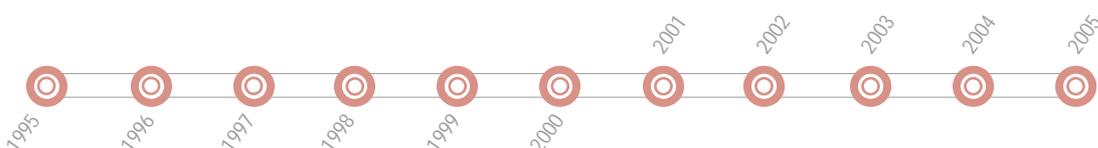
Citywide has achieved a significant amount since its formation in 1995 in relation to all its main work areas – lobbying and campaigning for positive and effective changes in tackling the drugs crisis; development of family support groups and Family Support Network; outreach community development work; and supporting the participation of community representatives on Local Drugs Task Forces. These types of initiatives have been hugely important in enabling the development of an effective and coherent community based response to the drugs crisis; and have helped to ensure that mechanisms exist (through the Citywide structures and supports) for local communities to input into the formulation of drugs policies at the national, regional and local levels.

The 10 year evolution of Citywide between 1995 and 2005 has coincided with significant improvements in the resources and the infrastructure which has been put in place to tackle the drugs crisis. These improvements are evident in relation to the supply of drugs (e.g. Criminal Assets Bureau); services for drug users (e.g. major increase in drug treatment places and community drugs projects); preventative drugs strategies (e.g. a greater focus on drug prevention within schools); and research into drugs (e.g. establishment of National Advisory Committee on Drugs).

Whilst recognising the positive developments which have taken place within the last 10 years (both in relation to the overall drugs issue and the role of Citywide), it is evident that there is still a massive drugs problem in Ireland. Whilst this problem has a number of different dimensions and features in 2005 than it did in 1995 - more poly drug use, increased consumption of cocaine, problem spreading outside of main urban centres, problem not exclusively rooted in disadvantaged communities, clearer linkages between drug use and suicide/self-harm - the drugs crisis remains one of the most serious problems and challenges confronting contemporary Irish society. It is a challenge that requires a co-ordinated and integrated response from politicians, from people employed by Government Departments and statutory agencies, from people involved in the voluntary and community sector, from local residents.

It is considered that Citywide still has an important and significant role to play in tackling the drugs crisis – especially in co-ordinating, supporting and mobilising an effective community response to this crisis (through its outreach community development work, family support work, work with community representatives on Local Drugs Task Forces etc.). The experiences of the last 10 years have clearly demonstrated that there is no quick-fix solution to the drugs crisis and that the alleviation of the drugs crisis will require a number of different strategies working effectively together over a protracted period of time. Citywide can continue to play an important role in ensuring that local communities have access to the types of training, supports and networks which will enable these communities to contribute to strategies and initiatives which are being put in place.

At the broader national level Citywide also has an important role to play in campaigning for the full implementation of the various strategies and actions contained within the 2001 – 2008 National Drugs Strategy. Therefore, at both the national and local levels it is evident that there is still much more work that needs to take place in tackling the drugs crisis; and that Citywide has an important, ongoing role in this challenge and in building upon the impressive achievements and outcomes that have emerged from its work in the period from 1995 to 2005.



DUBLIN CITY-WIDE DRUGS CRISIS CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE 1995

CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Paul Clarke Assistant National Officer, Services Industrial Professional Technical Union (SIPTU)
 Fergus McCabe Chairperson, Inner City Organisations Network (ICON)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Joan Aust	Dublin Council of Trade Unions	Andre Lyder	South West Inner City Network (SWICN)
Paddy Behan	Services Industrial Professional Technical Union (SIPTU)	Patrick Lynch	St Catherine's Combined Communities Ballymun
Des Bonass	Dublin Council of Trade Unions	Mary Ellen McCann	Blanchardstown
Robbie Byrne	Community Response	Seamus McDonagh	St Mary's Place CBS, Dorset Street
Ronnie Byrne	Dolphin House	Finian McGrath	Damdale
Tony Byrne	Ballymun	Angela McLoughlin	Kilbarrack
Jacqueline Clarke	Drimnagh	Rita Meighan	Drimnagh
Joe Dowling	Inner City Organisations Network (ICON)	Annette Murphy	Tallaght (Killinarden)
Tony Geoghegan	Merchant's Quay Project	Liam O'Brien	Kilbarrack
Edmond Grace SJ	St Francis Xavier Church, Gardiner Street	Brenda O'Connell	Gardiner Street
Hugh Greaves	Ballymun	Richard O'Dwyer	Community Technical Aid
Bernie Howard	ICON	Mick Rafferty	Dun Laoghaire
Cecil Johnston	Tallaght (Killinarden)	Francis Redmond	Dun Laoghaire
Sarah Kenny	Belcamp	Joan Redmond	Inter Agency Drugs Project
Seanie Lambe	Inner City Renewal Group (ICRG)	Liz Riches	Belcamp
		Eileen Walsh	ICON
		John White	

Citywide Board members 1997- 2005

Des Bonass
 Paddy Behan
 Jacqueline Clarke
 Paul Clarke
 Susan Collins
 Tony Geoghegan
 Eddie Glackin
 Edmond Grace
 Seanie Lambe
 Fergus McCabe
 Chris Murphy
 Alice Murray
 Jack Nash
 Brenda O'Connell
 Mick Rafferty

Citywide Staff members 1997 - 2005

Margaret Dowling
 Sunniva Finlay
 Sadie Grace
 Sharon Harding
 Phillip Keegan
 Ruth Lawler
 Seamus McDonagh
 Geraldine O'Driscoll
 Anna Quigley
 Karen Williams

