DUBLIN
NORTH EAST
INNER CITY

Roundtable on Addressing On-Street Drug Dealing and Drug Use in Dublin's North East Inner City

JUNE 2024

Roundtable on Addressi
Drug Dealing and Drug Us
North East Inner
Friday, 17th May at 9.30a
Maynooth University
Table 3
Built Environment and S
Planning

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INTRODUCTION

On 17 May 2024, Dublin's North East Inner City Initiative hosted the Roundtable in the Department of an Taoiseach. The Roundtable arose from a desire for a fresh perspective on drug dealing and on-street drug taking, expressed by those from the North Inner City Community Coalition for the development of a new strategy for the North East Inner City (NEIC).

Around the same time, there was an approach to Government Departments from Maynooth University (MU) about the possibility of hosting a brokerage session on community safety and related issues involving an expert group of MU academics/researchers and policy-makers. This approach arose from a collective desire amongst MU researchers to use their knowledge and expertise to help impact public policy and its implementation. This all took place in context of the Government policy to broaden and deepen linkages between academics and policy-makers.

Arising from these developments, the NEIC secretariat identified and explored the possibility of an engagement involving a number of key stakeholders in a roundtable discussion, including policy-makers, those involved in the delivery of public services, the local community and academics/researchers from Maynooth University.

CONTEXT

One of the most significant challenges for Dublin's NEIC is the persistence and prevalence of drug use and drug dealing in public places (e.g., on-street and in particular flat complexes in the area). Despite considerable investment in the social and economic infrastructure of the area since the 2017 Mulvey Report gave rise to the NEIC Initiative, drug-related activities continue to negatively and significantly impact the area and its community. This presents unique challenges both for the residents and the services operating there.

The many problems associated with persistent and prevalent drug use and drug dealing in public places are complex, or what is known in the literature as 'wicked'. This means that the problems are not easily defined or described because the those who are affected, either directly or indirectly, may have diverse opinions on the nature of the problem and any potential solutions (as well as how the success of such solutions may be measured). These problems are a messy combination of the problem itself but also the legacies associated with

what may have been tried in the past to resolve them, which has created the structure of services, programmes and policies which may in the present help or hinder. Sorting through this initial complex knot of problems is necessary if solutions can be found.

The aim of the Roundtable was to build upon, augment, supplement and further catalyse the already existing work being done by the NEIC in this space. We note that the NEIC has already piloted, for example, innovative intersectoral dialogue fora and innovative community partnership models to supports its development of new models of service supports in the areas of community policing, community safety and tackling drug dealing and drug use. The aim of the Roundtable was to create further value by convening a unique collection of communities (academic, public policy, community) in a unique way (a short intense focus on a particular priority).

The NEIC Initiative is currently undertaking a review of its strategic objectives and drug use and dealing is one of the important topics under consideration. The Roundtable provided an opportunity to bring multiple stakeholders together to explore and examine this persistent phenomenon in the NEIC. It seeks to build on important work already undertaken at a national level and within the NEIC and to help to increase understanding of the many factors underlying the problem of on-street drug-dealing and drug use in the area. This work will also take account of the recent reconstitution of the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force.

APPROACH

The aim of the Roundtable discussion was to have a constructive and inclusive discussion on the topic. There were three groups of participants at the meeting reflecting policy-maker/implementation, community and academic/researchers' perspectives. There was discussion across three themes: Prevention and Early Intervention; Crime and Community Safety; and the Built Environment and Spatial Planning.

With a view to maximising the benefits of the distinctive approach to constructive and inclusive dialogue that is being advanced, the following approach is being adopted and participants were requested to:

- take part with an open mind to new approaches and ideas, including new approaches to organising and implementing existing programmes

- take part with a view to reflecting their background and experiences and learning from the engagement with those who bring different background and experiences
- leave 'hats' at the door, rather than formally representing their nominating groups

Participants were also asked to note that:

- no decisions are being made at the roundtable about advancing particular ideas – suggestions are being made in inform the NEIC Strategic Review Process
- suggestions arising from the roundtable meeting will be for further consideration as part of the NEIC Strategic Review process,
- the roundtable process is separate from the budget planning process for the activities of the NEIC

PRE-CONFERENCE DOCUMENTATION

Detailed preparation work was undertaken by many participants in advance of the meeting and a number of papers were prepared and distributed to reflect a range of different and useful perspectives (see Appendices):

- North Inner City Community Coalition Input
- General briefing note from MU
- Prevention and Early Intervention Discussion Paper MU
- Background - NEIC slides on Prevention
- Crime and Community Safety Discussion Paper MU
- Background Policy Paper – Crime and Community Safety
- Built Environment and Spatial Planning Discussion Paper MU
- Background Policy Paper – Built Environment and Spatial Planning

INTRODUCTORY AND PLENARY SESSION

The agenda for the Roundtable is included in Appendix 10. Almost 50 people were in attendance, all of whom are listed in Appendix 1.

The morning session was chaired by Seán Ó Foghlú, Senior Fellow in Public Policy, Maynooth University, and included initial inputs from Liz Canavan, Assistant Secretary, Department of an Taoiseach, and Jim Gavin, Chairperson of the NEIC. Together, they outlined the work of the NEIC and the nature of the Roundtable in context and encouraged open and active engagement of participants.

These inputs were followed by a presentation by Trevor Vaugh of Maynooth University who is on secondment to the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. His presentation was titled "Bridging Perspective: Creativity in Collaboration" and sought to encourage a creative and open approach from all participants (see Appendix 11).

FEEDBACK FROM BREAKOUT GROUPS

Following the plenary session, all attendees were assigned to one of three breakout groups (see below), each of which discussed key issues and challenges for over 90 minutes.

- Group 1 – Prevention and Early Intervention – Chair: Dr Seán Redmond, Adjunct Professor of Youth Justice, University of Limerick
- Group 2 – Crime and Community Safety – Chair: Dr Fergal Lynch, Senior Lead, Government and Public Policy Engagement, University of Galway
- Group 3 – Built Environment and Spatial Planning – Chair: Mary Doyle, Policy and International Relations Secretary, Royal Irish Academy

A rapporteur from MU was appointed to each group and the following is a high-level summary of the reports from each of the groups.

GROUP 1 - PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

Rapporteur: Prof. Sinéad McGilloway

There was extensive initial discussion on the context of drug use and drug dealing and the need for all services currently being delivered in the NEIC to collectively seek to address these issues. There was an increasing sense of "losing community" within the NEIC and concern that it was also becoming a "homeless hub". There was a strong view about the risks associated with a lack of buy-in for the NEIC work from within the community and for the need to seek and implement new and more creative ways to harness local expertise. At the same time, there were recurring references to the "magic" and uniqueness of the NEIC community and how these could be harnessed and further developed to address drug-related challenges within the area.

The importance of engaging with everyone involved with, and affected by, drug use, including users and dealers, was highlighted, as were the challenges in so doing. The need to acknowledge that community perceptions of drug dealing are not always negative, was also noted (e.g., the ready availability of drugs used for medication purposes). Additionally, comments were made around the particular risks posed to young men and the need for early intervention/supports for young boys, including the need to involve peer support workers and volunteers in this regard.

The importance of the early years of children's lives was highlighted at many junctures and the UK "Sure Start" programme was mentioned as a possible viable model for early intervention in this regard. This programme involved funding and establishing a network of children's services and dedicated centres in the UK to support local families with children aged under 5 and including, for example, health-related services, parenting support, early learning and childcare provision, and parental employment support. The role of mothers and of families, in general, was seen as crucial not only in early childhood, but also through to adolescence and adulthood and indeed, harnessing the support of mothers and other family members of drug dealers, was considered to have considerable potential, while the link between domestic violence and drugs was also highlighted. A suggestion to consider the research currently underway on universal basic incomes was also highlighted.

Some members of the group also believed that there were historic lessons to be learned from community engagement with drug dealers in the 1980s and 1990s. Further, some believed that the necessary knowledge/ wisdom to re-visit community-led initiatives while depleted, still exists but needs to be re-engaged and appropriately nurtured. However, these

kinds of strategies require the state funding of community groups. Given the real threat posed by criminal gangs, such initiatives also require a subtle and nuanced approach to engagement, such as local environmental campaigns and outreach to young people (e.g. through youth groups or youth ambassadors).

The importance of schooling and of education in general, was emphasised by many participants. Among the issues raised and suggestions made, were the need to promote outreach in schools (e.g., through a model such as 'Partnership Schools'), the importance of training educators in, for example, the nature of the local environment, the need for alternative educational pathways in an effort to improve pupil retention and the requirement for trauma informed approaches within both schools and the wider community.

In relation to services, the need for intervention across the lifecourse, at many different levels and across different agencies was considered to be very important, although it was agreed that this should be carefully considered in the context of what was seen as possible oversaturation of services and also the extent to which provision should be targeted and/or universal (and the challenges therein). The need for increased funding was frequently raised as a crucial issue , while some group members alluded to the need for funding arrangements to be more creative and autonomous (i.e., some funding requirements were seen as unnecessarily restrictive). Lastly, and perhaps most importantly of all, the involvement of the community and listening empathically to all concerned, was seen as critical to addressing the many challenges arising from drug use and drug dealing within the NEIC.

GROUP 2 - CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Rapporteur: Dr. Kevin Wozniak

The broad societal context was noted by all and, in particular, the need for continuing and sustained investment in preventative policies and services and building support for long-term prevention. In this regard, the problems posed by being alienated in school were noted – young people who are not thriving in schools can turn to drug selling as a perceived pathway to success. It was noted that there have been many local programmes that have been felt to be successful previously but were not funded in the long term. There was some discussion on a suggested potential model of "Credible Messengers" – people with experiences similar to the young people, and who are now working in outreach, street mediation and intervention. In order to be viable, it was considered that these messengers would need to be appropriately paid to make this an attractive, alternative career path, and it would be important to explore how this has been established, governed and administered in other countries to implement it well here. It was also noted to be important to acknowledge that there are skills involved in drug dealing, such as accounting, entrepreneurship and budgeting and a need to consider how education, training and legitimate employment pathways can be put in place to reframe these skills as applicable in pro-social behaviour, withing the legitimate economy, for societal good. The group had a long conversation about how the harm caused by drug selling could be reduced in ways other than law enforcement and pointed to other countries (e.g., Germany) and contexts (e.g., prisons and drug harm reduction services) from which the NEIC could learn. This could involve joint study visits, which those from Maynooth University offered help in organising.

There was a strong view that all parts of the community need to be involved, including those who may be considered to be part of the problem. It was suggested that there might be ways to embed An Garda Síochána in the community in a much more holistic manner, for example, and some discussion about possible collaborative ways to advance this. For example, it was suggested that the ongoing work by CEN involving young people, Gardaí and youth workers in dialogue could be expanded. There were also references to ongoing youth leadership programmes that could be expanded and funded in a sustainable way, and to the need to involve companies from the IFSC in order that their extensive resources would provide some direct benefit to the community in which they were based.

There was a lot of discussion about the range of agencies involved in the NEIC area. The need for a multi-agency collaborative approach was a common theme. An example that was discussed was the nature of the co-operation needed between An Garda Síochána and other

first responders and public and community services. The need for sustained investment in services was also commonly referenced, as was the need to keep under review the balance in the funding of different groups and agencies and, in particular, which groups have commitments for continuing funding. Another challenge that was referred to was that community organisations often now required degrees as essential in applications, when this was not always necessary and even acted to block some excellent skilled people from relevant work.

The need to know what works was also widely discussed and the need for evidence of what works to feed both into high level policy and also into new ways of delivering services in the community.

Other related ideas that arose during the discussion were:

- Leveraging any existing services to the maximum extent possible. This includes the scope for much longer opening hours for youth clubs and sports facilities as a potential diversion from other activities
- Building and acknowledging a 'trauma informed' community which recognises the highly adverse experiences of many children and young people in the area
- Encouraging and incentivising school attendance as a means of reducing the danger of being groomed for drug-related activities
- Building youth leadership as a response to the trend of the most able young people leaving the area early on
- Continuing the emphasis on networking between agencies and groups. It was acknowledged that this was already happening, but maintaining and growing this momentum was key, and it should be seen as a collaborative effort rather than a competitive one between different players
- While welcoming innovative and new initiatives, do not neglect to fund the 'core' services and supports that have formed the backbone of work in the area historically
- Follow up and provide suitable supports for prisoners post release. The value of prison-based programmes dissipates quickly if those leaving are not actively included in the community
- Ensure that we are really listening to the community. Communications and co-creation of responses are vital. Treat the local community as experts in their own life experiences

GROUP 3 - BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING

Rapporteur: Dr. Rory Hearne

The level of deprivation in the NEIC was noted as well as the real challenge that this presents to addressing the issues of drug- dealing and drug taking that were being discussed. The increasing feeling in the community that the NEIC has become a homeless hub was referred to.

It was considered that there had been extensive cuts to funding for services in the area going back 15 years and that this was only beginning to be addressed and needs further work. The need for openness from state state agencies and new interventions was also highlighted as was the need for young people who are coming to services needing an alternative future and pathway to employment.

It was put very strongly by people that the level of open drug dealing would not happen in any other part of the city or country, or indeed, in better-off parts of the NEIC. This gave rise to the question of why is it allowed in parts of this community? It was stated that families do not know where to turn to get support to address drug dealing taking place. It was noted that there is a reality of drug dealing in the area that needs to be understood. This relates not only to the economic reasons why young people become involved in drug dealing but also to the power of the drug dealers to control the spaces in the locality. It is a regular occurrence that drug dealers will close off roads and areas to the general public (often at particular times of the day or night) and decide who they allow to access these areas. This has resulted in the creation of de facto spaces where dealing, and to a certain extent, consumption is allowed.

The enhancement of public space was considered to be vital and a number of important developments were noted. It was noted that one the one hand there has been work, led by Dublin City Council and involving the community, to look at how spaces might be developed further. On the other hand some of the existing housing design does facilitate drug dealing and drug taking. The extent of the priority given to those travelling (in particular, driving) through the area, over the community living in the area, was something that was viewed as needing more consideration. There was a strong support for community-led mapping for community design and an openness to looking at further options to develop such possibilities.

The possibility of creating spaces where safe drug dealing and consumption can happen was noted. The importance of co-creation and co-design of interventions, the need to engage

with the community in every aspect was noted. While on the one hand, there was a recognition that there were well known existing areas where drug-dealing takes place, the possibility of more formally identifying areas was suggested – this was very much in the context of managing drug dealing and drug taking in a way that would reduce harm and was seen as something that would need a very strong evidence and practice base to be considered.

Different ways to build community leadership were also discussed. A suggestion was made for the development of an affordable housing stream as an opportunity to forge community leadership, providing a point to build a community. Also, the need for long term sustainable services in a variety of areas would help provide much needed "glue" to support individuals and communities and build up capacity to address the problems of social exclusion.

Finally, a theme running through much of the discussion was noted – this was that trust between the community and state agencies is a huge issue and that there needs to be a long-term commitment from the agencies so community feel they can engage in a trusting and sustainable way.

PLENARY SESSION

The Roundtable concluded with a short Plenary session, chaired by Prof. Mark Boyle, Maynooth University, and Seán Ó Foghlú, where there were some initial reflections on the feedback from the breakout groups.

Particular themes that arose in this discussion included:

- A need to have a community-based and community-led approach
- A need to acknowledge that some of the ideas being discussed, such as some regulation of legalisation drugs, are not really so controversial
- The need for everyone to be open to challenging ideas and new ways of doing things
- An openness from many of the researchers/academics to be involved in further advancing on ideas and issues that have emerged
- The need for well designed, long term and sustainable services based in the community which would harness the existing strengths and help to develop and embed them across the generations
- Overall, the need to develop trust among all of those involved

FEEEDBACK FROM ATTENDEES

Following the event attendees were asked to give feedback on the event with the following open questions:

- What did you like about the event?
- What would you have wished for at the event?
- Any other comments?

What did you like about the event?

In general, there was a lot of positivity about the event including positive references to:

- The diversity of perspectives involved
- The richness and liveliness of the group discussions
- The space to be open about issues
- The energy and openness of the academic input
- The way in which everyone was encouraged to think beyond their own perspective in an open way

"It was a wonderful opportunity for a diverse group of people who are highly motivated to address the topic to meet together in person.**"**

What would you have wished for at the event?

There were also many suggestions for how the event could be built upon for the future:

- It could have been longer so that there was time to work issues through more
- It could have been more mixed with more NEIC resident voices and groups such as UISCE (which has developed the idea of person-centeredness of services) could have been present
- Community stakeholders could have been more involved in suggesting what was to be considered at the Roundtable
- A lot more work is needed in understanding the perspectives and ideologies of the different groups and the concept of islands does not sufficiently capture this

"It would have been great to have had more time to discuss the issues together and to begin to concentrate on generating some concrete ideas. I don't think we got to address that as much as we could as we were all settling in."

"The starting point for the public policy island always seems to be the idea that "evidence-based" is an objective reality that needs no critical reflection, though much reflection resides in the faculties and libraries of the academic island where the residents of the community island visit regularly."

Any other comments?

There was many further suggestions and comments:

- Support for the dialogue and collaboration to continue about the work of the NEIC
- The collaboration needs to continue in decisions being made and in their implementation
- People with direct experience of substance misuse need to be involved more in dialogue such as this
- The approach used here could also be used for different policy areas
- The format was excellent, particularly the slides from Trevor Vaugh
- This Roundtable should be informing the work of the community rather than the NEIC initiative

"I feel that the event was a successful first step. Hopefully it will lead to fruitful collaboration in the future."

"The majority of our community members are not funded or have [not] engaged with the NEIC initiative. This majority is making significant changes on the ground through a community-led approach that is community-based."

REFLECTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS OF MARK BOYLE AND SEÁN Ó FOGHLÚ ON NEXT STEPS

The aim of the Roundtable discussion was to have a constructive and inclusive discussion on on-street drug-dealing and drug use in the NEIC with a view to the generation of ideas to build the capacity of the NEIC to mitigate the problem.

The Breakout Group discussions gave rise to many possible ideas for consideration and these are outlined in Section 2. We have reflected on these and on the plenary discussion that followed.

We would see a number of high level themes coming through the papers prepared for the Roundtable and the dialogue at the Roundtable:

- It is not contested that numerous factors, at an individual, family, community and wider societal level, interact in often complex ways to give rise to behaviours associated with drug use and abuse
- To meaningfully address the issues of drug use and drug dealing there is a need to acknowledge of the root causes of these behaviours and the strongly intergenerational experience of poverty, structural inequality and exclusion of the communities living in the NEIC, as well as the prevalence of similar behaviours and harms, albeit conducted in a more private way, in richer communities.
- There have been extensive new approaches to collaboration and partnership as well as new initiatives in the area as a result of the NEIC process and the community has been involved in these is a new way
- There is a need to develop further the trust in place between those living in the community and those overseeing and delivering services in the community.
- There is a need to protect and positively enhance the reputational capital of those in the community by providing positive narratives
- There is a need to develop further the collaboration evident in the NEIC initiative and at the Roundtable (involving community groups, policy-makers, service-deliverers and the academic community)
- There is a need to build further on the collaborative work underway in the NEIC initiative in the design and implementation of services for the community and there is potential to involve the academic community in this
- There is a need to develop further the coherence, co-ordination and effectiveness of the services being delivered in the community

- There is a need to further support and incentivise people in the community and people working in the community in taking leadership roles and leveraging social networks in advancing the development of the community

It is also necessary in thinking about future 'north star' situations (i.e., how the NEIC wants it to be) to recognise that there are existential threats and pervasive fear faced by community members in the day-to-day. Some community leaders, with direct or indirect experience of previous campaigns to engage directly with drug dealing are involved in engaging the behaviour on the streets, albeit subtly. Unless the here and now issues are dealt with, then fear and coercive influences may impede, or de-rail, attempts at progressive improvement. There is potential to seek to leverage those with local knowledge more in advancing NEIC initiatives.

We make a number of possible suggestions below for further consideration in the development of the NEIC process. We would see the themes identified above as informing the consideration of the outcome of the Roundtable and informing any implementation of the suggestions below.

PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

It would seem that there is an opportunity to consider action in the following areas:

- Further work could be undertaken on a high-level and integrated system of planning and delivery of prevention and early intervention services for the community as a whole
- There may be an opportunity to develop a strategic vision and implementation plan for services to young people, such a youth work and other interventions
- In relation to state-funded settings there may be an opportunity to develop an initiative to support the provision of services in the same buildings at suitable times, e.g.
    - The provision of services to children and families in school settings outside of school hours
    - The establishment of a series of ComMUniversities in local libraries in the NEIC to facilitate a dialogue within the community and between various actors
- There may be an opportunity to explore the development of education and training programmes with work placements aimed at building on the skills of those involved in drug dealing such as entrepreneurial, accounting and budgeting skills to seek to reframe these skills for societal good. There may be opportunities to support those who have completed these programmes to establish local businesses

CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFTEY

It would seem that there is an opportunity to consider action in the following areas to:

- explore the most effective evidence-based policing and harm reduction practices and explore local contexts to determine collectively the intervention(s) to prioritise, using a problem-solving model and to pilot these if appropriate
- explore innovations in other countries (e.g., community courts, heroin assisted treatment, "pink zones", credible messengers [previous drug dealers who are now working in intervention]), including through study visits, and to pilot these if appropriate

BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING

It would seem that there is an opportunity to consider action in the following areas to:

- Explore the option of a small number designated spaces for drug dealing ("pink zones"
- Explore interventions in one or two specific places that increase the broader community visibility and useability of spaces where open drug
- dealing takes place, and in spaces which are currently considered unusable by the wider community, and therefore open to use for drug dealing
- Explore, in one or two specific places, the development of green spaces on the roofs of residential buildings
- Explore, in one or two specific places, the development of existing spaces which prioritises space for community use over their use by car drivers

OVERALL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

The general briefing paper for the Roundtable set out the virtual universal agreement that socio-economic deprivation and drug dealing and drug use are inextricably linked and that mitigating the former is crucial if we are to mitigate the latter. Other inputs into the process highlighted that (a large part of) the NEIC has been described as a state produced poverty hub.

While it is beyond the scope of the Roundtable process, it seems to us that in a very broad way there is a need to explore possibilities that may seek to have reflection on the possibility of new alternative or mixed economies in the NEIC area. Two particular possibilities, that might be worth exploring further, occur to us are:

- Iit might be useful for the NEIC to examine the potential of the Community Wealth Building paradigm. This model places an onus of anchor organisations with a significant presence and stake in the local community (local authorities, public bodies, colleges, universities, hospitals, schools, housing associations, community and social enterprises and private businesses) to circulate wealth locally.
- It might also be useful to explore the implementation in the NEIC of the concepts set out by Prof. Mary Murphy in her recent book "Creating an Ecosocial Welfare Future". This might involve shifting from production and consumption and valuing other forms of participation and ways of experiencing and contributing to the world.

REFLECTIONS OF CHAIRS (INCLUDING CHAIRS OF BREAKOUT GROUPS) ON PROCESS

We all consider that it was a privilege to be involved in this Roundtable which seems to us to be a rewarding and valuable experience for everyone. It brought a welcome opportunity for reflection and exchange of views and ideas among the local NEIC community, researchers/academics from Maynooth University and policy makers and those involved in the implementation of policy. It addressed a very specific area of policy – drug dealing and drug use in the NEIC. It was also positioned in the process as part of the development of the next strategy of the NEIC initiative.
The "origin story" is set out in the Introduction. It was a happy coincidence that the need for a new element to the development of the NEIC strategy coincided with the openness of academics/researchers in Maynooth University to be involved.

The NEIC secretariat and the co-chairpersons from Maynooth University worked together on the design of the agenda. Particular care was taken to ensure that the first plenary session set out the overall aims of the Roundtable while not being too lengthy or dense. There was also a deliberate attempt to get everyone to engage openly at the breakout groups by having Trevor Vaugh's input. All these elements seem to work quite well. There can often be too many overlapping introductory speakers, often repeating each other, and this was avoided. It was really important to have the inputs from Liz Canavan and Jim Gavin given their key roles. We consider that Trevor's input did help set people up to be open in their engagement and set a really good tone.

In designing the breakout sessions, the NEIC secretariat and the co-chairpersons from Maynooth University worked together to identify the three themes and these were not contested. Each of the groups coming to the Roundtable undertook a lot of preparation. It might have been helpful if the papers could have been circulated a few days earlier.

There was significant preparation from Maynooth University where the two co-chairs engaged widely to bring together sixteen academics from a wide range of disciplines, each of whom had a particular expertise in some aspects of the range of issues involved and many of whom had direct experience of working with the NEIC community. The academics/researchers broke into three groups – one for each theme – and drafted detailed papers on a combined basis. Apart from the planning sessions that Maynooth academic/researchers collectively took part in, a convener organised the sub-groups of academics/researchers and ensured that the material was drafted. A common and shared

analysis emerged from this work which had not been fully anticipated among a group who may not all have known each other well. In addition to the papers prepared for each of the three themes, Mark Boyle also drafted a general briefing paper (building on the material prepared by Maynooth University academics) which helpfully brought together themes arising from the other papers.

The North Inner City Community Coalition provided a very helpful paper to inform the event. It was particularly useful that this was available to the researchers/academics in developing their papers. The Coalition also provided some further material and links which informed the preparation and organised a premeeting of those attending from the community to assist in planning for their engagement at the Roundtable.

The NEIC secretariat provided papers for each theme to demonstrate the work underway and in planning. These included Jim Gavin's input at the Citizens' Assembly on Drug Use in September 2023.

The breakout groups each had 15 to 20 in attendance and were chaired by experts in research for policy. Maynooth University academics acted as rapporteurs. While the groups were quite big to have very focused discussions, they had a lot of time to talk through the issues and everyone had the opportunity to engage at them. It was challenging to come up with a small number of focused ideas. It was, however, clear that there were themes emerging in each of the sessions and across the sessions and these have, hopefully, been captured above in the reflections and recommendations set out above be the two chairpersons. The breakout groups were where the real discussion took place and seem like a very important step to us in building trust and collaboration.

In terms of organisation, the groups would have been better to have a room each rather than seeking to have two of the groups in the same room – this was addressed well in the tea break. Also, it might have been helpful if the rapporteurs had been given a little more time to gather their thoughts before feeding back into the plenary. Consideration might also have been given to having two groups for each theme – this would have allowed more detailed discussions but may have not led to as much informed discussion given the range of important perspectives.

In terms of the final plenary, it was worked well in bring the discussions at the breakout groups to the attention of everyone and allowing a short time for discussion.

There were also ample opportunities for informal dialogue before the Roundtable, at the tea break and afterwards.

Overall, the Roundtable's positioning as part of a strategic development process is really helpful and gives an opportunity for the outputs to have a real impact. Furthermore, the openness of the participants to engagements like these and willingness to work together further confirm the positive nature of the NEIC initiative and the positive outcome for the Roundtable.

At the same time, it is important that the positive trust that has been developed at the Roundtable be built upon with further engagement among the various groups involved. The NEIC secretariat has the potential to continue to work in this way as well as ensuring that there is active consideration of the outputs of this Roundtable. There is also potential to broaden the nature of the engagement involving academics and researchers from a wider range of universities in the next step of the process. While mechanisms to do this are not really established nationally, the research for policy work being lead by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science provides the potential to support such engagement.

There is also potential for some of the suggestions arising from the Roundtable to be considered in local contexts other than the NEIC and the dissemination of this report should assist in its wider consideration.

NEXT STEPS

The most important next step is that the NEIC Initiative is currently undertaking a review of its strategic objectives and that the outputs from the Roundtable will be considered in this process.

This Roundtable makes a number of suggestions for consideration. Furthermore, the engagement approach used at the Roundtable provides a potential model for consideration in the continuing work of the NEIC as a way of deepening the trust that has been developed as part of the work of the NEIC, in general, and in this Roundtable, in particular.

While it is unlikely that it will be feasible for the NEIC to advance every one of the many suggestions that have been made in this report, particularly in the short term, this report is now to be considered within the processes established by the NEIC Initiative to advance its strategic planning. It is also possible that some of the suggestions may also be relevant for the work of other task forces or working groups looking at related issues.

Finally, it is important to restate that there way an openness and desire from many of the Maynooth University researchers/academics to be involved in further advancing on ideas and issues that have emerged as part of this process and to assisting in the work of the NEIC initiative generally.

APPENDIX ONE: LIST OF ATTENDEES A-D

Name	Organisation/Department
A Jamie Saris	Maynooth University
Amos Njuigi	NICCC/ACET
Aoife O'Regan	SWAN Youth Service
Austin O'Carroll	North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce
Bairbre Nic Aongusa	Department of Rural and Community Development
Barbara Nea	Department of Further and Higher Education, Innovation and Science
Belinda Nugent	NICCC/NEIC Resident/ICON
Ben Ryan	Department of Justice
Brian Melaugh	Maynooth University
Brenda Boylan	Department of the Taoiseach
Brian Kirwan	HSE
Bridie Flood	NICCC/NEIC Resident/Crinan
Cian O'Concubhair	Maynooth University
Clíodhna O'Neill	Department of Education
Deborah Talbot	TUSLA
Derek Barter	Maynooth University
Des Crowley	HSE

APPENDIX ONE: LIST OF ATTENDEES E-L

Name	Organisation/Department
Eddie Mullins	LCSP
Elizabeth Meade	Maynooth University
Fergal Lynch	University of Galway
Frank Lambe	Dublin City Council
Gary Broderick	SAOL
Helen Hall	Policing Authority
Ian Marder	Maynooth University
Jarlath Lennon	An Garda Síochána
Jim Gavin	NEIC Independent Chairperson
Jim Walsh	Department of Health
Joan MacMahon	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Johnny Connolly	University of Limerick
Jonathan Dowling	Belvedere Youth Club
Josephine Henry	NICCC/Dublin City Community Coop
Kevin Wozniak	Maynooth University
Kieran Rose	Maynooth University
Liz Canavan	Department of the Taoiseach

APPENDIX ONE: LIST OF ATTENDEES M-S

Name	Organisation/Department
Marianne O'Shea	Maynooth University
Marie Kavanagh	Dublin City Council
Mark Boyle	Maynooth University
Mary Doyle	Maynooth University
Niall Fitzpatrick	Department of the Taoiseach
Olivia Brody	NEIC Programme Manager
Orla Corrigan	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Inclusion and Youth
Passerose Mantoy-Meade	NEIC Resident/Chrysalis
Patrick Murdiff	NICCC
Paul Carroll	Department of Social Protection
Paul White	Dublin City Council
Paula Kearney	NICCC/NEIC Resident/ICON
Richard Cason	NICCC/ACET
Rory Hearne	Maynooth University
Sarah Kelleher	NICCC/LYCS
Seamus Taylor	Maynooth University
Seán Ó'Foghlú	Maynooth University

APPENDIX ONE: LIST OF ATTENDEES S-T

Name	Organisation/Department
Seán Redmond	University of Limerick
Síle Loughrey	Probation Service
Sinead McGilloway	Maynooth University
Stephanie Cleary	Foróige (HAY Project)
Tanya Ganly	Department of the Taoiseach
Tony Duffin	Ana Liffey Drug Project
Trevor Vaugh	Maynooth University

APPENDIX TWO: BRIEF INPUTS FOR NUI MAYNOOTH RESEARCH TO INFORM ROUNDTABLE EVENT IN MAY 2024 - NORTH INNER CITY COMMUNITY COALITION

Sources of Information:

- A key text in understanding policing in the north inner city with direct implications for engaging with street dealing is the PhD thesis by retired Detective Superintendent **Eunan Dolan**. There are also linked media pieces as well as an upcoming article by Eunan Dolan in the next edition of Working Notes (expected mid-May 2024 publication though a pre-publication draft might be accessed via the author)
- ·There is currently an ongoing **NEIC community consultation**. A named key Question for community engagement is whether the strategic goal of "alleviating gangland threat in the community through Operation Hybrid" was realised. While Operation Hybrid is principally linked to direct violence, it is regularly cited by AGS in the context of street dealing.
- Open drug dealing is linked to the broader topic of **drug related intimidation** (DRI) in the Anna Liffey Drug Project report which followed a pilot project in 2019-2020 and was funded by the NEIC. This in turn followed a conference in June 2018 in Croke Park on DRI entitled "Lives Without Fear- What can work?" See the NEIC Programme Office, AGS or the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (who all co-operated to run the event) for a copy of the report on the conference. The carrying out of this conference, with the NICDATF and the National Family Support Network playing a key role, can inform how resident and broader community voices can be engaged with positively in shared discussion.
- An Garda Síochána (AGS) have been recipients of NEIC funding for addressing street dealing, including as relates to the Liberty Park area. Reports on the spending of this funding and the activities of **Operation Cribbage** can be accessed via the NEIC Programme Office. This is in addition to many policing plans and how national AGS strategies have been implemented in the area.
- The **Local Community Safety Partnership** (LCSP) is also a recipient of NEIC funding. Street dealing features heavily in the Community Safety Plan. However the LCSP has also been a venue of internationally-informed discussions on models to address street dealing locally. Paddy Craig (predecessor to the current LCSP Coordinator) met many times with local senior AGS to discuss this specific topic and how international models, informed by his own international policing experience, might lead to new practices. Notes on these discussions should be with LCSP and AGS.

- There are various sources on the **level of community policing** in the area. For example:
  - Community policing levels with comparators back to 2009.
  - The burden placed on community policing given the high levels of arrest and caution in central Dublin which take individual Gardaí away from the streets and into the necessary admin.
  - The comparative level/rate of transfer of Gardaí out of the north inner city.
  - The burden placed on local AGS's community policing given the fact that the NEIC is a major transport hub for the country as well as a venue of national protests and events.
- Since street dealing and linked activities regularly involve minors, the reality and language of **child trafficking** is important. See p. 89 for how Tusla explicitly understand children's involvement in drug dealing as child trafficking.
- There are huge concerns among residents that street dealing is not dealt with at same level of urgency or seriousness on residential streets in comparison with street dealing in business-centred parts of the city.
- There is a broader context which needs to form part of a discussion e.g. 'war on drugs' https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_on_drugs. Our experiential evidence tells us that no amount of soft or hard policing will change the reality that people who are 'suffering' will use drugs to alleviate their pain (personal, social and existential) and others will line up to sell those drugs.
- Irish Network Against Racism published a report on **policing and racial discrimination** in April 2024.
- Other resources for research include the overall journey of community-Garda liaison through the past couple of decades and how street dealing and been raised and responded to including:
  - Sub Group 1 of the NEIC,
  - D1 Community Safety Forum,
  - Resident Group and groups linked to housing bodies,
  - the now defunt Community Policing Forum,
  - the Ethnic Policing Forum,
  - North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force,
  - National Family Support Network
  - and many other services provide settings where street dealing has been discussed/debated and integrated as a factor to be considered when planning services for vulnerable people young and old.
- There is always a need to hear the **voices of lived experience** in the area, whether as residents, other community members, youth workers, drugs project workers, members of various liaison groups with AGS.

- There are some Departments which are not represented on the NEIC including the Department of Housing and dedicated civil servants from the Integration section of Dept of CEDIY both of which could be positive contributors to this discussion.

Finally, there is a weariness among all residents of the lack of sufficient response to the level of drug dealing in specific parts of the NEIC. This, together with a sense that there is nothing that can be done, leaves local people with a sense of despair and worse, a fear that it will be so easy for the next generation of young people to continue in the lucrative trade of drug dealing.

We welcome an opportunity to explore innovative ways of reinventing or embracing new styles of policing which would have a commitment to, not just reducing street drug dealing, but to irradicate it completely.

Sarah Kelleher: sarah.kelleher@lycs.ie
Richard Carson: richard.c@acet.ie

On behalf of the NICCC.

26th April, 2024

APPENDIX THREE: GENERAL BRIEFING NOTE FROM MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

"One idea lights a thousand candles." *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

BACKGROUND

Aim: Collectively, our aim is to support and inform the review by Dublin's North East Inner City (NEIC) of its strategic objectives by convening a creative space for intersectoral dialogue to spark fresh ideas to mitigate the problem of drug dealing and drug use (DDDU) in public places within the NEIC area.

Why convene this roundtable?

In a nutshell, to pool expertise and generate ideas which add value to NEIC's strategic objective of mitigating drug dealing and drug use (DDDU) in public places

Community development can be taxing, complex and decadal in bearing fruit. By its nature it can lead to a degree of weariness, cynicism and burnout, most importantly for the community itself. This context is the enemy of ideas generation. And yet ONE simple idea has the potential to unlock transformational change. No stakeholder group has a monopoly on the expertise required to understand and confront a public problem as wicked and tenacious as that of DDDU, not least in areas with the history and demographic and socio-economic profile of the NEIC. Impressed and encouraged by the intersectoral dialogue and opportunities for collective learning NEIC and relevant stakeholders have already brokered, we believe there is scope to further pool expertise and to cultivate a collective intelligence – a 'bigger brain' – to build our capacity to mitigate DDDU.

This roundtable hopes to (briefly!) liberate all participants from everyday pressures and to secure time and space to bring an intensity of intelligence, expertise and focus to bear on the problem of DDDU.

What are the intended outcomes?

Its primary outcome will be the generation of ideas to build the capacity of the NEIC to mitigate the problem of DDDU. But this roundtable will also prototype ONE potential model of intersectoral dialogue. Its secondary outcome will be greater understanding of the extent to which assembling such a pool of expertise in this way can be helpful to the NEIC. Whist planned as a discrete event, it is hoped and anticipated that productive and ongoing intersectoral relationships and networks will emerge as a derived consequence.

What is covered in this introductory briefing note?

In preparation for the meeting MU colleagues have developed THREE 'IDEAS' papers to stimulate discussion: a) Prevention and Early Intervention; b) Crime and Community Safety and c) Built Environment and Spatial Planning. These papers are intended to spark the conversation and are not meant to be prescriptive nor limiting.

In this introductory briefing note we:

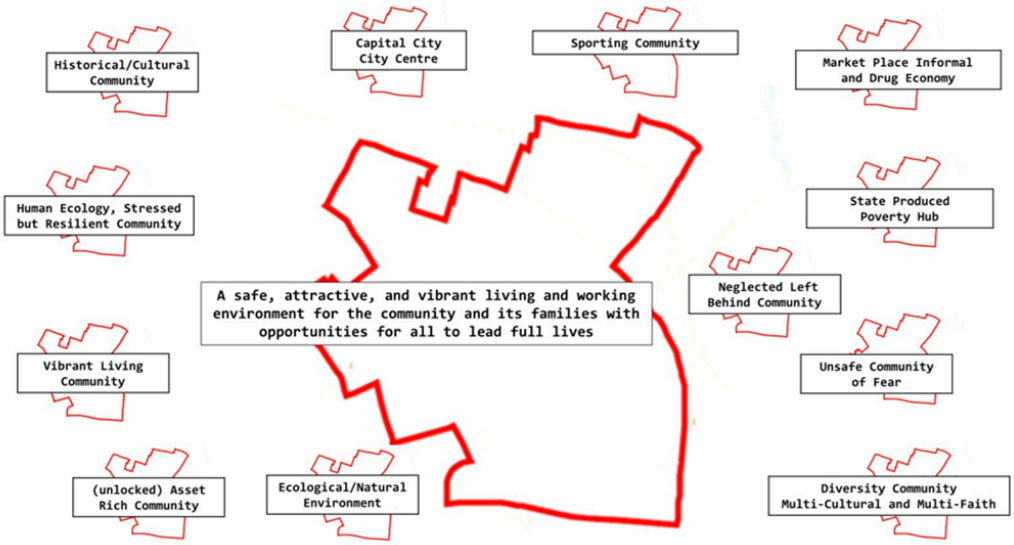
- Frame the NEIC area as a place made by people and a people made by place.
- Place up front the central problem of poverty mitigation
- Take stock of some of the innovative service reforms being tried and tested in the NEIC area.
- Reflect upon how Participatory Policing (PP) can best be practiced.
- Underscore the intersectoral dialogue in the national context.
- Summarise key points of action identified by each of the three MU papers.

THE NEIC: BOTH A PEOPLE AND A PLACE

People make places. Places make people. To nourish ourselves we need to nourish our places; to nourish our places we need to nourish ourselves.

The way that the NEIC is imagined and framed as a people and a place sets the backdrop in which context sensitive preventative policing takes place. The way the NEIC and its communities are spoken about varies greatly. Each has an essential truth for the NEIC is a meeting point for a rich variety of people's and their stories. Each story is glocal – that is is intensely local but also entangled with other places at all sorts of scales. Each story has a different temporality – some have been centuries in the making, others are more recent. Each has a different rhythm – daily, weekly, monthly, seasonally, annually. How we understand this confluence of stories and where they meet and encounter one another needs to be understood – for the story of drug dealing and drug use (DDDU) is but another layer of texture added to the palimpsest and meets all other stories in different ways and at different times.

What kind of people and place? – The NEIC as a place where people's stories meet and where new possibilities enter the world every day.



POVERTY AS THE ESSENTIAL PROGENITOR

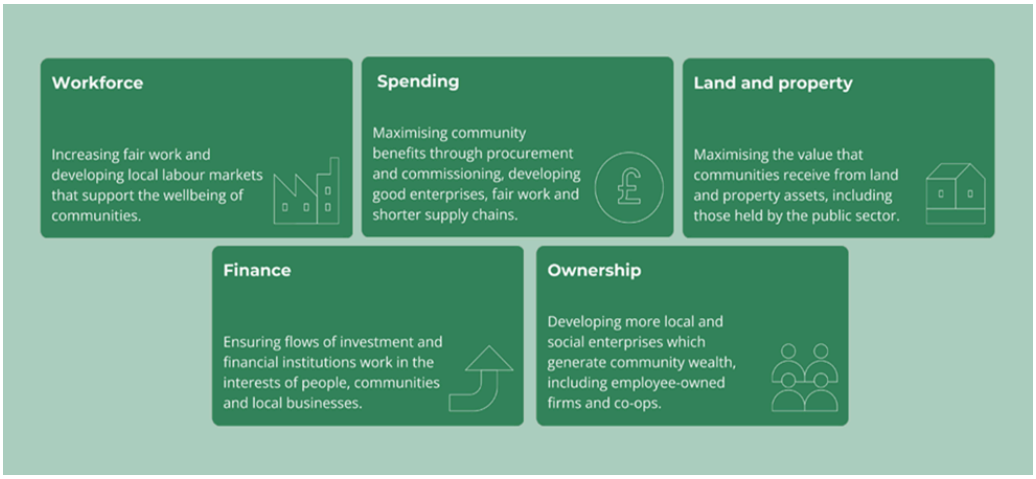
Whilst the relationship between poverty and DDDU is complex, it is virtually universally agreed that socio-economic deprivation and DDDU are inextricably linked and that mitigating the former is crucial if we are to mitigate the latter. The NEIC has been described as a state produced poverty hub. This is a important framing as it opens us up to the idea that existing economic policies have conspired to marginalise this place and that more of the status quo is unlikely to help.

The term state created poverty hub is taken from :
Riordan S and Wardick N (2024) Reading the City Centre Riots: Thoughts, Feelings and Reactions of the Dublin City Community Co-op Working Notes, 38 5-14. Riordan and Wardick attribute to an article in the Irish Times published in 2023 by Patrick Freyne and Jack Power.

Here we might think about alternative economies or mixed economies. In particular, it might be useful for the NEIC to examine the potential of the Community Wealth Building paradigm – variously described as 'The Cleveland model' or the Preston Model. This model places an onus of anchor organisations with a significant presence and stake in the local community (local authorities, public bodies, colleges, universities, hospitals, schools, housing associations, community and social enterprises and private businesses) to circulate wealth locally through the work of the Democracy Collaborative in the USA and the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) in the UK Community Wealth Building is now being applied globally, including here in Ireland.

See CLES, Community wealth building: Ireland A guide for council Members, May 2024

The five pillars of the community wealth building paradigm.



NEIC AND INNOVATIVE MODELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY: IDEAS ON GOOD PRACTICE

It is clear that the NEIC are already committed to what might be regarded as good practice innovative models of service delivery, including in the areas of community policing, community safety and DDDU. There is scope now to check in with whether the thinking behind these innovations is being validated by experience on the ground.

We base this assessment on Cottam H (2018) Radical help: How we can remake the relationships between us and revolutionise the welfare state (Hachette, UK)

The innovative design features MU team have identified include:

- **From the war on drugs to biomedical and now to biopsychosocial approaches:** There has been a shift from seeing the problem of DDDU as a criminal one to a public health one. Phase two of this has been to recognise that addiction has complex roots and needs interventions which are biopsychosocial that is structural, psychological and in need of thickened social network and supports and the nurturing of localised ecologies of care.
- **From expert designed to co-created interventions:** To tackle DDDU it is necessary to: tap into the formidable indigenous intellectual resources which already exist in communities; find a method to render this wisdom intelligible; respect people's analysis of where they are at and why; dignify their concerns and ideas; entertain the solutions they propose and; champion policies which are authentically co-created, co-governed and co-implemented by planners, investors, policy makers and practitioners and the communities they serve.
- **From fixing deficits to building capabilities:** Instead of confronting DDDU as a reflection of community failure - what is absent from communities - the best interventions begin by

·by mapping comprehensively the skills and assets which communities already have and work to build upon areas of strength and vitality.

- **From means testing to open to all:** Any strategy to mitigate DDDU will concentrate on communities that are most in need, but it will also champion universal, anticipatory and preventative interventions to build capacity and strengthen human flourish and support lifelong and sustainable well being.
- **From centralised institutions to a user-centred perspective:** Effective DDDU mitigations recognise that discrete, surgical or siloed services fail to adequately address problems that stem from people's complex needs and promote a person-centred or user-centred model of service provision.
- **From transactional to relational models of delivery:** DDDU mitigation will deliver therapeutic interventions by building intimate relationship-rich bonds of mutuality, reciprocity and even solidarity within and between service providers and beneficiaries in preference to professionalised provision from a distance for and to means-tested beneficiaries.
- **From instrumental metrics to prosperity metrics:** A successful DDDU will work to produce sophisticated and bespoke measures of well-being which will include softer measures of human benefit and relief as well as standard econometrics. Building capabilities and confidence for example and moving people towards the labour market is itself a key achievement – not necessarily employment outcomes and unemployment rates.
- **From policy officers to frontline advocates:** DDDU mitigations require a new generation of practitioners. There is scope to scale up frontline workers with particular skillsets - beyond formal qualifications and technical competencies, frontline advocates who work closely with individuals and households with complex problems and multi-agency services need to have considerable emotional intelligence and resilience and an ability to work in an agile way to create bespoke bridges.

TAKING STOCK OF PREVENTATIVE POLICING

The general case for preventative policing is unarguable. But PP is also becoming more contentious – in some cases it is being deemed disproportionate to the risk faced and in other cases unjust and not consistent with equality and fairness. Questions are now also being raised about the cost of PP and its negative impacts on trust and civil liberties. We need to think a little harder and more clearly about what we are doing and why.

Ellefsen et al. (2023) provide a neat framework for checking the health of any PP strategy.

Ellefsen, H.B., Bjørkelo, B., Sunde, I.M. and Fyfe, N.R., 2023. Unpacking preventive policing: Towards a holistic framework. International Journal of Police Science & Management, 25(2), pp.196-207.

A Framework to Guide Preventative Policing in Communities

What is the problem and who/what is a(t) risk?	Before deciding on the most suitable preventative responses to a certain problem, the problem that is to be prevented should be scrutinized to ensure that it is the actual problem and that it can be mitigated using PP.
Which types of intervention?	It is useful to distinguish between three kinds of PP: • Primary (upstream) prevention aims to prevent harm before it occurs. It addresses the root progenitors of crime. It targets the whole population in order to preclude problems from developing. • Secondary (midstream) prevention aims to reduce the impact of harm that has already occurred by introducing initiatives to prevent it reoccurring. It involves intervening early, before a behaviour and practice formally requires any type of reactive police intervention, to prevent it from becoming established or developing further. • Tertiary (downstream) prevention aims to soften the impact of ongoing harm. Its aim is to reduce the duration and impact of established disorders; for example, by making sure ongoing crime is well managed to reduce further harmful consequences.
Who are the responsible actors, and what role should they play?	Today, drugs are a problem with no clear owner. The debate is whether the problem should belong to the policy or health authorities has been settled. Evidently a multi-agency approach is needed. Police should rarely deliver, or at least not lead, primary PP. Instead, they should focus on tertiary preventative interventions, and secondary preventative interventions in cooperating with other agencies.
Which rationalities and logics are at play?	PP is a social process more so than a generic policing strategy and is heavily dependent on the context in which it is constructed. Therefore, it is impossible to make models, manuals or rules that, once and for all, define how PP should be done and by whom and towards what ends. Place matters and the logics guiding PP should be co-produced with all stakeholders including the community itself. It must have a strong local social license.
What are the effects and consequences?	A fundamental challenge in assessing the effects and consequences of PP is related to measurement, including measuring complex chains of causality and attribution between an intervention and its effect Debates about 'what works' are often struggles over the status of different criteria and public values that are not easily reducible to a universally accepted component of efficiency. Because PP initiatives come with both benefits, costs, and opportunity costs, the goal should be to measure these outcomes.
What are the legal and ethical limitations?	The legal and ethical framework for PP is underdeveloped, leaving wide scope for discretion and a lack of consistent professional standards. Broad ethical and legal reflection is required to develop laws and guidelines on a par with this challenge. The potential need to regulate the discretionary powers of the police in performing PP should be addressed.

Source: with thanks to Professor Nick Fyfe for permission to use his paper and text to compose this table)

EXPERTISE AND EVIDENCE

The importance of intersectoral dialogue with multiple stakeholders (each bringing particular expertise to the table) and evidenced based policy is identified in each MU paper. It is a suggestion that meets the moment. At government level, plans are afoot for the introduction of a new suite of interventions targeted at broadening and deepening linkages between academic researchers, communities and policy-makers - to be layered on top of and to complement actually existing and already achieved knowledge exchange initiatives. The standout initiative is the focus on research for policy in the Irish Government Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science's (published by DFHERIS in May 2022) "Impact 2030: Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy".

The NEIC might leverage this context to support its development of a conA text sensitive PP strategy.

A good example of the kind of work we have in mind is:
Inner City Organisations Network (ICON) Community Action Network (CAN) Community Action Network (CAN) iService Users Rights in Action (SURIA) TRAPPED IN TREATMENT Applying a Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty Approach to the Human Rights and Equality Issues
identified by Service Users of Drug Treatment Services in the North-East Inner City (NEIC)

HIGHLIGHTS (NON-EXHAUSTIVE) OF THE THREE MU PAPERS

By way of drawing together highlights of the three MU papers we make use of the typology set out above between primary, secondary and tertiary interventions. Where mitigations appear to cross these boundaries we allocate them to the one which most fits.

Primary (upstream) prevention aims to prevent harm before it occurs.
Prevention and Early Intervention Group • ***Adult & Community Education*** Establish a series of Communiversities in local libraries in the NEIC to facilitate a dialogue within the community and between various actors. • ***Community Development and Youth Work*** Ensuring that communities have meaningful opportunities to participate in developing, implementing and evaluating the policies that impact on their lives. • ***Protective/Risk Report Card*** A practical step towards this might be a 'report card' that explores structural risk and protective factors.
Crime and Community Safety Group • ***Investing in multi-agency service provision infrastructure*** Explore establishment of Community Hubs that simplify local service delivery, maximise service accessibility, provide more seamless joined-up services with multi-agency management, and solidify long-term, multi-agency collaboration on service delivery.

Built Environment And Spatial Planning Group

- ***Environmental Infrastructure*** Continue to prioritise and invest in sports and arts facilities. Continue to invest resources into harm reduction and low-threshold facilities. Continue to invest in the measures to improve public space including parks, lanes.

Secondary (midstream) prevention aims to reduce the impact of harm that has already occurred by introducing initiatives to prevent it reoccurring.

Prevention and Early Intervention Group

- ***Early Years / Family Supports*** Using a family-focused lens to explore, understand and prevent drug use/misuse in children and young people.
- ***Formal Educational Spaces/Compulsory vs Non Compulsory?*** A key risk factor for developing problem drug use is disaffection from formal education. To move from a space of punitive punishments and exclusion/expulsion from educational spaces, and instead move towards addressing Biesta's question of "whose school is it anyways"?
- ***Improved communications and knowledge for long-term investment in prevention*** One challenge is to sustain focus and investment over time – in the face of competing investment and political priorities, and uncertainty over how best to communicate the need for this and build and sustain public and political support for it.

Crime and Community Safety Group

- ***Enhancing multi-agency working practices to maximise service accessibility*** Identify, pilot and evaluate mechanisms (design thinking, dialogue, restorative practices) to enable the building of relationships and understanding, and collective decision-making on co-working models, among local services.
- ***Evidence-based policing, crime prevention and harm reduction practice*** Bring stakeholders together to explore research evidence on the most effective evidence-based policing and harm reduction practices and explore local contexts to determine collectively the intervention(s) to prioritise, using a problem-solving model (SARA). Identify evidence-based innovations in other countries (community courts, 'pink zones', credible messengers) and bring together joint public and community service group for study visits to co-explore what can be learned and the extent, if any, of their potential transferability.
- ***Improved communications and knowledge for long-term investment in prevention*** Understanding public attitudes. Commission a study on Irish public attitudes to social policy and drug harm reduction to inform specific framing tools and language for politicians, policymakers and advocates to use Extracting meaning from crime statistics Produce briefings and deliver training workshops for politicians and policymakers on: 1) interpreting and communicating crime statistics; and, 2) reframing and communicating effective social policy/justice/drug reforms.

Built Environment and Spatial Planning Group

- ***Adopting a design led approach*** Take a design led approach to the production of public space. Tackle public realm issues not only through the lens of land-use planning but also as a social practice, a space of citizenship, and an exercise in place-making.
- ***Reclaiming space*** Explore interventions in the physical environment that increase the broader community visibility and useability of spaces where open drug dealing takes place, and in spaces which are currently considered unusable by the wider community, and therefore open to use for drug dealing.

Tertiary (downstream) prevention aims to soften the impact of on going harm.

Prevention and Early Intervention Group

- ***Development of a Community HUB*** This could follow the community court model, although the word court should be excluded as research suggests that this reduces communities desire to engage

Crime and Community Safety Group

- ***Change practices and replace legislation that cause further harm*** Produce briefings and deliver workshops with Gardaí and public and community services to consider the effects of different approaches to policing and justice, and to facilitate workplace reflective practice and collective dialogue on their relative merits. Develop model legislation to decriminalise drug possession and provide for regulation of or safe access to certain drugs, informed by evidence and experience from other countries.

Built Environment And Spatial Planning Group

- ***Drug use and drug dealing in public spaces*** Reframing DDDU as a market economy and the NEIC as a market place where drugs transactions take place. This would allow policymakers to better understand the logics at play on the ground and support measures to disrupt local drug markets, including decriminalising and regulating controlled drugs. We need to think of the NEIC as a market place – a space organised, occupied and used by drug dealers and a space of economic transaction. We need to think of the DDDU as mediated by and structured in part by the spatial organisation of the NEIC area.

APPENDIX FOUR: PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION DISCUSSION PAPER MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

Context

Considerable evidence from across the world shows that numerous factors, at an individual, family, community and wider societal level, interact in often complex ways to give rise to behaviours associated with drug use and abuse (e.g. Pitrowska et al., 2019). These are also strongly predictive of more serious and persistent criminal activity (on a once -off or recurring basis) (DCEDIY, 2016), whilst also negatively impacting the overall quality of life (including mental and physical health) of individuals, families and communities and leading to significant financial costs at a wider societal level. Research also shows that those who are marginalised in society are most at risk of developing problem drug use (Neale, 2002). Furthermore, problem drug users, when compared to those who do not engage in drug use/abuse, are more likely to have experienced difficult or traumatic childhoods, including what have been described collectively as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), such as child abuse/neglect, parental mental ill health, domestic violence and entering care, whilst these children and young people may also be more at risk of being excluded from school (Buchanan 2004; Buchanan & Young 2000).

The Academics/Researchers in this group seek to understand and address this complex social issue from a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines, including law, adult and community education, public health and community psychology, and community and youth work. In so doing, we are deeply embedded in engaged research practices with and for the communities, families and young people whose lives are impacted by drug use/abuse, whilst having access to a large and diverse network of institutions and services, such as schools, family support services, adult and further education settings, addiction/drug services, community and youth work projects, and youth justice services.

As a collective, we believed that to meaningfully address the issues of drug use and drug dealing any proposed actions must be embedded in an acknowledgment of the root causes of these behaviours and the strongly intergenerational experience of poverty, structural inequality and exclusion of the communities living in the NEIC. The impact of this reality has led to a community that, despite having a rich tradition and history of its own, has been increasingly marginalised and, despite recent attempts to co-ordinate structured responses to the context, has become increasingly powerless in shaping the course of its own future. Therefore, there is a pressing need to move away from a focus on individuals and their drug

use as an isolated phenomenon and, instead, employ an ecological framework that helps us to better explore and understand the close and complex interrelationship between the individual, family, community and wider society across the life-course (Spooner 2005):
'Good drug prevention is not just about drug prevention- it is also about developing individual, family and community strengths' (Spooner 2005, 90).
Our collective research, to date, suggests that real and meaningful solutions require sustained engagement and investment by the state, as well as a commitment to meaningful participation, to real power sharing and to a foundation built on a rights-based approach to policy development, implementation, and evaluation.
* *Please see end of document for additional context.*

Theme 1: Early Years/Family Supports

Challenge: Using a family-focused/family-strengthening lens to help prevent drug use/misuse in children and young people
We know from a wealth of research that numerous family-level factors combine to substantially increase the likelihood of what may be described as 'anti-social' or deviant social behaviours in children and young people, including drug misuse and, also therefore, possible subsequent criminal behaviour such as drug dealing (Vaughan et al., 2022). These include a lack of family support, family and parental conflict, poor parental practices/supervision/support and negative family attitudes/characteristics and adherence to social norms, all of which may be compounded by poverty or varying degrees of social disadvantage or inequality (Berti & Pivetti, 2019). More specifically, numerous studies, including many conducted in Ireland, highlight the importance of promoting and supporting positive and nurturing parenting practices and the use of family-focused practices to address child and adult mental ill health and wellbeing (e.g. McGilloway et al, 2014; Furlong et al, in press). Evidence from across the world highlights the huge importance of investing in early help and prevention programmes and initiatives including, in particular, those that support parents and families, in order to prevent drug use/abuse and any associated criminality (or other problems) from emerging further down the line.

"The learning and acquisition of antisocial behavior is substantially more likely to occur during early developmental stages, particularly if the observed behavior is committed by people who are part of the individual's intimate social circle" (Basto-Pereira et al., 2022)

Actions

- ***Invest more in supporting and scaling up existing evidence-based family-fccused or family strengthening services/programmes*** *(from the very earliest years) to help*

·support mainly vulnerable and disadvantaged parents and families; the earlier the intervention/support, the better the outcomes and less likelihood of problems such as drug use/misuse becoming entrenched into adolescence and beyond. For example, these might include supporting the delivery of more home visiting services in the area (including parenting supports) and/or ensuring that whole-family support interventions/programmes, such as Family Talk, are available to young families experiencing mental illness (including addiction/substance abuse).

Theme 2: Formal Educational Spaces (primary and post-primary)

Challenge: Making schools community spaces of inclusion and belonging.

In relation to education, a key risk factor for developing problem drug use is disaffection from formal education. An early intervention/approach that can bolster protective factors against problem drug use is to support young people to remain in mainstream schooling and education and prevent school refusal, exclusion and avoidance. The actions below, seek to move from a space of punitive punishments and exclusion/expulsion from educational spaces, and instead move towards addressing Biesta's (2023) question of "whose school is it anyways"?

Actions

- Support the development and piloting of **trauma-informed and restorative practice approach in schools** to promote relationship building, engagement and participation among students and break away from a punishment-orientated and exclusion model. To successfully address school attendance problems, schools need to advance a more inclusive, responsive, and flexible education system. The formal education system needs to avoid 'simplistic and blanket assumptions about parental attitudes, values and behaviours' (O'Toole and Ćirić, 2024, 56).
- **Schools as a site in the community ought to be opened up to the local community** to come together as a shared space. This could include the provision of parenting groups/classes for parents and kinship carers with the aim of supporting parenting skills, attachment, and family functioning (e.g. evidence-based programmes such as the Incredible Years, Parents Plus, Triple P and Parents under Pressure (PuP)); breast feeding support groups for new mothers; social and leisure spaces for the community; greater opportunities for school staff, parents and carers to build relationships that can help to prevent school attendance problems.

- Research should explore **community's perspectives of the role of home school liaison officers as being for the community.** This recommendation reflects on what communities need from a home school liaison officer, their situatedness within communities, and how they may lead the above broadening and community orientation for schools as a shared site of the community.

Theme 3: Youth Justice

Move from indivialised responsiblisation to community, society and governmental collaboration. Risk, protective factors and aligning interventions have become a dominant theme in the area of youth justice both nationally and internationally, despite the evidence being questionable. Much early intervention and prevention initiatives have primarily focused on the individual and their immediate family. This has led to a taken for granted narrative that the individual and their family must change to mitigate risk and increase protective factors in their lives. It is suggested that an alternative approach to risk and protective factors be taken. Rather than understanding the risk and protective factors being related to the individual/family it should be viewed through societal structures and organisation.

Actions

- Evidence Based Report Card: A practical step towards this might be a 'report card' that explores evidence based structural risk and protective factors. Using evidence to conduct a strategic analysis of the area in terms of protective factor provision and risk factor mitigation This can build upon such reports as the Mulvery Report, NEIC 2020 report and the annual NEIC updates An example of this would be, using the key areas for priority action from the Mulvey Report and the NEIC 2020 priority actions to 1) evaluate barriers/facilitators to success in these areas; 2) align international evidence in each action area with actions that have yet to be achieved with a view to developing an evidence base strategy going forward. An example of this might be the Recovery Community that received funding in 2023 – supporting evidence-based framework to this initiative.
- Development of a Community HUB: This could follow the community court model, although the word court should be excluded as research suggests that this reduces communities desire to engage, it being seen as an arm of the justice system rather than a community resources. There is plenty of literature around co-producing the community hub as a means to incorporate a 'nothing about us without us' approach. This approach aligns with objectives and recommendations of both the Mulvey Report and the NEIC 2020 report in terms of strategic plan workstream 6 alignment of services. The community hub model brings multistakeholder/services under one roof. Sub-points 14-20

in the NEIC 2020 report could be met through this approach. This is similar to the primary care centre model that Ireland is familiar with but goes beyond health by incorporating a broad range of services which are community supportive but also community co-led.

Theme 4: Adult & Community Education Responses

Pobal's Deprivation Index highlights that the North East Inner City contains pockets of some of the most disadvantaged areas in Ireland. Unsurprisingly then, many people feel that to some extent the state has let them down and disenfranchisement and disillusion with state bodies is widespread. One issue in the NEIC is low levels of trust from within the community towards state actors and institutions. It may seem counterintuitive but early intervention should begin with older people and adult learners. Adult Education contains elements of the therapeutic in its emphasis on critical reflection and lived experience. To get people to buy into transforming their culture and identity (which is in essence the task) will take time but by engaging adults in a pursuit that poses no threat to the familiar but rather gives them agency through facilitated reflection that may enable a reorientation in their relationship with the state to occur. Adult Education that is not reduced to Training and Employment outcomes but towards healing and recovery can be a vehicle for both community development and personal development. Prevention stems from the process of socialisation and socialisation begins in the home, parents and grandparents are key in a process of reverse engineered intervention.

Actions

- Establish a series of ComMUniversities in local libraries in the NEIC to facilitate a dialogue within the community and between various actors. Participants will include residents, business owners who may or may not live in the area and statutory/voluntary bodies. Participation will be Open Access. Recruitment would be managed by Community Development Projects (in the absence of a LEADER Partnership in the NEIC area). Academics from MU acting as public servants/public intellectuals can deliver modules from various disciplines and bring a research focus to local issues identified by the participants themselves. Each programme can be designed to respond the demands of the group. The academic content will be inclusive of new communities in the neighbourhoods. As the programme is co-authored and co-produced, empowerment and agency can be achieved with the aim of capacity building. With our partners in the area (e.g. Community Development Organisations, ETB, Employment Agencies, Adult Guidance Services, Adult Education Services, Addiction Services, Libraries etc.) each programme can define for itself what is important and how to achieve the ultimate goal of finding solutions to the endemic and prolonged issues that prevail.

To find out more about the ComMUniversity visit: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/adult-and-community-education/focus-further-education

Theme 5: Community Development and Youth Work Responses

Challenge: To ensure that communities have meaningful opportunities to participate in developing, implementing and evaluating the policies that impact on their lives.

Community work has been funded directly by the Irish state as a mechanism to address poverty and inequality since the late 1980s, suggesting a recognition by decisionmakers of its value in addressing community and societal issues. However, the last decade has seen a rapid contraction and subsequent redefinition of power relations, including a reduction in, rather than deepening of, public participation in policy making and a marginalization of dissent whereby critical voices have been silenced with a growing expectation that community and voluntary groups should not act independently of government, should not respond to needs identified and prioritized by communities and should focus their work solely on the delivery of services on behalf of the government (Harvey, 2017, McArdle, 2019).
Recent research suggests that many community representatives have grown cautious of engaging in collaborative processes, with limited expectations of outcomes that will support and enhance the lives of community members and concerns about the co-option of participatory spaces (O'Shea, 2020). However, there is evidence that where meaningful collaborative processes have been put into place to address 'wicked' policy problems (such as those facing the NEIC) they can provide a viable method to develop inclusive spaces, leading to richer policy responses (O'Shea, 2020).

Some features identified as key to this approach are:
·Well-resourced structures which provide the opportunity for stakeholders to engage on an equal footing, for entrenched attitudes to be dissected and variable outcomes to be integrated.
·An acknowledgement of the role of community representatives/organisations with an interest in social inclusion as central to successful outcomes. These 'boundary spanners' are often the key that unlocks the potential of these processes.
·Need for a focus on dialogue / deliberation and on collaborative approaches: capacity building for public officials.

Actions:

- Ensure that all key stakeholders, including statutory agencies and services create

inclusive, meaningful opportunities for local communities in the development and evaluation of policy and action frameworks.

- Resource the community work organisations and networks that are key to ensuring that communities can provide locally embedded, well informed, critical representation supporting critical collective
- analysis and advocating for collective outcomes within and across communities such as NEIC.

Challenge: To ensure that young people in the NEIC have the opportunity to access, engage with and benefit from the range of public services and supports required to live well and flourish.

A recent report on the Future of Youth Work from the Oireachtas Committee identified the essential role youth work plays in creating and sustaining the kind of environment necessary for young people to overcome adversity and to fulfil their potential as individuals (Joint Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 2023). This is particularly relevant in the NEIC where young people are impacted by and drawn into the drug related economy in the area. As the report recognized, well resourced, developmental youth work is an essential part of any attempt to address the concerns of these young people and their community.

This is call is reflected in the vision for youth work in Ireland developed by the National Youth Council of Ireland, seeking to ensure that "All young people have available to them within their localities and communities, in safe, accessible and inviting spaces and places, a range of youth work opportunities and experiences, provided on a universal basis but with additional targeted supports and services for individuals and groups who need them" (NYCI, 2023)

Action:
·To resource and support both centre-based and detached youth work for the most marginalised young people, supported by qualified experienced professionals. Both are essential resources, with street-based youth work having a particular contribution to make in the lives of the most at risk and disconnected young people, who are least likely to connect with services and supports available.

Group Members

Dr Derek Barter (*Adult Education*)
Dr Elizabeth Meade (*Education*)
Sinead McGilloway (*Psychology*)
Dr Ciarán Ó Gallchóir (Education)
Dr Marianne O'Shea (Applied Social Studies)
Dr Etain Quigley (Law)

APPENDIX FIVE: BACKGROUND - NEIC SLIDES ON PREVENTION

North East Inner City
Social and Economic Regeneration

Presentation to Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use
Session 4 – Perspectives on prevention

30 September, 2023

DUBLIN NORTH EAST INNER CITY

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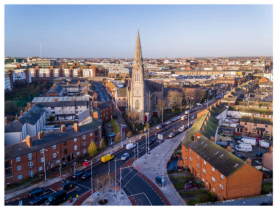
DUBLIN NORTH EAST INNER CITY



Jim Gavin
Chairperson
NEIC Project Implementation Board

Making the North East Inner City a safe, attractive and vibrant living and working environment for the community and its families with opportunities for all to lead full lives.

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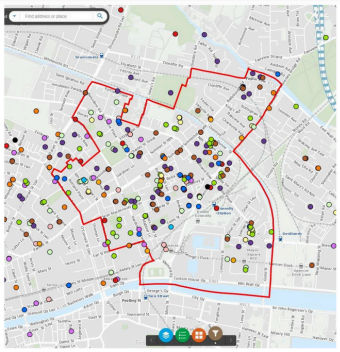
NEIC Map



https://dublinneic.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e7218a8277d3464b9117a4a19bf66e0e

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NEIC History

"Creating a better future"

2016 was a difficult time for the community in NEIC, a community that had a long history of disadvantage.

Ministerial Task Force Chaired by the then Taoiseach, Enda Kenny appoints Kieran Mulvey to identify a way forward- The Mulvey Report

2017 -2019 The NEIC Initiative works with the community and agencies to advance actions from Mulvey Report

2020-2023 A Strategic Plan was developed to build on the Mulvey actions.

2024 – 2026 Strategic Review now commenced to assess work complete as set goals for next 3 years.

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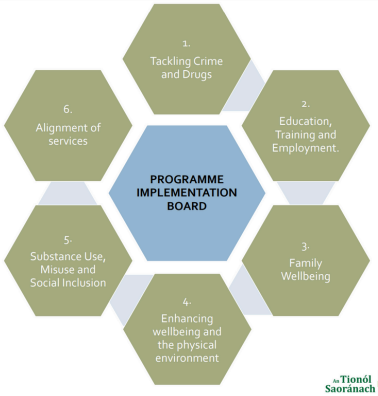
6 Subgroups



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Within and across each subgroup there is ongoing work across:

- Inter-departmental
- Interagency
- Government depts

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Impact of Drugs on NEIC

- Drugs have had a major detrimental impact on the NEIC:
  - The legacy of the heroin epidemic in the late 1990s, with many people still on long-term methadone treatment
  - The widespread availability of drugs in the area, linked to public transport hubs and the Dublin port
  - The intimidation and violence of the community by the criminal gangs who control the drug trade.

SUBGROUP 5:

Substance Use, Misuse and Social Inclusion

- **NEIC supports the health-led approach to drug use**, in line with national drugs strategy, *Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery*.
  - While policing has an important role - in the long-term we must treat drug use as a health issue.
  - Making people feel safe in their community goes hand in hand with helping people to recover from drug use.
  - The **NEIC** has supported a range of initiatives to meet the health and social needs of people who use drugs:

INCLUSION HEALTH HUB (Summerhill)

- A one-stop-shop with a range of person-centred health & social care services for vulnerable groups (e.g. homeless, migrants, Roma,)
  - Facilitates outreach work to clinics and hostels and supports public health initiatives (e.g. Breast Check)
  - Hosts allied professionals, including physios, social workers and homeless case workers.
  - Strong emphasis on interagency collaboration.

CASE MANAGEMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH HIGH DRUG DEPENDENCY

- Case management is a shared framework for managing the care of people who use drugs with high and complex needs.
  - Includes assistance with housing, health, education, employment, addiction, mental health, social welfare, social work and probation services.
  - Engages with service users from drug clinics and community-based drug services; also self-referrals and referrals from public services (Probation Service, HSE, Tusla).
  - Since 2019 to date:
    - ✓ 800 client assessments
    - ✓ 18,000 sessions in the NEIC catchment
  - Funded by HSE and delivered by Chrysalis - Community Drug Project: CHRYSALIS COMMUNITY DRUG PROJECT

EMPLOYMENT ACCESS PROGRAMME FOR PEOPLE IN RECOVERY

Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership
'Building an inclusive community'

- ***Career's Edge*** - a focused programme of supports to enhance the employment prospects of people in recovery from substance use.
  - Bridge the gap between rehabilitation/ treatment supports and mainstream education and employment opportunities
  - Twenty week programme offers a strengths & capacities approach; 1 to 1 supports with focus on '**what matters to you**?' rather than 'what is the matter with you!?'
  - Outcomes:
    - ✓ 50% progress to employment
    - ✓ 40% progress to education

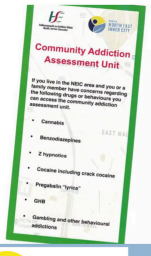
ASSERTIVE ON-STREET OUTREACH TO VULNERABLE GROUPS

- The programme supports people who have complex and multiple needs (e.g. addiction, criminality, homelessness and mental health) and helps them engage effectively with support services, often for the first time and to identify and achieve their goals.
  - Known as **LEAR** (Law Enforcement Assisted Recovery), the programme supports people to move away from criminality and antisocial behaviour and towards their personal recovery.
  - In **2023**, LEAR has worked with **380** people in the NEIC & wider Dublin 1 area.
  - Funded by HSE and delivered by: ANA LIFFEY DRUG PROJECT

CASE MANAGEMENT FOR PEOPLE IN PRIVATE EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION

- Provides in-reach case management supports to the high concentration of homeless people in private emergency accommodation (PEA) in the NEIC area.
  - Offer supports and care planning to people having issues around housing, addiction, physical health, mental health, meaningful use of time & legal issues, with nursing team also available to people living in PEAs/
  - To date in **2023:**
    - ✓ 888 initial assessments
    - ✓ With 649 offered case management supports
  - Funded via HSE in partnership with DRHE (Dublin Region Homeless Executive) ad delivered by: ANA LIFFEY DRUG PROJECT

RESIDENTIAL DRUG TREATMENT SERVICE



- Ten bed stabilisation unit serving the NEIC.
- Five week programme offers stabilisation for:
  - opiate substitution
  - benzodiazepine
  - poly-substance and/or alcohol use
- Level 2 prescribing GP with clinics on-site daily with 24-hour on-site nursing cover and operates under full HSE Clinical Governance.
- All referrals must be from
  - HSE Clinic, or
  - Community drug service in the NEIC.
- Since **January 2022 to date:**
  - ✓ **152** people have been admitted
  - ✓ With **93** completing their treatment **(64%)**

OTHER DRUG-RELATED INITIATIVES WITHIN THE NEIC

- HEALTHCARE NAVIGATION SERVICE – people on release from prison
- Drug-related intimidation and violence engagement (DRIVE) – individuals and families impacted by criminal gangs (e.g. drug debts)
- FRONTLINE - Community alcohol treatment service – people with drug and alcohol addiction
- RECOVERY COLLEGE – Working in the NEIC to provide recovery based education and dual diagnosis for people with mental health & substance use
- HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROJECT – tackling health inequalities in the NEIC areas by building community capacity to address health issues affecting them.

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NEIC Challenges:

Diverse responses to many needs.

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Deliberative Democracy

- getting people closer to our govt
- citizens' shaping legislation & policy
- balanced discourse
- different views
- conscientious weighting of arguments
- clarification of position
- coming to a consensual outcome.

The responsibility of a human being is to be a great ancestor

An Tionól Saoránach The Citizens' Assembly

DUBLIN NORTH EAST INNER CITY

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An Tionól Saoránach The Citizens' Assembly

APPENDIX SIX: CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DISCUSSION PAPER MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

International research shows that improving community safety requires sustained investment in preventative policies and services, building public and political support for long-term prevention, enhancing collaboration between police and preventative services, investing in evidence-based crime prevention approaches, and changing practices and laws that risk contributing to harm.

On these five themes, we provide a policy statement, questions which politicians, policymakers, public and community services, researchers and communities should collaborate to answer, and actions that could be of long-term benefit as Ireland starts to implement recommendations from the Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use, and seeks to sustain, support and refine implementation of the Mulvey Report on the NEIC and the Community Safety Plan for the NIC.

Theme 1: Sustaining focus on, and investment in, preventative, joined-up, public, economic and social policies and services

The evidence is clear that areas which manifest the most significant, stubborn community safety challenges tend to be the most deprived areas of cities, and home to many of the most deprived people and social groups. This is the situation in the North Inner City in Dublin. In this context, we would happily collaborate to support an evidence-based approach to investing in the non-justice public, economic and social policies and services – education, training and employment support, housing, healthcare, social protection, youth and community work, sports and recreation, social services like mental health, drug treatment, childcare and family supports, a strong community and voluntary sector, and urban and physical infrastructure – which strengthen communities and prevent problem drug use in the first place.

We would happily collaborate to support a drug policy that prioritises investing in harm reduction and health services, ensuring that a comprehensive range of evidence-based services is in place. Evidence shows that countries which achieve this can demonstrate better outcomes. The range of services includes needle and syringe programmes, opioid substitution treatment, supervised consumption facilities, heroin assisted treatment, naloxone, narcotics anonymous, therapeutic communities, detoxification programmes, psychosocial counselling, new referral pathways from police/courts to health/harm reduction (e.g. drug treatment courts, health diversion).

Underpinning this should be poverty reduction initiatives and a set of outcome measures that aim to close the gaps and disparities between the NEIC, its people and the wider city and society. This must be a sustained, long-term approach (15 - 20 years). Evidence indicates that it is in sustained priority focus over time and the apparent dullness of sustained, daily delivery of evidence-based interventions that cause areas to move away from severe deprivation, and improve safety and life opportunities. The NEIC Mulvey Report and its Implementation Plan recognise much of this.

How might we sustain priority focus on investing in and delivering the services that will provide for residents' safety and life opportunities over the long-term?

Action – Undertake a service mapping exercise and community needs assessment to explore the gaps in local service provision that require new investment to fill.

Action – Explore a state exemption from multiple plans for this area, to be simplified and replaced with a single Community Plan.

Action – Explore establishment of Community Hubs that simplify local service delivery, maximise service accessibility, provide more seamless joined-up services with multi-agency management, and solidify long-term, multi-agency collaboration on service delivery.

Theme 2: Improved communications and knowledge for long-term investment in prevention

One challenge is to sustain focus and investment over time – in the face of competing investment and political priorities, and uncertainty over how best to communicate the need for this and build and sustain public and political support for it.

How might we build and sustain public and political support for long-term investments in public, social and economic policies and services that prevent problem drug use and reduce harm?

Action – Commission a study on Irish public attitudes to social policy and drug harm reduction to inform specific framing tools and language for politicians, policymakers and advocates to use.

Action – Produce briefings and deliver training workshops for politicians and policymakers on: 1) interpreting and communicating crime statistics; and, 2) reframing and communicating effective social policy/justice/drug reforms (Frameworks Institute, 2014; Transform Justice, 2023).

Theme 3: Enhancing multi-agency working practices to maximise service accessibility

Drug, justice, public and community services are most effective when they collaborate. We must develop participatory, structured processes through which services establish, through

dialogue, how to collaborate and maximise their accessibility. This can provide a better understanding of, and empathy for, each other's pressures, practices and needs and enable collaborative problem-solving. At a local level, collaborative problem-solving could facilitate agreement to simplify local planning, identify underdeveloped services and gaps that require targeted local investments, and explore localised opportunities for the co-location of services (Community Hubs, as above).

How might we support drug, justice, public and community services to boost the effectiveness of localised multi-agency collaboration and service accessibility through dialogue?

Action – Identify, pilot and evaluate mechanisms (design thinking, dialogue, restorative practices) to enable the building of relationships and understanding, and collective decision-making on co-working models, among local services.

Theme 4: Evidence-based policing, crime prevention and harm reduction practices

We would happily collaborate to establish how best to comprehensively roll-out evidence-based practices – adult diversion, restorative justice, problem-solving policing, repeat victims' support, sports-based programmes, focused deterrence, social and emotional skills training for children, drug harm reduction, hospital-based interventions, health visitors, trauma-focused interventions and embedded public health nurses – which are most likely to prevent crime and to meet citizens' needs (Campbell Collaboration, 2024; College of Policing, 2024; Youth Endowment Fund, 2024).

How might we support Gardaí to direct their resources towards undertaking, or supporting others to undertake, evidence-based policing, crime prevention and harm reduction practices?

Action – Bring stakeholders together to explore research evidence on the most effective evidence-based policing and harm reduction practices and explore local contexts to determine collectively the intervention(s) to prioritise, using a problem-solving model (SARA) (e.g., Hinkle, 2020; College of Policing, 2021; Department of Justice, 2024).

Action – Identify evidence-based innovations in other countries (community courts, 'pink zones', credible messengers) and bring together joint public and community service group for study visits to co-explore what can be learned and the extent, if any, of their potential transferability.

Theme 5: Change practices and replace legislation that cause further harm

We would happily collaborate to discuss how policing and law can ensure they avoid causing, or being perceived to or experienced as causing, harm to individuals, community

cohesion and trust in police and the state.

How might we equip all stakeholders to build understanding of which approaches to community safety are likely to cause harm, and how those can best be avoided?

Action – Produce briefings and deliver workshops with Gardaí and public and community services to consider the effects of different approaches to policing and justice, and to facilitate workplace reflective practice and collective dialogue on their relative merits.

Action – Develop model legislation to decriminalise drug possession and provide for regulation of or safe access to certain drugs, informed by evidence and experience from other countries.

Group Members

Dr. Ian D. Marder (Convener), Assistant Professor in Criminology and Co-Deputy Director of the Centre for Criminology, School of Law and Criminology

Dr. Seamus Taylor, Head of Applied Social Studies and Lecturer in Social Policy, Department of Applied Social Studies

Dr. Kevin Wozniak, Assistant Professor in Criminology and Director of the Centre for Criminology, School of Law and Criminology

Dr. Cian Ó Concubhair, Assistant Professor in Criminal Justice, School of Law and Criminology

Dr. A Jamie Saris, Associate Professor in Anthropology, Department of Anthropology

APPENDIX SEVEN: BACKGROUND POLICY PAPER: CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Prison and Penal Reform

In 2022 the Government published the *Review of Policy Options for Prison and Penal Reform 2022 – 2024*. The review seeks to find the balance between ensuring that people who commit serious crimes receive a punishment and a period of incarceration proportionate to that crime, while acknowledging that community-based sanctions are often more appropriate. The six priority actions are:

1. To consider the incorporation of prison as a sanction of last resort in statute, in relation to people who do not pose a risk of serious harm, to reduce reoffending and overcrowding in prisons.
2. To develop and expand the range of community-based sanctions including alternatives to imprisonment to reduce re-offending and overcrowding in prisons.
3. To take forward the implementation plan of the taskforce established to consider the mental health and addiction challenges of those imprisoned and primary care support on release.
4. To ensure that all criminal justice policy decisions are pre-assessed to determine, as far as possible, their impact across the criminal justice sector.
5. To establish a Penal Policy Consultative Council.
6. To introduce judicial discretion to set minimum tariffs for life sentences and examine the effectiveness of use of mandatory minimum sentences for certain crimes.

Community Safety

The Government's Community Safety Policy is about people being safe and, importantly, feeling safe in their own community. At the heart of this policy is the principle that every community has the right to be and feel safe in order to thrive and flourish.

The policy brings together the relevant social service providers and the Gardaí to work together with the community in a collaborative manner to tackle the concerns identified by the local community itself.

Pilot community safety partnerships have been running in Longford, Waterford and Dublin's North Inner City and are subject to a thorough evaluation to inform national rollout later this year.

This policy recognises that building stronger, safer communities is not just the responsibility of An Garda Síochána or the justice sector alone.

The *Dublin North Inner City Local Community Safety Partnership (NICLCSP)* was established in 2020 and the Dublin North Inner City Local Community Safety Plan was published in September 2023.

The five priority areas are:

- Drugs, Inclusion-Health, Anti-Social Behaviour
- Family, Youth and Community
- Education, Lifelong Learning
- Integration, Ethnic and Multi Faith Inclusion
- Physical Environment

The Minister for Justice recently announced the launch of a campaign to recruit a Director of the new National Office for Community Safety.

The Dublin NICLCSP has developed a *Community Safety Warden's scheme*. Funding of €150,000 from the Department of Justice's Community Safety Innovation Fund (CSIF) was provided for the scheme in 2022. The project aims to promote a pro-social space for the recreation in Wolfe Tone Park and its surrounding area, act both as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour and reassure elderly and vulnerable members of the community. It will also act as clear channels to signpost the vulnerable away from harmful activity. The success of the scheme will be monitored and a similar scheme is being set up for O'Connell Street and its surrounding area.

Youth Work

Young Ireland: the Policy Framework for Children and Youth 2023-2028, launched in November 2023, notes the importance of youth programmes and projects to support young people, especially those experiencing disadvantage, marginalisation or who are otherwise vulnerable.

The City of Dublin Youth Services (CDYS) manages the UBU Your Place Your Space scheme which provides targeted supports to young people who are disadvantaged, marginalised or vulnerable.

CDYS also administers the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme which supports volunteer-led youth club/group activities at a local level. It should be noted that there is a lack of national mainstream youth services in the NEIC area such as Foróige, Scouting Ireland, Irish Girl Guides, etc.

Youth Diversion Programmes (YDPs)

The Youth Justice Strategy, launched in 2021, provides a developmental framework to address key challenges and emerging issues in the youth justice area. A top priority is the expansion and deepening of the services offered to young people by the Youth Diversion Projects. In Budget 2024, the funding allocated to overall Youth Justice Services increased by 10% to €33 million.

The Youth Diversion Programme is community-based multi-agency crime prevention initiative which seeks to divert young people who have become involved in crime/anti-social behaviour, and to support wider preventative work within the community and with families at risk.

There are 2 YPDs within the NEIC area and each project is managed by a community-based organisation i.e. Foróige, SWAN Youth Service.

Youth Outreach Programmes

SWAN Youth Service operates a Detached Youth Work Project covering the North Wall and North Strand area, Ballybough, East Wall, North Circular Road, Mountjoy Square, Railway Street and Summerhill.

They work with young people from 10-25 years of age, focusing those who are not consistently engaging with youth work and/or other services.

Community Safety

- *Law Engagement Assisted Recovery (LEAR) Project:* In 2022, the NEIC Initiative supported Ana Liffey to establish a specific LEAR team for the NEIC area. The LEAR Project aim is to support people who have complex and multiple needs such as addiction, criminality, homelessness and mental health to engage effectively with support services, often for the first time, and to identify and achieve their goals. A key focus of the programme is supporting people to move away from criminality and antisocial behaviour and towards their personal recovery. The Project is conducted in a multiagency approach involving Ana Liffey, An Garda Siochána and the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive to develop

·and progress shared care plans with each service user who signs up to work with the team. Referrals are accepted through peers, self-referral and referrals from An Garda Siochana and Dublin Regional Homeless Executive.

- *Restorative Practices (RP):* the aim of restorative practices is to build strong, happy communities, and to manage conflict and tensions by actively developing good relationships and resolving conflict in a healthy manner.

RP can prevent crime, reduce the use of drugs and support community safety through early intervention programmes for children in families and through building relationships and strengthening inclusions in schools and in youth services.

Since 2017 the NEIC has supported the Restorative Practice Programme which has been delivered by the National College of Ireland. Teachers, Gardaí, the ABC Programme, youth workers, Tusla and HSE have been trained and are using RP in schools, in families and on a street level to support neighbourhoods most affected by crime.

A 2021 review of the Programme noted that participants self-rated an increase of average of over 20% in their skill at managing conflict following training; participants are beginning to see real results from practising the skills and knowledge gained from the training and workshops; and that schools are more inclusive and resilient having engaged in RP, which has had a transformative impact on the behaviours and the relationships of children and staff; and

- *Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement (DRIVE)* is a national interagency response to drug-related intimidation and associated violence. Through funding from the NEIC Initiative, a DRIVE Lead (Jack Sheeran) has been recruited for the North Inner City and will be hosted by the Local Community Safety Partnership. The NEIC DRIVE project will be connected with the national structure and will be supported by the national coordinator to ensure sharing of learning and adherence to the model.
- *Dialogue Process*: since 2018 the NEIC Initiative have supported a dialogue process between Gardaí, youth services and young people from the area in order to build better relationships and trust. This also enables both Gardaí and young people to have a better understanding of each other and their roles within the community. As part of the process in 2023 and facilitated by the Community Action Network, dialogue took place in Store Street Garda Station where youth leaders had open discussion with Community Gardaí.
- *The Bridge Project* was established in early 2022 as a response to target conflict occurring between youths from both north and south of the Liffey at the Sean O'Casey Bridge. A multi-agency response involving An Garda Síochána, DCC, Youth Services, the Local Community Safety Partnership and school representation has aided the success of the Bridge Project in addressing the root causes of these conflicts. This engagement includes a range of activities to engage the young people involved e.g. facilitated sessions to

enable developmental conversations to take place between both groups, and football matches organised between the young people and the Gardaí.

- *The HAY Youth Diversion Project (Foróige):* works with local young people in the North Inner City to divert them from becoming involved (or further involved) in anti-social or criminal behaviour through projects to facilitate personal development and promote civic responsibility. To support the work of the HAY Project, the NEIC Initiative provided funding to two projects which were launched in February 2023:
  - A state-of-the-art technology hub to deliver multimedia and technology programmes to young people which will include photography, 3D printing, music technology, video making, coding, electronics, and animation.
  - A youth space for 8 – 11 year olds which will facilitate 1:1s and pro-social activities, as well as a separate space for families.

APPENDIX EIGHT: BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING DISCUSSION PAPER MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

Context

The purpose of this brief paper is to outline ideas to stimulate discussion on the theme of 'Built Environment and Spatial Planning'. Early research on the prevalence of opiate use in the North East Inner City of Dublin (NEIC) highlighted a correlation between heroin use in youth populations and structural issues of unemployment, early school leaving and crime (Bradshaw, Dean et al.,1983). This relationship between drug use and poverty was accepted by policymakers in 1996 with the publication of the 'Ministerial Taskforce on Drugs', commonly referred to as the 'Rabbitte Reports'. The task force's recommendations led to the Local Drug Task Forces, including the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force. In response to social and economic deprivation, the Rabbitte Reports called for the allocation of resources to target the people (treatment, employment initiatives, youth services) and place (sports facilities, community policing, estate management) elements of urban regeneration.

A review of current literature, principally the assessment of the Mulvey Report (Mulvey, 2017), that the NEIC is an area 'rich in 'community assets'. Nevertheless, social deprivation and the related issues of drug use and public drug dealing remain. Despite significant investment in the area since 2017, the evaluation of the NEIC initiative is that drug use and drug dealing in public places are persistent and 'normalised' activities with subsequent impacts on the quality of life of the community. The Mulvey Report (Mulvey, 2017) emphasises the need to 'integrate place-based and person-based approaches to regeneration'. We draw on this frame to outline suggestions/actions for going forward. We also draw on a 'Design approach' to support the development of public services (Government of Ireland, 2022). Central to this approach is the premise that 'we put people first and design together, from the top down and bottom up'. The approach also encourages innovation by 'challenging design assumptions with evidence'. Environmental space and open drug dealing are interconnected realities. While actions are offered under two separate themes, Environmental infrastructure and Drug use and drug dealing in public spaces, the actions are connected. However, as academics, we take as a given that the voice of the community and the lived experience of the people of the NEIC are central to the regeneration process.

Theme 1- Environmental Infrastructure

How might we use physical infrastructure to prevent drug problems and reduce harm?

Action 1: Continue to prioritise and invest in sports and arts facilities. Options could include a partnership with GAA/FAI and a commitment to facilitate the expansion of the 'Boxing Clever' programme in the NEIC. Regarding the arts, engagement with the Abbey Theatre, specifically the 'National Projects' initiative, may be beneficial.

Rationale: Evidence suggests that investment in sports, arts and recreational infrastructure is effective in problem drug use prevention and recovery (Pike, 2004; Morton, O'Reilly et al., 2015). Reporting on the Oireachtas Committee on Arts, Sport and Tourism on 'The Effectiveness of Investment in Sport and the Arts as a Deterrent Against Youth Substance Abuse', Pike (2004) writes:

Based on a review of national and international literature and consultation with a wide range of interested parties, the Committee concluded that involvement in sports or the arts facilitates the holistic development of the person and reduces the propensity to abuse various substances.

Action 2: Continue to invest resources into harm reduction facilities. Because drug consumption/safer injecting facilities can reduce public drug dealing, the location of such a facility on the Northside of Dublin City should be considered.

Rationale: Evidence highlights that harm reduction and low-threshold facilities are effective in supporting people with drug dependence issues. These include drug consumption/safer Injecting and drop-in facilities (Ana Liffey Drug Project, 2015; Morton & O'Reilly, 2016; EMCDDA, 2018). Importantly, there is evidence that Investment in Drug Consumption/Safer Injecting facilities reduce the incidence of public drug use (Mc Cullough, 2017; EMCDDA, 2018)

Action 3: Continue to invest resources to improve public space, streetscape and urban landscapes.

Rationale: Evidence suggests that investment in measures to improve public space has the potential to reduce crime and disrupt drug markets (Ceccato & Nalla, 2020).

Action 4: Explore interventions in the physical environment that increase the broader community visibility and useability of spaces where open drug dealing takes place, and in spaces which are currently considered unusable by the wider community, and therefore open to use for drug dealing.

Rationale: Such Interventions can play a role in reducing open drug dealing (Dolphin House Community Development Association, 2007). There are multiple potential interventions in such spaces that could turn spaces from unsafe/drug dealing, into community/safe spaces. For example, basic interventions such as improved lighting, and maintenance of such by the local authority, or small mini gardens, or small outdoor youth spaces. A concept of community-lead re-design of the physical outdoor space, focused on the wider community

area outside of areas of drug dealing, but also including those, can provide an opportunity to re-imagine and re-design areas to make them less attractive for drug dealing and more attractive for positive community use. Such interventions need to be resourced by the state, and on-going maintenance and even in some cases, supported by community wardens, is required (DHCDA, 2007).

Theme 2: Drug use and drug dealing in public spaces

How might we reduce the harm associated with public drug problems?
Action 5: Relevant research has been conducted on the harm associated with the illicit drug trade and public drug problems in the NEIC. This research can be leveraged through a design approach to inform key stakeholders and develop a comprehensive response to the challenges posed by open drug scenes
Rationale: There is significant evidence on the harm caused by drug use and dealing in public spaces, referred to by Magnusson, 2020, as Open Drug Scenes' (ODS). Research highlights that ODS are harmful to young people (Bowden, 2019), families (Connolly & Buckley, 2016) and the wider community (Loughran & Mc Cann, 2011). A common theme is the reality of drug-related intimidation and violence associated with drug-related debt (McCreery, Bowden et al., 2020). However, ODS are complex, and we must acknowledge the material and psychological factors that influence young people to engage in drug dealing. These factors include meeting status/belonging needs, and because of unemployment/low-paid employment, drug dealing is a means to acquire income (Redmond, 2015; Bowden, 2019).
Interventions include using policing and law and order measures to 'suppress' illicit drug markets and related drug dealing. Prevention and 'desistence' programmes aim to prevent entry into drug dealing, coupled with the offering of viable alternatives to support young people and drug gang members to transition out of the drug economy. These pathways include education, access to meaningful employment and, for those engaged in drug use and drug dealing, access to appropriate harm reduction and treatment interventions.
As academics, we note that this research on ODS is available to the NEIC initiative. In fact, Bowden (2019) and McCreery and Bowden et al. (2020) draw on previously discussed research findings and explore their relevance for young people and drug-related harm in the NEIC. There is an opportunity to build on this localised approach to research by using a design approach to consider how the learning/recommendations can be utilised to develop a comprehensive approach to the problem of ODS. In the design process, there is an opportunity to consider the viability of reframing drug dealing as an entrepreneurial activity and the consideration of designated spaces for dealing (similar to the pink zone in Görlitzer Park Berlin).

The move to reframe drug dealing as a business activity highlights the parallels between the decision-making processes of legal entrepreneurs and those operating in the illicit drug economy. Research examining the characteristics shared between criminals and business entrepreneurs includes risk-taking, strategic decision-making, and management skills. These studies suggest that the line between legitimate and illegitimate business activities is often blurred, impacted significantly by the socio-economic contexts in which individuals operate. The challenge and indeed the opportunity is how to work with people dealing drugs, drawing on their innate business acumen and using it as a pathway to exit drug dealing. As highlighted by Rahman & Raman (2024), introducing courses/internships in business, entrepreneurship, innovation, and advertising in marginalised areas has the potential to offer alternatives to drug dealing. This reframing of open drug dealing is supported by historical precedents, such as the successful transformation of Sydney's Kings Cross area, where a problematic zone notorious for its crime rates was reimagined as a vibrant music festival venue, thereby reducing crime through cultural rebranding and community engagement.
Exploring the option of designated spaces for dealing, while Connolly & Donovan (2014) highlight that policing can contribute to the containment of drug markets and frustrate the emergence of new markets. They advise that 'the complete removal of illicit drug markets through drug law enforcement is not an achievable goal in the foreseeable future'. Because of the challenges of removing drug markets, we should consider pragmatic approaches to managing ODS, including if a designated space for dealing is a viable option for the NEIC (Helge Waal, Thomas Clausen et al., 2014).

Action 6: We encourage policymakers to consider measures to disrupt local drug markets, including the decriminalisation and the regulation of controlled drugs.
Rationale: The evidence suggests that the current regulatory framework that defines certain drugs as illegal is harmful. Prohibition establishes illegal drug markets, with related activities of open drug dealing and criminal activity. (Global Commission on Drug Policy, 2011; Rolles, 2017). Regulation is necessary 'if the harms of .... the illegal drug market are to be reduced but remains a particularly challenging element of the public and political debate.' (Global Commission on Drug Policy, 2018).

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APPENDIX NINE: BACKGROUND POLICY PAPER: THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING

National Policy Background

The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) aims to deliver more compact and sustainable development, as envisaged under Project Ireland 2040. It does this by part-funding regeneration and rejuvenation projects in Ireland's five cities and other large towns. Currently, the URDF part-funds 132 projects, comprising of almost 400 subprojects, right across the country.

More compact and sustainable development involves a greater proportion of residential and mixed-use development within the existing built-up footprints of our cities and towns. This will ensure more parts of our urban areas become attractive and vibrant places in which to live, work, visit and invest.

One of four funds set up under the National Development Plan 2018-2027, the URDF supports the objectives of the National Planning Framework (NPF). With an initial allocation of €2 billion up to 2027, the fund has been extended to 2030 under the revised NDP 2021-2030.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has responsibility for administering the fund. The re-development of Rutland Street School in the NEIC is availing of URDF funding – see below for details of the project.

North East Inner City Progress

Enhancing the physical environment is a key focus of the NEIC Initiative. To date there has been significant investment in a range of projects designed to enhance the physical environment, landscape, and cleanliness.

This investment has seen real improvements in the area through delivery of the following projects:

Royal Canal Cycleway: the cycleway from Sheriff St. to North Strand was completed and opened to the public in 2021.

Fitzgibbon Street Garda Station: fully refurbished and re-opened in July 2022, the station is a unique flagship project with its focus on victim support and community policing.

Rutland Street School: refurbishment works commenced at the former Rutland Street School in 2023. When completed, the building will provide modern, state of the art facilities for youth, community, cultural and education services; deliver a new Civic Centre for the wider North Inner City area; and provide business incubation spaces and shared office space

on site to encourage entrepreneurship/ small business development in the area.

Diamond Park: Work began in July of 2022 to fully redevelop Diamond Park and following 12 months of extensive work, the Park was officially reopened on 14th of August 2023. This beautiful new facility and community space features new fun playground facilities, open green spaces, shrubs & trees, and new seating areas.

James Joyce Street Park: Building on the refurbishment of the St Mary's Mansions, work was undertaken to redevelop the underutilised open space in front of the complex. Completed in August 2023, this open space has been transformed into a beautiful community resource with new trees, shrubs, plants, outdoor seating, and an outdoor boules lawn.

National Centre for Research and Remembrance: The former Magdalene Laundry site on Seán McDermott Street was identified in the Mulvey Report as a keynote site which had potential as a large scale infrastructural project for the area. In July 2023, the Government approved a masterplan for the National Centre for Research and Remembrance located on the site. The National Centre will stand as a site of conscience to honour equally all those who were a resident in Industrial Schools, Magdalene Laundries, Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions, Reformatories, and related institutions. It will also make a valuable contribution to the social and economic development of Dublin's North East Inner City, through the provision of social housing units, further and higher educational facilities, and facilities for family and parenting supports.

Sean McDermott Street Swimming Pool: Extensive works were undertaken to repair the roof, ceiling and broken tiles in the Sean McDermott Street Swimming Pool, with a new façade added, before being reopened in July.

Charleville Mall Public Library: Works completed in 2023 to bring the library up to current standards with a fresh internal design, automated entrance doors, the addition of an accessible toilet.

Greening Strategy

The NEIC Greening Strategy was adopted in 2018 with the aim of identifying opportunities to develop and improve streetscapes and open spaces within the area for the benefit of the local communities and visitors alike. It aims to improve the quality of life of local residents by enhancing the physical environment with the hope that, the area becomes a safer and more appealing neighbourhood, with high quality recreational and amenity resources.

The Strategy has progressed on an annual basis with some noteworthy projects including Diamond Park, street greening and pocket parks including Seville Place Plaza, Oriel Street

Plaza, Annesley Avenue, Summerhill central median, Busáras Triangle, Bresford Place, Memorial Row, Portland Row, Sackville Place, Ballybough Corner, and 10k spring bulbs planted along the Royal Canal.
As of 2021, over 275 semi mature street and parkland trees has been planted, equating to nearly a 30% increase in tree cover in the area; over 2,400 m2 of hard surfaced area has been replaced with planting beds; over 900 linear meters of native hedgerows have been established; and approx 450m2 of wild flower areas have been created.

Arts, Culture & Events

Arts: The NEIC Initiative has been actively working to support the Community Arts sector in the area over the past six years. In 2021, a dedicated Community Arts Coordinator was appointed to develop and deliver a coordinated Programme of Community Arts projects covering children, youth, and senior citizens.
Culture: The NEIC is home to a diverse, multi ethnic and multicultural community. The area also holds four accommodation centres, along with numerous homeless shelters and unsecure housing with a disproportionate representation of minority ethnic people.
The NEIC appointed its first Intercultural Development Coordinator in June 2020. The Coordinator worked with a number of community groups, local organisations and services in an attempt to harness the potential of diversity and address the unique needs of culturally diverse people in the North East Inner City.
Discussions are currently underway to increase the Intercultural role to a team of three people to build and expand on the work achieved to date.
Events: A rich programme of community events has been supported in the NEIC since 2019. Some of these have grown into annual events including the Chinese Lunar New Year Festival, the Intercultural Family Fun Day in Hill Street FRC, Kelly Harrington Fun Day, and the Big Scream Festival. Other events over the past number of years includes Swellfest (a free sports and wellness festival), and music festivals including Gospel Rising and Saoirse.

Housing

St. *Mary's Mansions*: The St. Mary's Mansions building complex on James Joyce Street, Dublin 1 was originally built in the 1940 with families living in small two-bedroom flats with no bathroom.
In 2017, work began on the regeneration of the complex. The €23m project was completed in 2019 and brought the building up to modern standards, including the addition of two new floors to create 80 well-sized, high-quality modern apartments and duplexes.

Twenty-five former tenants and fifty-five families from Dublin City Council's housing list were accommodated in the new complex.

Poole House: 39 A-rated social homes were delivered on Poplar Row for Dublin City Council as part of a €13m development. The apartments, consisting of 3 three-bed, 19 two-bed, and 17 one-bed units, were allocated in October 2022.

Railway Court: In January 2023, Circle Voluntary Housing Association began an 18 month building project on Railway Street which will deliver 47 units consisting of 1, 2 , and 3 bedroom apartments. The development which due for completion June 2024 will home families from the Local Authority housing list. It will also feature communal facilities at ground floor level alongside a landscaped residential courtyard and play area.

Great Charles Street: Approved Housing Body Cluid are in the planning process to construct two apartment blocks on North Great Charles Street, Dublin 1. The project is due for completion in autumn 2025 and will see the provision of 52 apartments, consisting of 28 one-bed and 24 two-bed apartments, all arranged around a central courtyard amenity space.

Matt Talbot Court: In 2023, DCC Housing & Community Services Unit submitted a planning application for the phased demolition and development of the Matt Talbot Court on Great Charles Street.The current complex consisting of 72 homes will be replaced by of two new apartment blocks consisting of 92 homes made up of 29 one-bed homes, 43 two-bed homes, 20 three-bed homes.

Portland Row: Dublin City Council are looking at the potential to develop a DCC Depot on Portland row. A presentation was given to Councillors in 2023 and general approval received. DCC are to now apply for Part 8.

APPENDIX TEN: AGENDA - DETAILED RUNNING ORDER

9:30am **Introductions and Plenary Session**

- Séan Ó Foghlú Chair of Opening Session
  - Liz Canavan remarks
  - Jim Gavin remarks
  - Outline of Design Principles for Event - Trevor Vaugh *Design Innovation*

10:15am **Breakout Groups**

- Group 1 - Chair: Seán Redmond
- Group 2 - Chair: Fergal Lynch
- Group 3 - Chair: Mary Doyle

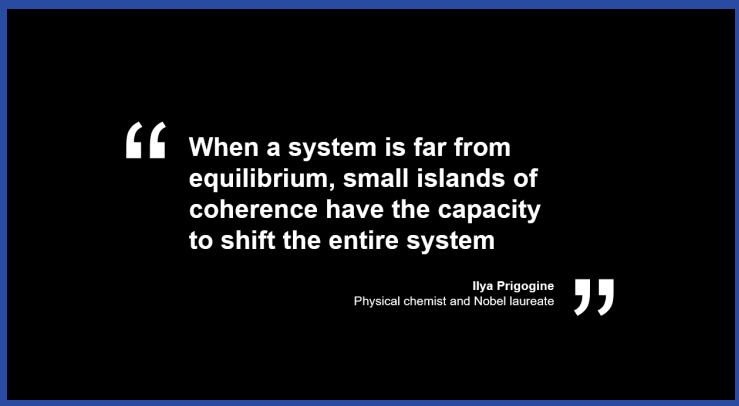
11:00am **10 Minutes Break for Tea/Coffee in Room 301**

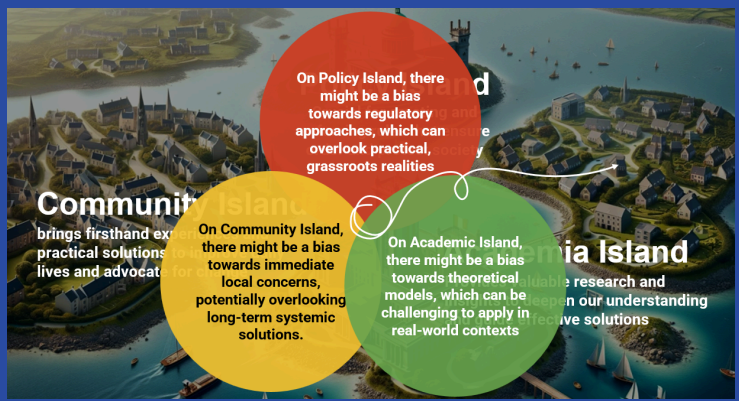
11:10am **Breakout Groups Resume**

11:45am **Plenary Session in Room 308**

1:00pm **Closing remarks**

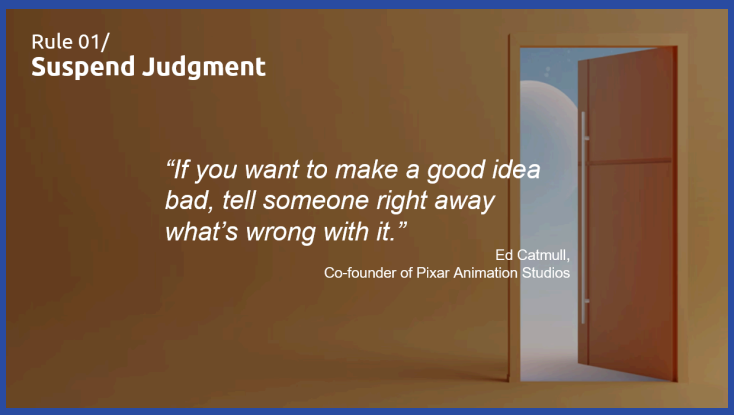
APPENDIX ELEVEN: BRIDGING PERSPECTIVES: PRESENTATION BY TREVOR VAUGH





TESTING CENTRE
ENTRANCE
IONAD TÁSTÁLA
SLÍ ISTEACH
"The difficulty lies, not in the new ideas, but in escaping the old ones"
John Maynard Keynes

Rule 01/
Suspend Judgment
Hold off on judging ideas. Allow concepts to be fully explored before forming opinions, creating a space where creative solutions can emerge without fear of criticism.

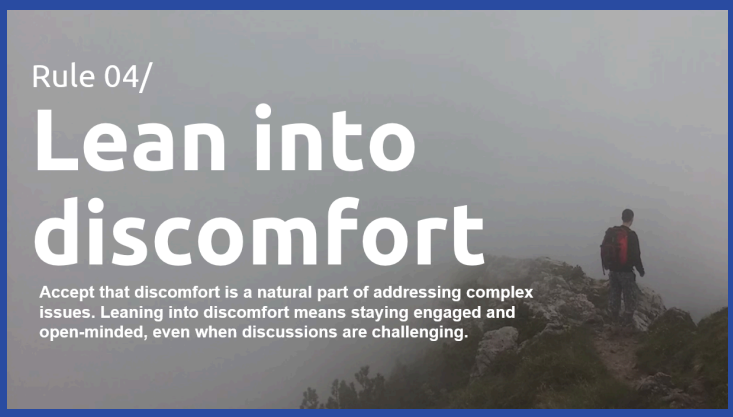

Rule 01/
Suspend Judgment
"If you want to make a good idea bad, tell someone right away what's wrong with it."
Ed Catmull,
Co-founder of Pixar Animation Studios

Rule 02/
Respect perspectives
Approach every discussion with an appreciation for the variety of perspectives present. Understand that different backgrounds and experiences contribute to a richer dialogue and more robust solutions

Rule 02/
Respect perspectives
"Diversity drives innovation – when we limit who can contribute, we in turn limit what problems we can solve"
Telle Whitney

Rule 03/
Encourage wild ideas
Even though a "crazy, impossible idea" might not actually be feasible, it could take everyone's thinking down a new pathway and reveal some hidden gems

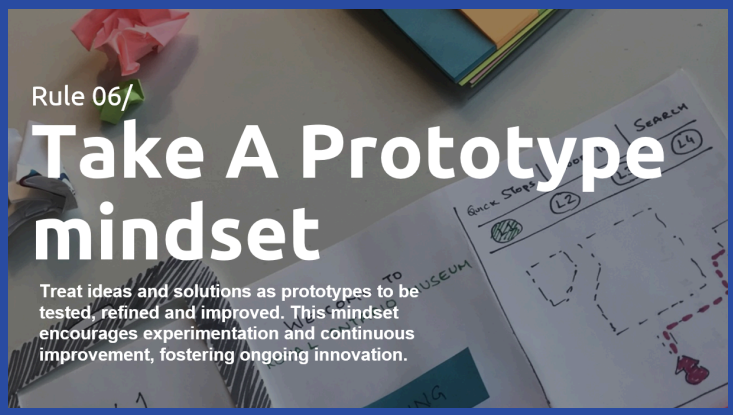
Grameen Bank
Wild Idea:
What if we provided loans to the Bangladesh's poorest, especially women, who do not have access to traditional banking services.
Muhammad Yunus founded Grameen Bank in Bangladesh in 1983. This innovative idea has since provided millions of small loans to people in poverty, enabling them to start businesses and improve their livelihoods.
Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for this transformative concept.


Rule 04/
Lean into discomfort
Accept that discomfort is a natural part of addressing complex issues. Leaning into discomfort means staying engaged and open-minded, even when discussions are challenging.

CureViolence: Chicago's Violence Interruption Programs
In neighborhoods plagued by gang violence, Cure Violence (formerly CeaseFire) in Chicago employ "violence interrupters"—individuals, often former gang members, who mediate conflicts before they escalate into violence.
Although inherently uncomfortable and dangerous, by leaning into this discomfort, these programs have successfully reduced shootings and homicides in many communities
Reductions in shootings in three cities that used the Cure Violence (CeaseFire) model
Most dramatic reductions in shootings reported in each city, by location
New York South Bronx
Chicago West Garfield Park
Philadelphia Gun crime "hot spots"
-63%
-28%
-31%
Sources: John Jay Research and Evaluation Center (2017); Skogan, et al (2009); Roman, et al (2017). www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/violence.html

Rule 05/
Yes, But And...
Build on others' ideas by accepting them and adding your own input. This collaborative technique ensures all contributions are valued and leads to richer, more innovative outcomes.

INITIAL IDEA
What if we created a program to intervene early in the process to divert drug dealers from the illegal drug trade?
But...
Yes, and...we could start by recognising that many of these individuals already possess valuable skills like sales, resource management, and strategic planning
Yes, and...we could provide small loans, mentorship and financial literacy education to support their new ventures, giving them the necessary tools and capital to get started and succeed
Yes, and...we could build on these skills by providing training in business development and entrepreneurship, helping them apply their talents in a legal context


Rule 06/
Take A Prototype mindset
Treat ideas and solutions as prototypes to be tested, refined and improved. This mindset encourages experimentation and continuous improvement, fostering ongoing innovation.

Rule 07/
What If You're Wrong?
Be open to the possibility that your assumptions and theories might be incorrect. Embracing intellectual humility allows for growth, learning, and the discovery of better solutions.

Rule 08/
Assume Positive Intent
When a comment or idea is shared that you might disagree with, assume it comes from a place of goodwill and constructive purpose. Avoid jumping to conclusions or taking offense; instead, ask clarifying questions and strive to understand the speaker's perspective.

Roundtable on Addressi
Drug Dealing and Drug Us
North East Inner
Friday, 17th May at 9.30a
Maynooth University
Table 3
Built Environment and S
Planning

DUBLIN
NORTH EAST
INNER CITY

Maynooth
University
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

Roinn an Taoisigh
Department of the Taoiseach