

# CDI Newsletter



Meeting needs, making changes, improving outcomes

May 2011, Volume 5, Issue 4

## Community Engagement:

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### Lunchtime Seminar

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 12-2pm, RUA RED

#### 'South Dublin County Council's Geo Mapping Project'

*Facilitated by Larry Mc Evoy ,  
Manager of the Spatial Data  
Programme, SDCC*

June 30<sup>th</sup>, 12-2pm, RUA RED

#### 'How Are Our Children Today?'

*Facilitated by Dr. Tara Murphy  
Research and Evaluation Officer,  
CDI*

As Community Engagement Co-ordinators Claire Casey and Joyce Cahill spend most of their time looking for creative methods of engaging with residents in Tallaght West. Although it is a very rewarding job it is also a constant uphill climb as it is difficult to keep residents motivated and engaged in voluntary work. There are a number of issues that impact negatively on residents becoming and staying involved in their community. These include the pressures that families are under to keep the 'wolf from the door' in recessionary times; the slow pace of change when working to improve your local area; and the fact that any set-back will reinforce people's belief that there is no point in being involved.

In addition, our community engagement work has a particular focus on community safety and this brings its own challenges for local people being involved. Standing up to anti-social behaviour and/or crime in your community is a hard thing to do and it is often easier to keep your head down and mind your own business.

CDI has had experience of residents stepping away from active engagement with our Community Safety Initiative (CSI) because they have experienced disappointment that change has not happened swiftly enough. We constantly ask ourselves how much time does it take to let go of disappointment? How do we encourage people to move on? Do we really understand the impact this has on a community? We do know that residents struggle to make the connection between their contribution and the impact it has on the wider community.

The simple fact is that effective community engagement means a lot of work to develop and maintain relationships and build confidence. It is necessary to take the time to do this work in order to achieve positive results. This newsletter outlines some of the main community engagement work that CDI has undertaken recently and outlines our plans for the Community Safety Initiative (CSI) and the Safe and Healthy Place over the coming months.

Joyce Cahill & Claire Casey  
Community Engagement Coordinators

## CSI Steering Committee:

CDI would like to acknowledge Sean Ruth who, for personal reasons, had to step down from his position as Chairperson of the Steering Committee. His contribution has been really great and the Committee send him their good wishes. It was agreed that Marian Quinn, CDI, would replace Sean as Chairperson. The Steering Committee is continuing to work away having agreed an action plan for 2011.

The Committee have a clear focus and continue in their enthusiasm to change perceptions around safety in Tallaght West.

## Volleyball League:

The CDI's 'All In Volleyball League' has been a major success. It was initially set up to support and encourage collaboration, relationship building and creating links between service providers and residents. We are proud of the fact that the majority of those who participated have strong relationships with residents and service providers and continue to maintain those links. This was taken on with such enthusiasm that a number of residents are currently organising the one day league to take place in May and have offered to take over the planning and organisation of the volleyball in the future. This is fantastic for CDI as it is our aim to increase the community's capacity. The following are the views of one of the residents who took part in the volleyball.

*"My name is Vera Vaughan, I have lived in Cushlawn for the past 29 years. I am married and have one son Shaun. I got involved in the CDI Volleyball League through talking to CDI's Healthy Schools Coordinator Anca in Sacred Heart School, and began going to matches to support the 'Mavericks' (School Teachers) team.*

*When asked if I would like to put a team together and join I was delighted. I love the volleyball its good exercise, great way to meet great people and having the crack with them. I'd like next season to have more teams involved. I feel I have made some good friends from taking part.*

*Thanks to all involved."*

## Good Behaviour Awards:

A children's 'Good Behaviour Awards' ceremony was held in February 2011 in which over 40 families participated from Mac Uilliam, Jobstown and Brookview. It was a fantastic opportunity for families to come together to celebrate the positives. It highlighted the need to focus more on the good things in Tallaght especially in the current economic climate. Spirits were high as the children received some very kind words from Mayor Eamon Maloney who acknowledged all their hard work and the efforts made by their families and their community. The celebrations continued as children and parents danced away to the disco.



*Mayor Eamon Maloney along with the parents and children receiving their good behaviour awards.*

## Community Clean Up:



A joint 'clean up' day was held in April 2011 with support from CDI and RAPID. The clean up took place in Brookview, Jobstown and Glenshanel. It was very successful as parents and children got involved in the festivities of the day. We were joined by our local Community Garda and received donations from National Association of Building Cooperatives (NABCO) Housing Association which went towards refreshments for the children and plants for the area of Brookview Court.



The enthusiasm of all those who participated would feed your soul as they are eager to improve their community and know the value of living in a space you can be proud of. They were not put off by the wind and rain as we began with our shovels and brushes! Children gathered rubbish and filled their bags with such energy it was great to be part of it. SDCC supported the day by kindly arranging to dispose of all the litter. Days like this inspire CDI in our work and make us realise how lucky we are to be part of this community.



## Restorative Practice Training:

CDI's Restorative Practice (RP) training programme has grown legs of its own! As of the end of April 2011, 516 people had undergone training in how to use the RP approach to building relationships and resolve conflict. 389 of them are school based and the remainder are a mixture of residents, and staff of local community and statutory organisations. 20 young people have also been trained and are currently being very creative in their methods of engaging other young people.

The following schools are currently trained in RP:

- St Mark's Community School;
- St Mark's Primary School Junior & Senior;
- St Maelruain's School;
- Scoil Cnoc Mhuire Primary Junior & Senior;
- Scoil Chaitlin Maude.

The following are a few stories of RP in practice which provide a deeper understanding of how using a restorative approach can help build relationships, resolve problems, issues, and difficulties and ultimately, make our community a safer one. Stories have been anonymised.

**Continue.....**

*“My teenage daughter arrived home with her school report, which wasn’t great. My instincts were to defend, argue. Her body language was defensive, and she was monosyllabic. But eventually we got to the point in the conversation where we really began to talk, listen, understand. There were plenty of tears. Being able to step out of the parental role enabled me to really listen to and understand her. It gave me an empathy that was missing previously. I needed to leave my own emotions out of it. It allowed both of us to offload something. You have to put in the time to make it work. We would never have got there in a five minute chat.”*

*“I manage a centre in Tallaght and am responsible for a number of staff members. On occasion I have been aware certain staff members were not getting on but I did not get involved and hoped it would work itself out. Following the restorative practice training I decided to try the process out with the staff. It was obvious something was erupting as the tension in the air was quite apparent. I was nervous but I prepared myself by rehearsing the questions provided in the training. The staff were gathered in a circle and each member was given the opportunity to say how they felt about the situation. Everyone felt truly respected and listened to. The process allowed me not to become involved and on occasion the focus wandered and I had to remind them of the purpose of the gathering. Overall it was a great experience and all staff members were happy at the end. Using the script really works and is very useful.”*

*“There was a serious bullying incident in the school. It wouldn’t have been resolved as well without the RP approach. The wrongdoer recognised what he had done. He hadn’t realised how much hurt it caused. The victim didn’t want any punishment in the end because he felt heard, listened to, empathised with. If we had dealt with it in our usual way, he wouldn’t have felt any of that, and I suspect he wouldn’t have been able to let go of the hurt the way he did.”*

*“In my line of work I deal with many issues of bullying and conflict amongst young people. Normally I would gather those involved and invite the parents also when possible. However the focus would be on the young people and it never dawned on me to include the parents other than for moral support for the young people. Although I believe I am a fair individual and like to resolve issues in a constructive way, I never formally invited parents to share their experiences. In a recent situation I used restorative practice to sort out an issue with two teenage boys. I had only completed the training and was feeling quite nervous but decided to go for it. I invited both boys and their parents along to a restorative meeting in an attempt to resolve the issue and ensure it did not escalate into something bigger. Both boys were given the opportunity to explain what happened from their perspective. The parents were also included and shared how they felt about what had happened and how it affected them. There was no blame but rather I allowed the boys to see how their behaviour impacted others. It ended with the boys identifying what needed to be done to repair the damage. The structure allowed me to truly listen and observe. I did not get emotionally involved which meant the situation was not contaminated by my feelings. It was a powerful experience for all involved. I would recommend it as it is fair and respectful and most of all effective.”*

*“This is a very fair and respectful process where no one is blamed but instead each person speaks about what happened, who has been affected by the behaviour in question and goes on to identify what happens next. It is easier to accept punishment if the process is fair.”*



## A Safe and Healthy Place:

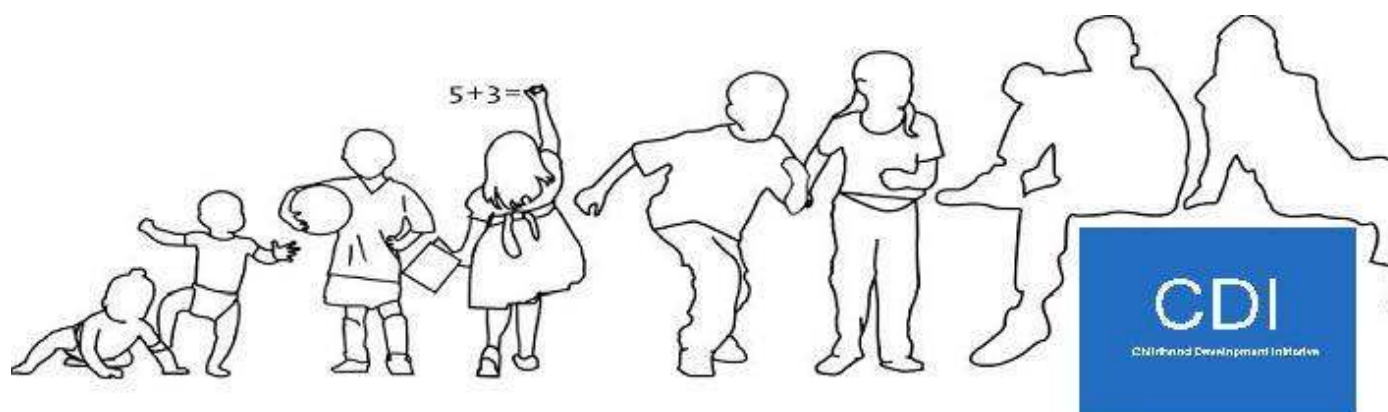
The Safe & Healthy Place Committee has been working away to respond to the priority needs identified by residents of MacUilliam estate during research led by CDI in 2010. These priorities are:

- Facilities and activities for children and young people;
- General landscaping and waste management in the estate;
- Traffic management measures including a pedestrian crossing on Fortunestown Lane; and
- Better access to, and information about, services in the area.

Some of the actions to address these issues so far include:

- Tallaght Youth Service worked with local volunteers to establish a number of clubs for children and young people aged 10 to 16 years (further information from Fiona McDonnell at TYS, [fmcdonnell.tys@Foroige.ie](mailto:fmcdonnell.tys@Foroige.ie) / 086 2522591.);
- South Dublin County Council (SDCC) is working to install a Multi Use Gaming Area (MUGA) which is due to open in the early summer and has been undertaking a range of landscaping works in the estate;
- The Residents Committee have been working hard to get a pedestrian crossing installed and along with Brookfield and Jobstown Area Council will shortly be making presentation to SDCC about the urgent need for the crossing;
- The Gardaí and SDCC jointly run a clinic every two weeks at Barnardos where people can get advice and support with issues of concern or help with filling in passport or driving license forms (for information about times contact Barnardos at 4203019).

The Committee is currently working on organising a variety of information sessions about services in the area. The first of these will be the Health Fair being organised by the HSE at the Jobstown Community Centre from 9.30am to 1pm on Wednesday the 18th of May. Residents will receive information about health issues and services in the area as well as a number of health screening options and the opportunity to sample alternative therapies. Admission is free and a minibus will be available to transport residents from a number of points at MacUilliam, City West and Jobstown – for details contact Claire Casey at CDI ([claire@twcdi.ie](mailto:claire@twcdi.ie) / 087 280 6450) or Gavin Mulhall at the HSE ([gavin.mulhall@hse.ie](mailto:gavin.mulhall@hse.ie) / 4691720).



Meeting needs, making changes, improving outcomes

## Best Practice Seminar: Child-Friendly Communities: Policy, Practice and What the Research Says.

In April, the Safe & Healthy Place Committee hosted a Seminar to examine best practice in planning and managing child-friendly communities. The Seminar entitled “Child-Friendly Communities: Policy, Practice and What the Research Says” aimed to:

- Inform participants of best practice in child and family friendly urban planning and management;
- Enable participants to reflect on, and critically analyse, their own practice in this area; and
- Facilitate participants to network across a variety of agencies and sectors in order to identify integrated measures to sustain communities.

The seminar was presented by three eminent speakers who covered a range of relevant topics. Professor Brendan Gleeson, who is originally from Australia and currently Professor of Geography and Deputy Director of the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis at NUI Maynooth, made a presentation on “Planning for Families & Children”. He spoke from an Australian perspective where research shows that increased wealth over the past 30 years has been accompanied by a dramatic decline in children’s well-being.

Prof. Gleeson argued that working to develop child friendly communities is a worthy aim and that children are highly susceptible to local and environmental influences. But, he said, the issue is more than a problem of urban design, or local services, or parenting skills. There are structural problems too for example:

- Parental overwork
- Poverty and injustice
- Food cultures and access to good quality nutrition
- Technology and how it impacts on culture
- Gender roles and stereotypes - particularly how these relate to body image for children and young people; and
- General social attitudes to children - are they acknowledged and valued?

Margaret Deevy, of PlayBoard Northern Ireland, explained that PlayBoard is the leading agency for the development and promotion of children and young people’s play in Northern Ireland. She outlined that children in the North face similar issues to their counterparts in Australia in terms of a massive increase in children getting to school and play or sporting activities by car (where their parents walked or cycled) and decreasing access by children to outdoor or unsupervised play, both of which are contributing to increasing obesity and ill-health among children and young people.

Margaret outlined the following challenges for people working to provide play space for children and young people:

1. Play Message: All too often, the message is about preventing children from playing in public areas



2. Risk Conundrum: The fear of being sued has meant insurance costs have rocketed and caused many youth and sporting organisations to close.
3. Older children & teenagers need unsupervised areas in which to meet and socialise.
4. Building public areas that will stimulate children and young people is about much more than just swings & roundabouts.

continue.....



*Standard Thinking*

She explained the characteristics of well-planned and well-used play space as follows:

- The area is easily accessible;
- It is designed for mixed use and a mixed users;
- A social element is built in;
- They are/is flexible;
- It includes access to nature; and
- There is participation by children and young people in its design and management.



*New Design*

Peter Dorman, of the Community Action Network, spoke about “The Regeneration Solution” a recently published policy document that draws on the lessons from a number of local authority estates in Dublin i.e. Dolphin House, St. Michael’s Estate, O’Devaney Gardens, St. Teresa’s Gardens and Fatima Mansions.

“The Regeneration Solution” is a proposal to the Government for legislation to establish a national programme for regeneration of public housing estates. While it draws on the experience of the estates above, it takes a human rights approach based on both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Ireland is a signatory to both of these documents and they both guarantee the right to adequate housing.



*Fatima Mansions before regeneration*

Peter identified the following keys to success from these projects i.e. that regeneration programme should be included in national legislation:

- Community driven;
- Concerned with the social and economic development of an area as well as the physical environment;
- Properly resourced; and
- Managed by a Board that shares power between the local authority, community and developer.

# Better Services, Better Outcomes: Integrating Quality in Children's Services

## Book Now

contact Paula on 4940030 or  
email [paula@twcdi.ie](mailto:paula@twcdi.ie)  
Book by June 30th to receive  
the Early Bird rate.



Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>  
September 2011  
The Irish Law  
Society  
9.30am-6pm

This conference is aimed at frontline practitioners working with children, young people and families. It will:

- Consider research and best practice in relation to quality services;
- Explore organisational processes and staff support requirements which facilitate quality;
- Highlight current policy frameworks which inform and shape quality services.

### Confirmed Speakers:

- **Mary Doyle**, Director, Office for the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs
- **Senator Fergal Quinn**
- **Professor Danny Perkins**, Penn State University, USA
- **Jim Mulkerrins**, Principal Officer, Dept of Education & Science
- **Gordon Jeyes**, National Director, HSE
- **Arlene Foster**, Director, NCCA
- **Helen Johnson**, Senior Social Policy Analyst, NESCC
- **Noelle Spring**, Chair, CDI Board

### Registration Includes:

Access to all sessions, delegate materials and entrance to Launch of CDI's Workbook. Tea/coffee lunch, finger food buffet also included.

Registration Type:	Fee:
Early Bird	€35
Late Registration	€60

Opening Making Quality a Reality	9.30am
Workshop A Vision for Quality Services for Children	10.30am
Coffee	11.30am
Feedback Session	12.00pm
The Practice Aspects	1.00pm
The Organisational Elements	3.00pm
Coffee	4.00pm
The Policy Influences	4.30pm
Launch of CDI's Workbook on Delivering Quality Services	6.00pm

For any assistance please contact Paula at [paula@twcdi.ie](mailto:paula@twcdi.ie) or Telephone (01) 4940030



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**We're on the Web!  
Visit us at:**

**[www.twcdi.ie](http://www.twcdi.ie)**

**Thought for the  
day!**

**“He who  
seeks more  
than he  
needs  
hinders  
himself  
from  
enjoying  
what he  
has.”**

[Hebrew Proverb](#)

**May 26<sup>th</sup>, 12pm-2pm RUA RED**

**‘South Dublin County Council’s Geo Mapping Project’** *Facilitated by Larry McEvoy,  
South Dublin County Council*

In this May’s seminar the exciting project ‘Geo Mapping’ (*a method of retrieving statistics which complements the information accessed through the Central Statistics Office*) will be discussed. Larry will talk about the benefits of using geo mapping which allows service providers to access live data on a variety of areas such as housing, community facilities, planning developments and statistics on anti social behaviour. He will discuss what data is available, the ways of harvesting such data and advantages of accessing such rich data, allowing for improved evidence based decision making on a micro level.

This is an exciting project and one that all would benefit from becoming fully informed about. Larry is more than willing to discuss with individuals their specific information needs.

Larry McEvoy is Manager of the Spatial Data Programme in South Dublin County. Prior to his appointment he was lead technician on the Adamstown Strategy Development Zone.

**June 30<sup>th</sup>, 12-2pm at RUA RED**

**‘How Are Our Children Today?’** presenting by Dr. Tara Murphy, Research and Evaluation Officer, CDI

This seminar will discuss some of the key findings and trends relating to child wellbeing from CDI’s **Community Survey** which is a follow-up to our original community survey **“How Are Our Kids?”** (2005). This seminar will provide insights into any changes in the profile of children and families in Tallaght West in relation to, for example, their living situation, socioeconomic status, education, access to services, use of community facilities, community connectedness, health and general wellbeing.

Tara holds a BSc Microbiology, a BA (Hons) Psychology and a PhD from Trinity College Dublin.

She has a range of experience conducting both qualitative and quantitative research and analyses as part of her PhD. She has been a part-time lecturer and examiner on the Behavioural Science course in the School of Medicine since 2005. Tara is the Research and Evaluation Officer with CDI since September 2007. One of her primary roles is managing the complexities of six robust and independent evaluations alongside several related initiatives.