Introduction:

Despite the apparent quiet on the newsletter front, CDI has been working very hard over the last number of months, in relation to a number of areas. We have had a number of staff on sick leave, which has prevented the delivery of some key activities, particularly our monthly lunchtime seminars, and the monthly newsletter. Apologies for this, and rest assured that all will be back on track very soon!

A key development for us recently has been the receipt of final draft evaluation reports, this is a very exciting time for all concerned, and we are grateful to all those who attended the various reflection groups at which we considered the findings, and offered insights for the evaluation teams, which were universally received as extremely helpful.

Beginning to receive final reports has led us into a new phase of work, and required us to give greater attention to our communications plan, as well as consideration of how we will disseminate the findings. With this in mind, we have now recruited communications expertise to support this area of the work and you can expect to hear more in the coming months about events and documents aimed at sharing the learning.

Arising from our commitment to being community led, we will be offering families the opportunity to find out about the services and the evaluations at a fun family day next month – see page 12 for further information. This is a pretty mammoth task, and we are grateful to all those who have been supporting these plans, and sharing their creative ideas to ensure it is a great day for all involved.

There have been a number of changes in the team and Board personnel over the past few months. Change always requires careful management, so induction and internal communications have been high on our agenda. Investing in those who centrally support the work has always been important to CDI, and we are confident of the returns this will offer.

The most pressing issue however, is the ending of CDI funding to support service delivery. Whilst we were successful in negotiating another phase of work, this focuses on the disseminating of evaluation findings and impacting on policy and practice. It has been known to us for some time that any continuation or indeed replication of CDI services would require integration of this programme into existing services and structures, within ongoing funding strands. We have been working very hard to progress the discussion in relation to the possibilities for sustaining those services which have been evidenced as being effective. These are difficult times to engage organisations in considering how to make change and take on new approaches to the work, but the impact of the services on lives and children and families enables us to stay focused on progressing these discussions. We will communicate any positive decisions being made with this regard.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for the ongoing support, good humour and warm engagement which we experience at so many levels, and in so many places. This work is hard and important, and it can be challenging and frustrating at times. Having colleagues who are supportive encouraging and positive is a huge help! Enjoy the summer!

Marian Quinn,
CEO.
CDI has had some staff additions in recent months. We are delighted to welcome them all to Tallaght West, and are delighted that, once again, we have attracted personnel with warmth, integrity and professionalism.

**Laura Sutcliffe**

Laura joined CDI in April 2012, as Receptionist/Administrator. Her role entails administration support to the CDI team and she has already made a huge impact on the very busy CDI office!

Laura studied Secretarial and Computer Applications in Crumlin College and up-skilling courses throughout the years on Powerpoint, Word and Excel.

She has 15 years office admin experience and previously worked for the multi-national, Unilever Ireland. After working for Unilever Laura completed a FETAC level 5 course in a Special Needs Assistant Training, receiving a Distinction. She also volunteered at a local school for five months in 2011 as a Special Needs Assistant.

**Ronan Cavanagh**

Ronan Cavanagh joined CDI as part-time Communications Coordinator last March. He also runs his own business, Cavanagh Communications. He has 15 years experience in communications including media relations, public affairs, in-house communications and journalism. Prior to setting up Cavanagh Communications in January 2012, he worked in PR agencies, as an in-house Communications Manager and in journalism covering the private, public and voluntary sectors.

His previous roles have been with Montague Communications (2007-2011), the Irish Heart Foundation (2005-2007), Breast Check (2002-2005) and Setanta Communications (2000-2002). Prior to working in communications he worked in print Journalism with the Irish Examiner, Evening Echo and Kerryman. Ronan has MA in Communications and BA in English and Sociology. He also has a Diploma in Public Relations and is a former Board member of the Public Relations Consultants Association.
**Dr. Sinead McNally**

Sinead joined the CDI in Tallaght West as Research and Policy Manager in April 2012. A central part of her work is commissioning and analysing desk and field research on CDI-related issues, and coordinating the dissemination of findings from CDI’s eight evaluations. Sinead is also responsible for maximising the opportunities arising from CDI research for learning, and informing policy and practice.

Dr. Sinead McNally received her B.A. in French and Psychology from Trinity College Dublin in 2004, and her Ph.D. in Psychology from Trinity in 2009. Her doctoral research explored competing approaches to language interventions for children with autism. For her research, Sinead held a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship in Science, Engineering and Technology (2004-2009) and a research grant from the National Council for Special Education Research Initiative (2007). Upon completing her studies, she worked as Project Manager and Research Fellow of a longitudinal study in TCD investigating mothers’ interaction with infant children at risk of developing autism (2009-2010). In 2010, she joined Growing Up in Ireland as a Research Fellow, where she co-authored several research reports on child and family outcomes. Sinead is a Research Associate of the School of Psychology in TCD and her research focuses on policy-relevant issues including early childcare provision, and maternal and child health and development.

**A Fond Farewell!**

**Lynne Cahill**

CDI would like to say a fond farewell to our Research Intern, Lynne Cahill. Over the last nine months, Lynne played an important role in CDI, coordinating our feedback on eight evaluation reports and organising and evaluating the reflection groups. Lynne approached her work in a fun and enthusiastic way and has definitely left her mark in CDI, and will be sadly missed. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Lynne every happiness and success in her future career.

**Marguerite Hanratty**

CDI is very sad to say that our Programme Support Manager, Marguerite Hanratty, has also left us. Marguerite has been working with CDI for two and a half years now and has had a central role in supporting and driving many aspects of our work. During this time Marguerite’s role has changed her flexible approach allowed us to draw in her skills where we most needed them. She has supervised both Quality Specialists at times and more recently, taken a key role in driving the Community safety work, and the integration of the three part-time assigned RAPID coordinators. Marguerite has played a particularly important role in supporting the Healthy Schools Steering Committee, and we know that she will be greatly missed by the members of this structure, along with the CDI team and many others who have experienced her gentle but clear management style.
Over the last number of years, CDI has worked very hard to develop and sustain effective and professional governance structures, which offer appropriate levels of scrutiny alongside support and expertise. A good ‘fit’ with the organisational ethos of transparency and inclusion has always been important, and we have great pride in the structures now established.

Recent months have seen us lose two important members of our Board. In March, Monica Conboy, from AIB Bank, who has been a long standing member of the Board, and Chair of our Finance and Risk sub-committee, retired from both these positions. Monica gave considerable time and commitment to CDI, and we are very grateful to her for all this support.

More recently, Noelle Spring, after three years as Chair of the CDI Board, and an involvement spanning over 10 years, has also resigned. Noelle took great care over a significant amount of time, to prepare a pathway for this transition, and her diligence and attention to detail in this regard are indicative of the approach she has taken throughout. Noelle has given energy, time expertise and a listening ear on so many occasions, and in such different guises, that she will be sorely missed. Mostly however, we are glad that she has been such a crucial part of developing the foundations of CDI.

In identifying an appropriate successor to Noelle, the Board of CDI is delighted to announce that Joe Horan, recently retired County Manager of South Dublin County Council, has taken up the mantle. Joe also has a long term involvement in, and commitment to, CDI, and we are confident that he will bring skills and insights to a new phase of CDI work. Despite having retired from his highly demanding position, Joe is not resting on his laurels, and has taken on a number of leadership roles, which are in keeping with many of the innovations he drove as County Manager, such as initiatives relating to traveller employment and improved utilisation of data to inform planning processes.

The CDI board was also pleased to welcome Alice O’Flynn in recent months. Alice O’Flynn is a freelance Organisational Change Management Consultant. She has an MSc (Management) from Trinity College/IMI Dublin, a Bachelor Degree in Social Policy and is a qualified and experienced social worker. Alice is a member of the Association of Health Care Journalists and Social Entrepreneurs Ireland. She has held the post of National Head of Social Inclusion with the HSE Ireland, was National Development and Service Planning Officer with Barnardos Scotland and Manager of Homeless and Mental Health Services in London. Alice brings a wealth of experience and insight to CDI.
As part of our Community Safety Initiative, (CSI), we are driving restorative practice as a key method for achieving safety with the aim of making a restorative community in Tallaght West. The focus now is to embed restorative practice across the community, so that all of us both living and working in Tallaght West, will resolve issues and deal with complex debates in a restorative way. The restorative way is a solution focused approach which requires each of us to look at where we are accountable, and where we take responsibility, so we can all live in a safer community.

CDI is currently working with a range of agencies and organisations who share this vision for Tallaght West. The approach has been embedded by primary and secondary schools, community residents, statutory organisations, early year’s providers, youth services, activists and young people. Restorative Practice (RP) is changing the nature of relationships within families, schools, neighbourhoods and agencies.

To date over 600 people have received RP Awareness training, and 77 of them are young people who have continued to embrace this method to address issues in their schools and in their lives in general.

We also have our own trainers where 9 local people have been trained to deliver the training. We are currently creating our own Irish case studies on how RP can be used which will help us to promote RP and make the training more relevant for people. We are also completing a DVD which will support this training process. Training is delivered monthly and is free. Below is the training calendar please contact Joyce on 01-4940030 or email joyce@twcdi.ie if you are interested in booking a place on one of the courses or if would like further information on RP.

The neighbourhood training is an introduction to restorative practice, which must be completed prior to commencing the up skilling training sessions. Please refer to timetable below for upcoming training.

### Restorative Training Schedule September – December 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RP Neighbourhood (1 Day)</td>
<td>Schools, Community Centers, Drug Rehabilitation Centre, Organisations, ECCE services, Resident Associations, Estate Management Groups and Youth Groups</td>
<td>To introduce RP, provide understanding of how RP can be used in their daily lives.</td>
<td>19th September&lt;br&gt;23rd October&lt;br&gt;17th November&lt;br&gt;12th December</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up skilling (2 Days)</td>
<td>Schools, Community Centers, Drug Rehabilitation Centre, Organisations, ECCE services, Resident Associations, Estate Management Groups and Youth Groups</td>
<td>Participants will learn how to run restorative circles to build relationships and resolve issues and how to organize conference to repair broken or damaged relationship.</td>
<td>20th &amp; 21st September&lt;br&gt;24th &amp; 25th October&lt;br&gt;18th &amp; 19th November&lt;br&gt;13th &amp; 14th December</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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Certificate in Community Coaching Training

Congratulations!

The Life and Community Coaching class of 2012 celebrated their Graduation on 20th June. CDI welcomed 41 participants to celebrate receiving their Certificates. The course celebrates the success of a range of community residents and service providers of Tallaght West.

Life and Community Coaching Refresher Course

CDI is offered all participants who have previously completed the course to either Certificate level or Diploma an opportunity to avail of a one day refresher course.

The objectives of this refresher course were:

- To refresh the participants in the fundamentals of coaching;
- To revisit the tools of self awareness;
- To practice techniques for enhancing presence, that will impact on coaching quality.

The Course took place on 29th June in the Killinarden Enterprise Centre and there was 15 people were in attendance.

“Before I came to the graduation tonight I had prepared a different speech thinking it was what people would want to hear. When I arrived I decided to change it.

Since completing the Life Coaching Course I have learned to listen to others better and also learned to listen to myself”

Sharone Samuels, Community Resident
As the academic year draws to a close, we are preparing to celebrate the achievements of the children and young people involved in CDI's after-school programmes. This is an important time as it gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the work that has been done with children and families in Tallaght West over the last number of months.

CDI are delighted that a further 105 children received the Doodle Den programme this year and that the programme continues to have a positive impact in the lives of young children in Tallaght West. This academic year has been marked by the evaluation process moving into a new phase with CDI receiving evaluation reports in late 2011 and early 2012. While this process has been a long one and none of the reports are yet finalised, the preliminary results for the Doodle Den evaluation are very positive and show that the programme has been found to improve the children’s overall literacy development. This is great news for all those who have been involved in the programme and helped to contribute to its success.

Watch out for more information about the findings from Doodle Den's Evaluation!

This year was a busy one for those involved in Mate-Tricks. In September a further 105 children took their places on the programme. In the four years, since Mate-Tricks began, some 420 children have accessed to a high quality after-school programme through this service. Throughout the year, the groups continued to meet twice a week, with Citywise delivering the programme to two groups of children from St Thomas's and St Maerluain's this year and Foroige delivering the programme to the other five local primary schools in Tallaght West. The year has been marked by many significant events. The evaluation reports, as with all the programmes, have had a huge impact on the service providers and frontline staff and have really shone a light on the good work that is done by all involved. The findings have also given us the opportunity to further see the value of reflective practice and the importance of reviewing what works on a regular basis. This can lead to both good and bad outcomes but ultimately means that we are ensured that we are continually doing the best for the children and young people that we work with.

The Mate-Tricks Programme underwent some changes this year with the groups ceasing delivery of the Mate-Tricks manual in January and instead, picking up on other after-school programmes. These largely focused on the children as citizens and their contribution to society, their schools and families. The transition between the programmes and styles of delivery has been very smooth and is largely thanks to the hard work done by the facilitators who instantly worked to find new projects for the children to get engaged with.

The evaluation of Mate-Tricks is currently being finalized, but the learning highlights the importance of parental engagement, and confirmed the high quality and fidelity of programme delivery.
During 2011, CDI negotiated funding arrangements in order to continue providing support with the Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) service and the Parent/Carer Facilitator (PCF) role for Cohort One and Cohort Two early years services. A small budget was also provided for Continuous Professional Development to support services and staff through staff meetings (for planning and reflective practice purposes) and attendance at training.

While this ongoing support was met with a positive response, services also experienced a time of uncertainty and disappointment that the programme could not continue in the same way. CDI recognise that this was a difficult time for all concerned, but are happy to be able to provide ongoing backing with particular elements of the programme.

Regular Communities of Practice (COP) for Parent Care Facilitator (PCFs) continued from September, which focused on supporting PCFs to engage with a wider parent audience than previously. John Sharry founding Director from Parents Plus Charity facilitated a supervision/support session with regards to the delivery of the parenting programme. Manager meetings were held twice per term, where issues facing services were discussed and solutions identified.

In the New Year, CDI were in a position to run another round of HighScope training. 23 participants signed up to the course which is continuing throughout 2012.

**Evaluation:**

The evaluation of the programme also concluded in the summer. We would like to thank all services, children and families for support and cooperation throughout the evaluation. Without their support, the evaluation of the programme would have been impossible. The evaluation highlighted the impact of having higher child: staff ratios, and most importantly the value of ‘non-contact’ time, enabling services to have planning time, team meetings and attend training. While the report is nearing finalisation, the findings were presented to the key stakeholders involved in the programme. The findings will be disseminated to wider audiences throughout 2012. Determining key findings and submitting them for policy review will be the focus of much of the work over the remainder of 2012.

**Siolta**

Siolta roll out continued throughout 2011. Kathleen Tuite (Regional Support Worker/Siolta Co-coordinator, NCNA) maintained good connections with early year’s services and one primary school. Eleven early year’s services and one primary school engaged with the Siolta process, at varying levels. Two services and one primary school have completed all 16 standards and submitted their portfolio in early 2012. Three services, will submit their portfolio in mid 2012, with the remaining services working through the process standard by standard.

While services found the compilation of their portfolios time consuming, they all agree that it has been a valuable learning process. Onsite support from Kathleen finished at the end of 2011, but online/phone support will continue in 2012.

The Early Years Education Policy Unit (EYEPU) continues to develop the validation process. Goodbody’s undertook an evaluation of the Siolta process, and launched their findings in early 2012.
Over the last school year (2011-2012) the Healthy School Project went through a transition phase from two co-ordinators to one and from direct work to support and guidance work with the schools. A huge amount of work was put into identifying strategic routes in each campus to progress the project further as funding is coming to an end this summer.

At the beginning of the school year the Healthy School Co-ordinator (HSC), Anca Lupu, supported by CDI and the Steering Committee agreed on 4 areas to focus on which were identified by all the schools involved (Sacred Heart Junior School, Sacred Heart Senior School, Knockmore Junior School, Knockmore Senior School, Scoil Chaitlin Maude).

The four areas identified are:

1. Identify sustainable structure/route to progress HSP post 2012 in collaboration with schools;
2. Support for schools – organising activities for children and their families and capacity training opportunities for teachers;
3. Referral pathway for schools;
4. Engaging with parents to continue to focus on healthy lifestyle.

Over the course of the year the Healthy School Co-ordinator engaged with each school to establish Healthy Schools Committees or to identify teachers to continue/progress the work developed under the project in each campus. The committees will meet once a term to identify and plan the activities that meet their health needs.

Over the last year HSC linked the schools to facilitators and local services to run healthy activities for the children: hygiene sessions, physical activities, nutrition sessions, afterschool such as clubs, etc. HSC worked with and supported class teachers, sna’s, principals, home school co-ordinators and school completion programme co-ordinators to run the above activities.

HSC organised and informed schools about health promotion opportunities for teachers and liaised schools with health services locally (especially HSE Primary Care Team and HSE Health Promotion). Another big piece for the HSC was to compile a guide of referrals which are relevant and helpful to schools in collaboration with HSE Primary Care Team. HSC had meetings with schools to identify referrals needed and also “scanned” all the information available in the area. A folder was compiled and presented to the schools, Steering Committee and HSE who are in the process of finalizing the last details.

Another very important piece of work for the HSC was to continue to work with parents and Home School Liaison Co-ordinators to identify and plan health promoting activities for the parents. “Healthy Breakfast” sessions were organised for the parents from the two campuses, where parents were given an opportunity to learn from speakers who were invited to talk about their services, to express their training needs and were treated with healthy snacks by the healthy lunch’s provider, Glanmore Foods.

Two training programmes came out as an outcome from the meeting with the parents. “Time Out for Me” was designed and co-ordinated by the HSC who collaborated with Agnes McCabe, HSE Health Promotion and Patrice Reilly, HSE Primary Care Team to run the 6 weeks programme. Themes covered health promotion, smoking cessation, stress management, budgeting, healthy cooking practical and yoga session. This programme was run in both campuses and received very good feedback.
The second training programme was a HSE Health Promotion initiative called “Healthy Food Made Easy”, a six week programme where participants received information about food and preparing food combined with healthy cooking practical’s and provision of a recipe book. This programme was highly valued by all those who took part.

Although the project is coming to an end there is high hope and commitment from all those involved that the health of the families and children from Killinarden will remain a priority on everybody’s agenda.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everybody (so many wonderful people) whom I worked with for the last four years. It was an absolute privilege to get to know and work with each one of you. All the people I worked with had a positive impact on the running of this project and I hope I will meet you all again!

But I do have a few special thanks to some of the people who brought out the best in me! So, special thanks to Marguerite Hanratty who was a great support to me and I wish her all the best in the future, Robert O’Leary who was a great mentor to me and the example of a powerful leader and Olivia Vaughan who was a great colleague and a true friend.

Anca Lupu, CDI Healthy School Co-ordinator

Speech and Language Therapy

The speech and language therapy service continued in all early years’ services, and within the three primary schools. Staff received training and support from both therapists. Jennifer and Michelle our two SLT post holders presented the CDI SLT model of service delivery at the Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists (IASLT) conference. This was a good opportunity to explain the service model and indeed to highlight the benefits of the service to both children/families and the SLT service. An article was also submitted to the HSE Health Matters magazine, and was published in the New Year.

Due to Jennifer going on maternity leave, Claire Crowley was recruited to cover the maternity leave. Claire settled well and fast into the model of delivery and has been seen dashing from one early years service to the next.

As with the other services, the SLT service was evaluated by DIT. The evaluation highlighted the impact of onsite delivery, and early intervention. As well as having positive outcomes for children, the SLT service also had a positive impact on families and staff working with children. Both parents and staff felt that they had a better understanding of speech and language development, and how to best support children with speech and language needs. While the report is nearing finalisation, the findings were presented to the key stakeholders involved in the programme. The findings will be disseminated to wider audiences throughout 2012. Determining key findings and submitting them for policy review will be the focus of much of the work over the remainder of 2012. We would like to thank all those involved in the evaluation, for their time, and cooperation.
The Safe and Healthy Practice (SHP) steering committee has been busy this year as it has been agreed by the committee that Mac Uilliam would be included as a Community Safety Initiative, (CSI) pilot site. This site would be different than the others as it is a whole estate approach. A number of actions have taken place such as the production of a fridge magnet displaying local useful numbers and a community directory with local services was distributed to all residents.

The Multi Use Gaming Area, (MUGA) is up and running and playground for smaller children was opened to cater for all ages in the area. The residents have been very active working collaboratively with agencies to ensure both play areas are managed in a way that all the children can enjoy them. Barnardos building has been re-opened since February with a number of activities:

- Lorean Centre support children of families with addiction problems;
- Amplifying Voices Project which supports young people to engage with policy they are working closely with Tallaght Youth Service (TYS) and the young people are feeding in to how to make the play area safe for children to use
- And a mother and toddler group is also running in the centre.

Plans for the future include the reestablishment of the Garda clinic in the area and to carry out a local survey to
End of Year BBQ Event 21st June

CDI invited all of our frontline staff and service providers to celebrate the end of another year. The annual event marks all the hard work of services and frontline staff in Tallaght West.

We had a special appearance by Eamon Maloney, TD Labour Party who said a few words on behalf of CDI. Additionally we invited Rebecca Roger a Parent of a child availing of our Early Years Programme, Rachel Kane a young person from St Mark’s Community School who has been trained in Restorative Practice and Christopher Smith a facilitator of our Mate-Tricks and Doodle Den Programme who all have very kind words to share with us in relation to their experiences of CDI programmes and how it has made an impact on them.

Family Day Event 11th July from 12pm-5pm

CDI would like to invite all those children and families of Tallaght West who have received CDI support services to the family festival event planned for Wednesday 11th July between 12pm-5pm in Killinarden Community School. The purpose of the day is to distribute the findings from evaluations of the Early Years, Healthy Schools, Speech and Language Mate-tricks and Doodle Den Programme. We intend to communicate these findings through interactive, fun activities. Each service will have two stalls with various designed activities, such as quiz questions, face-painting, football games and live music performances from Kevin Keeley from The Voice of Ireland and many more.

CDI will provide a newsletter in goodie bags, healthy snacks and spot prizes on the day.

Please note that all Children attending must be accompanied an adult.

We also need lots of volunteers to help us on what will be a very busy day, so please contact Audrey on 01-4940030 or Audrey@twcdi.ie if you can give us a few hours of your time.