



CDI January Newsletter 2013

Greeting from the Chair	1
Early Years Service	2
Doodle Den Programme	3
Healthy Schools Programme	4
Speech and Language	5
Safe and Healthy Place	6
Community Safety Initiative	7
Restorative Training	8
Programme	
Research & Evaluation	9
CDI End of Year Celebrations	10
Volleyball	10
Social Return on Investment	11
Quality Services, Better	12
Outcomes	

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Introduction

The beginning of any New Year brings mixed emotions: anticipation and excitement at the possibilities ahead; concern and anxiety about the inevitable challenges, and perhaps also some loss for another year gone by.

2012 was an important year for CDI, one in which we concluded the field work on all but one of our eight independent evaluations, and saw the publication of four of these. Two public launches took place, with considerable interest from policy makers and practitioners, whilst there was a consistent stream of media attention on our work and the learning arising from it throughout the year.

We begin 2013 with a sense of confidence and purpose, having managed some very difficult processes over the past few years, and we are now experiencing the benefits that come from investing in staff, capacity building, local relationships and solid governance. We have remained committed to sharing the learning from our work and evaluations with transparency and honesty, and believe that this has been central to the dialogue which has taken place to date regarding implications for policy and practice. Whilst the process of influencing how we deliver services, how we plan for area based responses, and our understanding of the skills and competencies required to do so effectively, efficiently and with high quality, has only begun, we are also aware that there is a growing cohort of individuals and organisations with similar experiences, deep insights and extensive expertise, who are also shaping this landscape. We hope that the year ahead will see an acceleration in momentum as we gather the confidence and skills to enable new communities and organisations to take on evidence-informed and needs-based delivery.

We were delighted to see the budget announcement from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in December 2012, which committed to the development of area, based responses to child poverty, an initiative which will:

"build on and continue the work of the Prevention and Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) which supported projects in Tallaght, Ballymun and Darndale..... (It is) important that we mainstream the learning from these pilot projects so that proven and effective supports for children and families could be delivered right throughout the country, including through the services to be delivered by the new Child and Family Support Agency," (DCYA, 2012).

Whilst there are a great number of issues to be clarified, it is CDIs understanding that the three existing areas which constitute the PEIP will work to consolidate those services which have been proven to be effective; to mentor new communities, and to influence service delivery more widely. This is a significant indication of the value placed on prevention and early intervention by Government, the credibility held by the participating organisations, and the commitment to maximise the investment made to date to really change 'business as usual' to improve outcomes for children and families.

On behalf of the Board of CDI, and all those working in and with the organisation, I want to thank you for your support to date, and assure you of our ongoing commitment to working collaboratively with the community of Tallaght West, with those who manage and deliver services and those whose insights and expertise can help all of us to positively impact on the lives of children, families and communities.

**Joe Horan,
Chair,
CDI Board.**

Early Years Service

Support from CDI to Early Years Services continued throughout 2013 in the form of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) service, and the provision of the Parent Carer Facilitator (PCF) role. In addition, managers meetings were held to check in to see how service delivery was going. As has been the case throughout, services are working very hard to meet the needs of children and families they work with. Below, will give you an update on HighScope training; the evaluation of the Early Years programme; the work of the Parent Care Facilitators (PCF). As well as outlining what we are doing to push the agenda of parental engagement in early year's services.

HighScope:

HighScope training continued throughout 2012 with 23 participants. The last of this training will be held this month, with site visits over January and February. A big thank you to An Solas for their support with the venue and catering, and of course, a very big thank you to Mel Duffy for the delivery and support with this training.

Evaluation:

The evaluation report is nearly finalised, and will be disseminated to a wide audience in the coming months. Presentations were made to services and relevant stakeholders during the year. Determining key findings and identifying their policy implications will continue to be a focus for us early this year.

Parent/Carer Facilitators (PCF):

Throughout 2012, Parent/Carer Facilitators (PCFs) worked closely with parents in various ways, from hosting coffee mornings, some one-to-one work, running parenting programmes and organising trips out or activities within the centre. Supporting children and families to transition into primary school is also a feature of the PCF's role. This is an important time in both the child and family's life, so it is important to do as much preparation as possible.

At the beginning of August, CDI were informed from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) that funding had been secured to continue with some elements of CDI's work, namely, the PCF role, the Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) service and the after-school Doodle Den programme. As can be expected, this news was greatly received. As a result a flurry of activity has been ongoing since to ensure their continuity, with meetings being arranged and plenty of discussions held.

A condition of the funding requires that the work be delivered in a slightly different way with clear links into mainstream services. South Dublin County Childcare Committee (SDCCC) is now playing an important role in the delivery of the PCF and SLT roles (more on the SLT support below). SDCCC will take over facilitation of the Communities of Practice (COP) on a phased basis. PCFs will offer their activities out to other parents that are not in their service, thus widening the community impact of this crucial role.

Advisory Committee:

In order to push the agenda of parental engagement in early year's services and share the learning from CDI's experience, an Advisory Committee was set up. The committee is made up of various stakeholders who have a practice and policy perspective. The aims of this committee are:

- To advise on the sustainability and replication of the model;
- To support the development and integration of the model into mainstream services;
- To identify opportunities for transfer of the learning;
- To inform the strategic planning of the service;
- To share learning and developments which could inform the sustainability of the service.

The first of these meetings took place in early December, and there was a lot of positive feedback from all those present. There is a lot of scope to explore and develop the key learning from the evaluation report's findings on the importance of effective parental engagement and the positive outcomes that this can lead to for children and families. In light of the budget announcements, the Advisory Committee will put its work on hold while these structures and expectations are clarified, but the initial meeting offered very useful issues to be considered and confidence in the support for this work.

Doodle Den Programme



The last few months have been busy ones for all involved with the Doodle Den Programme. Delivery of nine Doodle Den groups began in October, three of which are based in Limerick City. Moving into a new community has been a great experience for CDI with principals and facilitators showing plenty of enthusiasm about getting involved with this new endeavour. We were also delighted to be able to support the continuation of six groups in Tallaght West, something which has been welcomed by the schools and families involved. The children have settled in well and are getting familiar with the routine. Facilitators report that children are really enjoying Doodle Den and see it as a fun after school group.

Alongside the process of establishing these new groups, there has been a comprehensive training programme in which over 30 people participated in Doodle Den training over a two day period. It has been wonderful to see the interest from teachers and support staff in getting involved with Doodle Den as well as the participation of the facilitators and School Completion Coordinators. The training focused on the various aspects of Doodle Den and supporting children's literacy learning. In addition, a separate training session was held for the non teacher facilitators to support their skills and understanding of literacy development. The training programme has been successful to date with booster sessions planned for the New Year.

During 2012, the Doodle Den manual was edited and updated to take account of the evaluation, feedback from facilitators and principals, and discussions with the manual authors (Dr. Eithne Kennedy and Dr. Maria O'Rourke, St. Patrick's College). We believe the manual is now an even more useful resource and evidence-based guide for facilitators.

On the 5th of November the Doodle Den evaluation report was launched by John Murray in Buswell's Hotel. The event was attended by 20 children and their parents from Knockmore Junior School in Killinarden as well as a number of other interested organizations and stakeholders. The children were a great addition to the event and impressed everyone in the audience with their vocabulary and confidence as they described Doodle Den in their own words.

To review reports online please access this link:

<http://twcdi.ie/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Doodle-Den-Report-web-version.pdf>

For podcasts on the launch, please visit our webpage:-

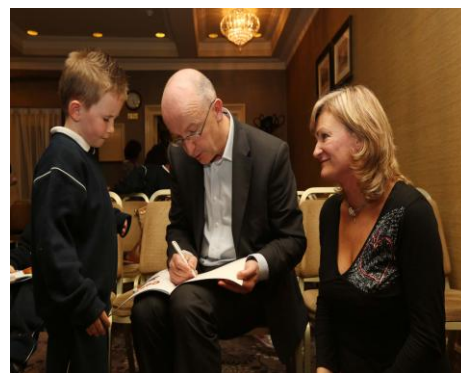
<http://twcdi.ie/doodle-den-programme/>



Doodle Den Children



John Murray, RTE Presenter



John Murray, RTE Presenter &
Marian Quinn, CEO, CDI

Healthy Schools Programme



CDI Team &
Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh



Michelle McKeon

As our Healthy Schools Programme began to wind-down, Anca (Healthy Schools Coordinator (HSC) continued working on the key areas identified by the schools involved in the healthy schools programme which were:-

Referral Guide:

A guide to referral pathways was completed and left with each of the schools.

Contacts:

A comprehensive list of all relevant contacts was also left with the schools, which the Healthy Schools committees can use when planning activities.

Transitions:

Supporting those children who were transitioning from junior to senior school and from senior school to secondary school.

It was with great pity that this programme came to an end. However, the work of Anca has to be greatly acknowledged. This was a new role operating within the school system. As with all new roles, it took time for the role to gain its identity and understanding. Anca took to the role with spirit, enthusiasm and a determination that can only be greatly admired. She showed an understanding of a whole school approach to the needs of the community within which she worked and the demands placed on schools. Armed with this, she made her presence known, one of support and collaboration. She was well known around Killinarden, both in and out of the school. The very mention of her name brought smiles to peoples' faces, which is testament to the work she undertook during her time as the Healthy Schools Coordinator. She will be sorely missed, by children, parents and staff alike. We would like to wish her well with her future, and can take some comfort in the knowledge that wherever she will end up, she will bring commitment, enthusiasm and fun!

I would also like to sincerely thank all five schools involved in the programme, for their support and commitment shown over the last four years. I know a legacy has been left with them all, and I would like to wish them well for their future.

Grainne Smith, Quality Specialist, CDI.

Evaluation:

The evaluation report was finalised and published, along with a policy brief, which highlights the learning from the programme, with recommendations and implications for policy. The report is available on our website at: <http://twcdi.ie/healthy-schools-programme/>. If you would like a hard copy of the report, please contact Gráinne at grainne@twcdi.ie or 01-4940030.



Speech and Language Therapy



Grainne Smith, CDI.

The speech and language therapy service continued in all early years' services, and within the three primary schools. Claire filled in for Jennifer's maternity leave, and Jennifer returned at the end of July. However, Jennifer finished employment in August 2012, and a recruitment process ensued. This resulted in Michelle Quinn taking on the senior role and in the recruitment of Caitriona Mulhall, who started in November. I would like to welcome Caitriona to the fold, and wish her well in her role. No doubt she will be well guided by Michelle, who has shown the utmost professionalism and commitment to this initiative.

As with the PCF role, we are delighted that this service was able to continue from September 2012, with commitment to continue the service until the end of August 2013. This is a very welcome development, which will have a positive impact for children and families. As I mentioned earlier and in line with revised funding requirements regarding the integration of services into mainstream structures, there were some structural changes to the SLT service. South Dublin County Childcare Committee will take over the employment role. We are also very fortunate to have the continued crucial support and collaboration with the HSE. This leads me to sincerely thank An Cosán for their support over the last four years. As they demonstrated flexibility and commitment as we sought to ensure the service was structured in such a way as to meet the needs of the children, family and services within which it operated.

Grainne Smith, Quality Specialist, CDI.

Evaluation:

As with the other services, the evaluation report was finalised and published, along with a policy brief, which highlights the learning from the programme, with recommendations and implications for policy. The report is available on our website at: <http://twcdi.ie/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/CDI-SLT-Report-09.11-web.pdf> If you would like a hard copy of the report, please contact Gráinne at grainne@twcdi.ie or 01-4940030.

The report was launched on November 15th by Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, and attended by a range of relevant stakeholders. Mícheál spoke about the importance of children developing a love of language, and his wonderful turn of phrase and warmth had us all enraptured. Michelle McKeon, a mother whose child has benefitted from the service, spoke eloquently of the challenges she faced in getting this much needed service for her son, and her delight at the progress he has made as a result of this service. Caroline Hanway, a Parent/Carer Facilitator (PCF) spoke about her experience as firstly a childcare worker and now in her current role. She told of how important this service was for the children and families, as well as from a practitioner's point of view, and how they are now better equipped to support children and families who have Speech and Language needs, all of which was as a result of the ongoing training received as part of this service, as well as the onsite access to a Speech and Language Therapist. Children and parents from the Naionra Chaitlin Maude were also in attendance to lend a sense of the impact that this model of delivery had for them. A big thank you to all who travelled in for the launch. As you will see from the pictures, it was a very successful event.



Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh with SLT children

SLT Advisory Committee

In order to promote and share the learning from an early intervention Speech and Language Therapy Service, an Advisory Committee was set up. The committee is made up of various stakeholders who have both a practice and policy perspective. The aims of this committee are:

- To advise on the sustainability and replication of the model;
- To support the development and integration of the model into mainstream services;
- To identify opportunities for transfer of the learning;
- To inform the strategic planning of the service;
- To share learning and developments which could inform the sustainability of the service.

The first of these meetings took place in early December, and there was a lot of positive feedback from all those present. There is a lot of scope to explore and develop the key learning from the evaluation report's findings on the importance of an early intervention Speech and Language Therapy Service and the positive outcomes that this can lead to for children and families. These meetings will continue throughout 2013.

A Safe and Healthy Place

The work of the Safe and Healthy Place Committee over recent months has largely focussed on addressing issues of safety in the MacUilliam estate. A concerted interagency effort has been made to get to grips with the safety issues in the area and there were some encouraging signs of improvement just before Christmas. This work will be built on in the coming months to ensure that families and children in MacUilliam live in is a safe neighbourhood with a stress-free environment and adequate community facilities.



The Safe and Healthy Place Committee has also been considering how to organise its work after CDI ceases its coordination role with the Committee early in the New Year. This and priorities for the work of the Committee will be decided in the near future.

Community Safety Initiative

A major milestone was reached for the Community Safety Initiative (CSI) on the 28th of September 2012 when the spanking new CSI Manual was launched at a meeting of the South Dublin County Development Board.



This was a good example of interagency working as CDI and South Dublin County Council (SDCC) joined their expertise to launch this detailed Manual on how to improve community safety. The Manual is based on our shared experience of working together to develop community safety strategies in four pilot sites in Tallaght which were aimed at promoting community spirit; reducing anti-social behaviour, bullying and people's sense of danger; and increasing a sense of safety among families and children in the targeted neighbourhoods.

To deliver a community safety initiative the CSI Manual recommends working in small areas of approximately 100 households and highlights the following elements:

- Having the right people at the decision-making table;
- The importance of designing a local CSI in collaboration with residents;
- Inter-agency commitment;
- Quick wins for the community;
- A committed Coordinator for at least one year;
- Short-term sustained interventions with families;
- Facilitating young people involved in anti-social behaviour to be included in existing services that can provide ongoing support; and
- Anchoring young people in pro-social activities over the summer.

CDI is now working on disseminating and mainstreaming the learning from the CSI and will be organising a variety of activities to this end in the first half of 2013. The CSI Manual is available for download from <http://twcdi.ie/publications>.

Restorative Practice Training Programme

Restorative Practice is about working **WITH** people rather than doing things **TO** or **FOR** them. It is about offering high levels of support, whilst challenging inappropriate behaviour and encouraging acceptance of responsibility and the setting of clear boundaries. The training provides you with the skills to address issues in a responsible and respectful way. RP is not about blame but more about promoting personal responsibility through a fair process. It separates the DEED from the DOER, enabling you to deal with the issue at hand.

2012 was a very exciting time for restorative practice with the launching of St Mark's Community School as our first restorative building in Tallaght in October. Mayor Cathal King and Minister of State Brian Hayes helped in celebrating the excellent work at St. Marks over the past two years.

Our aim is to have many more commitments to working restoratively in Tallaght as in 2013 we will launch Tallaght West as a restorative community. If you're interested in becoming a restorative building or organization please contact Joyce email: joyce@twcdi.ie or phone: 0858371495.

We now have 18 local trainers who are available to deliver on site training to groups and centres. With over 600 people in the area now trained in restorative practice we are well on the way to achieving our goal in becoming the first restorative community in Ireland.

We can offer training on site to accommodate your needs. To avail of this offer contact Joyce on 01 4940030 or by email, joyce@twcdi.ie.



January 23 rd or February 20 th	RP in Neighbourhoods	To introduce Restorative Practices and provide an understanding of how they can be used in daily life	1 day 10am-5pm
Jan 24 th & 25 th or Feb 21 st & 22 nd	RP Upskilling	Participants will learn how to run restorative circles to build relationships and resolve issues and how to organise conferences to repair broken or damaged relationships	2 days 10am-5pm

Research and Evaluation

November was an exciting month for CDI's evaluation work on four services: Doodle Den, Mate-Tricks, Healthy School's Programme, and Speech and Language Therapy, as we published the evaluation reports for each of these services and held round table meetings with key policy makers and influencers regarding each of the reports. The meetings generated a lot of interest and positive discussion regarding CDI's work and ways in which to promote and encourage quality services in the community. This work will be continued in the coming months.

The Doodle Den report and the Speech and Language Therapy report were also launched during November at two exciting launch events. The Doodle Den report was launched by John Murray at Buswell's Hotel and was attended by children from the service who were keen to show their wonderful literacy skills. The Speech and Language Therapy report was launched by Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh in the Mansion House who praised the confidence of the children he met from the Speech and Language Therapy Service. Both launches were covered in the media and provided a wonderful opportunity to highlight the important work carried out in the community with regard to literacy and speech and language development.

CDI Annual End-of Year Celebration

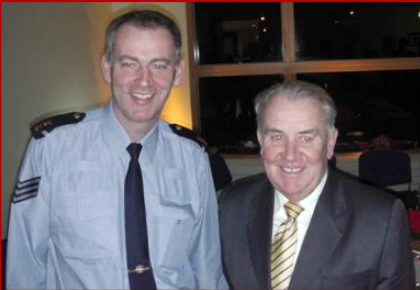
Our Annual Christmas Seminar took place on December 13th, and was the usual eclectic mix of carols, funky Christmas decorations, good will to all, and some reflections on the year gone by and the one ahead.

We were delighted to be joined by Pauric Sweeney from the Office of Ombudsman for Children who delivered a heart warming speech while praising the rigour of CDI's research, and spoke about how impressed he was with the work of CDI. He spoke about how he felt the work fitted well and was in keeping with the work of the Office of the Ombudsman. He explained the importance of giving the children a voice and really listening to the child.

Joe Horan, Chair of CDI's Board of Management, thanked the CDI staff for their hard work throughout the year and all those organisations and individuals who support this complex work. As always, it was a lovely opportunity to gather with colleagues.



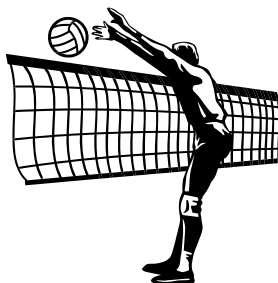
St. Mark's Pupils, winners of the Christmas decorating competition



Garda Ronan Lawlor with Tommy Cooke (CDI Board)



St. Mark's Choir



Sign Up Now for a One Day Tournament!

Jump! Slam! Volley! CDI's All-In Volleyball

The Childhood Development Initiative's are holding a [One Day Blitz](#) and currently seeking teams to join to sign up. CDI will be offering the use of the Tallaght Leisure Centre Hall on Wednesday 20th February and Wednesday 27th February 2013 from 5.30pm-7.00pm as an opportunity to get some early practice in. The blitz tournament will take place on Wednesday 6th March from 5pm-8pm followed by the trophy give away in Crough's Bar in Springfield.

All you need is six willing participants to take part, no skill required, no cost, it's all about fun and getting to know those that live and work in Tallaght West. Organisations are encouraged to join up and have fun getting to know your community.

For more information or to register your team please contact Audrey/Laura on 01 4940030 or email audrey@twcdi.ie/laura.sutcliffe@twcdi.ie [by the 8th February.](#)

Social Return on Investment (SROI)

Social Return on Investment (SROI)

SROI is a framework based on social generally accepted accounting principles (SGAAP) that can be used to help manage and understand the social, economic and environmental outcomes created by your activity or organisation.

Why Should I Use SROI?

- SROI will help you understand, manage and communicate the social value that your work creates in a clear and consistent way with customers, beneficiaries and funders.
- It can help you manage risks, identify opportunities and raise finance.
- It will throw up potential improvements to services, information systems and the way you govern your business.
- All in order to increase the social value or impact of your work.

Whether you are a private enterprise, a social business, an investor or commissioner of services, SROI will help you account for the wider impact of your work and allow you to make more informed decisions.

Because SROI is built on principles, it is very flexible. Different organisations create value in many different ways. A consistent approach to understanding and accounting for social value means that you can communicate clearly where and how you create value in a credible way.

SROI can help you plan. By forecasting the value you expect to create using SROI, you may identify areas where you need to change, often in the way you collect information. Improving the information you use to report performance. Being able to compare performance against forecasts will help you create more value.

In November 2012, CDI hosted and co-ordinated training to enable understanding and interpret Social Return on Investment (SROI) ratios and how to build an SROI model. This training was delivered over two days by Just Economics a social and economic research company. They specialise in economic analyses of social issues and have particular expertise in using measurement approaches such as Social Return on Investment and in conducting value for money studies. Day One of the course introduced the concepts and principles of Social Return on Investment (SROI) research. In Day 2, participants built a SROI model from scratch using a specially-developed training example. Much of the day was spent working with spreadsheets, where the concepts from Day 1 were applied. By the end of the day, participants had calculated an SROI ratio and presented their findings to colleagues. All who attended this course were very positive in their feedback of the training.

CDI are delighted to again host this training on the 14th and 15th of February and there are a maximum of 12 places for each day of training.

Date: 14th and 15th of February 2013
Time: 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Venue: CDI Office
Cost: Day 1 Training = €150
Day 1 & 2 Training = €275

For more detailed information on this training and whether it will benefit your organisation, please see our web-site www.twcdi.ie or contact Laura at 01 4940030 or Laura.Sutcliffe@twcdi.ie.



Upcoming Training:

Quality Services, Better Outcomes Workshop

Dates: Wednesday 30th January OR
Wednesday 20th February.

Time: 9.30—12.30 pm

Venue: CDI, St. Mark's House, Cookstown Lane,
Fettercairn, Dublin 24.

CDI will be running a series of workshops based on their Work Book – Quality Services, Better Outcomes. The workshop will offer an introduction to using the Work Book as a practical tool in your day to day practice. It will also include active learning experiences giving you the opportunity to work through some of the skills and techniques it highlights.

Based on CDI's experiences, the facilitators will guide you through quality assurance procedures, evidence based practice and evaluation processes.

Who is the workshop aimed at?

- All those in leadership/management roles;
- Those with a quality assurance role;
- Community, voluntary and statutory organisations in the social care sector.

What will I learn?

Practical tips about:

- How to be evidence-informed and why;
- How to maximise my organisations ability to deliver quality services;
- How to better understand the factors that support quality delivery.

To book a place on this free training, please contact Laura Sutcliffe on 01 4940030 or by email at laura.sutcliffe@twcdi.ie.

