1. New CDI Team Members

CDI is delighted to welcome two new members to the Team.

Mary Dolan – Development Officer

Mary has over 25 years management experience in both the commercial and community sectors. At CDI, Mary is responsible for the Antenatal to Three Initiative (ATTI) and supporting Parent Carer Facilitators. She holds an MA in Management, Community & Voluntary Services and a Diploma in Personal & Business Coaching.

Linda Mullally – Administrative Assistant

Linda grew up in Tallaght and has worked as an administrator for almost 15 years gaining valuable experience, which she brings to CDI. Linda has worked in various organisations including Repak Ltd and holds a FETAC Level 5 Certificate in Communications, Public
2. How is our Neighbourhood? Study to Commence

We'll be starting the first phase of research with residents in Tallaght West shortly as part of the How is Our Neighbourhood? study in which we will be exploring experiences and perceptions of living in Tallaght West.

Bernadette Rock, who is leading the research, gave a talk to Social Care students in Tallaght IT to discuss the study and encourage them to take part in the survey team. We'll also be carrying out focus groups with young people living and attending school in Tallaght West, as well as local service providers.

This study will build on two previous studies (How are our Kids?, 2004 and How are our Families?, 2012) which have been central to informing CDI's work, as well as identifying key and emerging issues.

3. CDI Research Datasets Available on National Archive

CDI has three datasets available for public use via the Irish Social Science Data Archive and others will follow. These datasets relate to the following evaluations:

- **Doodle Den**: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Childhood Development Initiative’s Doodle Den - [www.ucd.ie/issda/data/doodleden/](http://www.ucd.ie/issda/data/doodleden/)
- **Mate Tricks**: An afterschool programme aimed at enhancing pro-social skills. This will be available shortly at [www.ucd.ie/issda/data](http://www.ucd.ie/issda/data).

The datasets are available for secondary research and teaching purposes by academics, researchers and post-graduate students. CDI’s Archiving Toolkit explains the archiving process, and is available on our website.

In addition, we have Tutor Packs for all our evaluations which provide documentation and presentations for third level courses to incorporate our research.

4. CDI Tips to Help Children’s Reading

To mark World Book Day (March 3) CDI gave out useful tips for parents to encourage their children’s reading.

CDI Speech and Language Therapist Michelle Quinn advised parents on what works to get children’s interest: “Children in Junior Infants like books about everyday things, story books about adventures, alphabet books, counting books, non-fiction books about insects or dinosaurs or imaginative books.”
"Children at crèche stage like small books that fit into their hands, books with simple rhymes, flap books and books about everyday things, clothes, animals and toys. Preschool children often like books that tell stories about children and also nursery rhyme books.

"When reading talk about the book, with smaller children this may be pointing out pictures while it would be pointing out words with older children."

CEO Marian Quinn encouraged parents and children to use [www.doodleden.ie](http://www.doodleden.ie), a fun website for 5–6 years olds with interactive language and number games.

5. **ATTI Report Update**

An interim evaluation of the Ante-natal to Three Initiative (ATTI) has shown that the programme has made a very useful contribution to promoting, catalysing and supporting greater interagency working as it relates to children and families in the antenatal to three cohort in Tallaght West.

It has approached this task with energy and creativity and there is early evidence of impact across service provision, particularly in terms of increased awareness of services; enhanced cross sectoral learning and increased interagency networking.

The evaluation commends the approach to promoting interagency working and strengthening commitment to prevention and early intervention in services for children and families. More information about the ATTId program [here](http://www.doodleden.ie).

6. **Award for Former Chair Joe Horan**

CDI is delighted to acknowledge that our previous Chair, and South Dublin County Manager, Joe Horan, was recently awarded a special, life time achievement award at the national e-Gov annual awards ceremony.

Presenting the award, the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Alex White, described Joe as "an exceptional public servant who had demonstrated leadership in many areas", particularly in relation to the development and integration of information technology across many public organisations.

Congratulations Joe from all at CDI!

7. **PEI and General Election 2016 Update**

Both CDI individually and the [Hands Up for Children](http://www.doodleden.ie) campaign (of which CDI
is a member) made Manifesto submissions to candidates and parties contesting the 2016 General Election.

We are now all waiting to see who will form the new Government. As a Programme for Government is being agreed, the Hands Up for Children campaign will be lobbying to get PEI included in the programme. CDI is planning an information meeting with the newly elected Dublin South West TDs.

- CDI's General Election Manifesto can be viewed here
- Information on the Hands up for Children campaign can be viewed here.
- A summary of the Election commitments of the different parties with regard to children can be reviewed here and health here.

We encourage all of those with an interest in, and commitment to, prevention and early intervention to use this information to advocate for a shift in approach in services for children and families.

**8. Upcoming Events**

**Restorative Practices Training**

Information on upcoming Restorative Practices Training Courses is available here. The training is free to anyone living or working in Tallaght and very reasonably priced for others!

**Getting Started with Restorative Practices**

9.30am — 1pm: 6th & 13th of April  
9.30am — 1pm: 11th & 18th of May  
9.30am — 1pm: 8th & 15th of June

**Restorative Practices Upskilling**

9.30am — 5pm: 27th, 28th & 29th of April  
9.30am — 5pm: 22nd, 23rd & 24th of June

**Mental Health Seminar**

CDI is organising a seminar on Networking for Infant Mental Health which will take place on April 19th at the Maldron Hotel in Tallaght at 9.30am – 12pm.

Catherine Maguire (former HSE Senior Clinical Psychologist and Infant Mental Health Specialist) will present the report ‘Infant Mental Health – Network Groups’.

To attend or find out more contact Mary Dolan, CDI at (01) 491 0030 / mary@twcdi.ie.