

CDI Annual Report 2013:

Introduction:

The Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) supports the delivery of a range of early intervention and prevention programmes to improve outcomes for children in disadvantaged areas and has designed, delivered and evaluated a suite of programmes across a spectrum of needs including language, literacy, health, early years, conflict management and community safety. All CDI programmes are evidence-informed, manualised, and delivered through existing structures and services.

Funded through the national Area Based Childhood Programme (ABC), <http://www.dcy.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=3034> a further investment of over €4 million for the period 2013 – 2016 has been made in Tallaght West and other communities with whom CDI works. CDI are delighted to be part of the ABC programme and aim to continue to identify needs, drive changes and improve outcomes for children and families in Tallaght West.

For more information on CDI just follow these links:

<http://www.twcdi.ie/what-we-do/about-us>

<http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/detail/next-chapter-2013-2016>

Governance:

The Board of CDI is chaired by Joe Horan and the Vice Chairperson is Dr. Suzanne Guerin. In 2013 there were 11 Board members and 6 meetings of the Board. The CDI Board members are all extremely experienced and knowledgeable and bring valuable contributions to the work of CDI. There are established and efficient sub committee structures supporting CDIs compliance with regulations and the Charities Governance Code. The team consists of 10 staff with a range of backgrounds and disciplines, all hard working, professional and working collaboratively to achieving the organisational goals.

For more information on CDI Governance just follow these links:

<http://www.twcdi.ie/what-we-do/board>

<http://www.twcdi.ie/what-we-do/governance-chart-2013>

http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/Signed_Declaration_Governance_Code_12_12_2013.pdf

<http://www.twcdi.ie/what-we-do/cdi-staff-team>

CDI Programme Developments 2013:

Doodle Den

In 2013 there were 16 groups delivering the Doodle Den programme across Tallaght, Limerick, Wexford, Cavan and Dublin City Centre. To see a video on Doodle Den and its evaluation findings please click on the following link - <http://vimeo.com/81506760> and for more information <http://www.twcdi.ie/our-programmes/doodle-den>

Speech and Language Therapy Service:

The SLT service was delivered in Tallaght West by two full-time speech and language therapists who are employed by South Dublin County Childcare Committee. To view a video on CDI's Speech and Language Therapy Service and its evaluation findings please click on the following link - <http://vimeo.com/81506761> and for more information <http://www.twcdi.ie/our-programmes/speech-and-language-therapy-model>

Parental Support in Early Years:

There are nine Parent Carer Facilitators employed in nine community child care facilities in Tallaght West, who are working with 500 families. To view a video on CDI's Early Years study and its evaluation findings please click on the following link - <http://vimeo.com/81506829>

Doodle Den Booster:

It was agreed under the ABC programme that CDI undertake a consultation process with local stakeholders and experts to identify the opportunities to develop a booster / follow on programme for Doodle Den and to identify a new programme. Consultation commenced in November 2013 and will be finalised in 2014.

0-3 Programme:

CDI is also consulting local stakeholders and experts to identify the needs of the 0-3 target group in Tallaght West and to identify mechanisms to support this group. Consultation commenced in October 2013 and will be finalised in early 2014.

Restorative Practice:

For information on CDI's Restorative Practice and its evaluation findings please click <http://vimeo.com/81508581> In 2013, CDI were working towards launching Tallaght West as a Restorative Community and two organisations were awarded a Restorative Practice Plaque St Marks Community School in March 2013 and South Dublin County Council Social Work Team in September 2013. Restorative practice training has been delivered to 325 people throughout the year and a panel of trainers developed. For more information on Restorative Practice see <http://www.twcdi.ie/our-programmes/restorative-practice>

Research & Policy Developments:

Research:

In 2013 Evaluation Reports for three CDI programmes were published bringing the suite of evaluation reports to a total of 7. An overall 'process evaluation report to share the learning on 'how' to implement early intervention programmes will be published in early 2014.

<http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/evaluation-reports>

CDI also commissioned research to investigate the replication of Doodle Den delivery in limerick in order to capture the learning from the process for future replication.

http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/Replicating_Doodle_Den_Programme_24_11.pdf

In order to ensure the data collected during the evaluation process is archived appropriately for future use CDI commissioned Dr. Brid McGrath and Robin Hanan to develop processes and procedures for CDI's archiving process which draw on nationally and internationally agreed best practice for both qualitative and quantitative data.

http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/CDI-TWCDI_Report_28_11.pdf

The Research Evaluation Policy and Practice (REPP) Project continues to work towards the publication of a book in which experiences, learning and understanding from both a service provider, and a research perspective, will be examined.

Research commenced in 2013

- Speech and Language follow on study – due to be completed in 2015;
- Doodle Den Longitudinal Study – due to be completed in 2015;
- Evaluation of the Assignment of RAPID Coordinators to Deliver CDI's Community Safety Initiative – due to be completed in 2014;

- Cost Benefit Analysis in conjunction with Atlantic Philanthropies – due to be completed in 2014.

Policy:

There are 9 Policy Briefs published to date, 5 of which were compiled in 2013.

<http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/policy-briefs>

Communications & Training:

CDI prioritised disseminating the learning in 2013 through a variety of means, such as co-ordinating CDI events and conferences, presenting at external events of which there were 14, publishing reports and policy papers, issuing press releases and getting media coverage, holding roundtable policy discussions, issuing regular newsletters, creating a blog and 7 short videos on the CDI programmes. Extensive work has been carried out in 2013 in the development of Implementation Guides (IGs) a how to guide for each of CDI's programmes and a suite of IGs will be published in 2014. To access press releases, blogs, newsletters, audio, presentations and publications, just follow these links:

<http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/Press-Releases>

<http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/blog>

<http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/newsletters>

<http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/videos>

<http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/presentations1>

<http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/other-CDI-publications>

<http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/journal-publications>

CDI developed an online summer course for teachers called Using Evidence Based Programmes to Support Speech, Language and Literacy Development among Young Children in Disadvantaged Communities in July 2013 with 83 participants fully completing the course. In addition to this 12 teachers attended a week long course on Restorative Practice.

In 2013 there were 5 open workshops held on the Quality Services Better Outcomes workbook with 54 people in attendance. In addition to this there were 2 tailor made workshops for 18 people in total.

<http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/Quality-Services-Better-Outcomes-Workbook-Final.pdf>

CDI in Numbers: <http://www.twcdi.ie/what-we-do/cdi-in-numbers>

Interagency Collaboration:

Interagency collaboration is central to the work of CDI and to achieving the objective of improving outcomes for children and families in Tallaght West. CDI are represented on a number of committee structures locally and nationally and representations from a number of key organisations are on our Implementation Support Group and our sub-committee structures. Roundtable policy discussion events for all 7 of CDI's evaluations reports were also held. Strong links are also maintained with the evaluation teams and the other PEIP sites to maximise sharing the learning.

Financial Statements:

Financial statements are available on this link - <http://www.twcdi.ie/what-we-do/financial-statements>

Conclusion:

The past year has been a busy one for CDI, and at times an uncertain one, as we moved from the Prevention and Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) into the ABC funding initiative. Changes in relationships, governance and focus resulting from this shift have been managed professionally by the staff and their constant energy, good humour and hard work is readily acknowledged by the Board. All those who participate in CDI's governance structures have been critical to managing this transition, offering scrutiny where required, guidance when needed, and always providing a further layer of credibility and expertise.

There are inevitably challenges ahead, as we navigate new territories, work to consolidate the impact and outcomes in Tallaght West and the other communities who have invited us in, and continue our commitment to disseminating the learning, and shaping future policy and practice.

Our thanks to our funders, The Department of Children and Youth Affairs, and The Atlantic Philanthropies for their ongoing trust, investment and vision. To the staff and volunteers in CDI, in acknowledgement of your immense contribution to our deepening understanding of what works for children; to the many organisations, practitioners and services who work with us so closely, and whose wisdom and time are so central to ensuring we remain relevant; and finally to the community of Tallaght West, to the children who turn up smiling, to the parents who arrange their day to facilitate our programmes, to the local activists who support us in so many ways, and the many other champions who have emerged over the years.

We look forward to more developments in the year ahead, and the opportunity to continue to support improved outcomes for children, families and communities.

Joe Horan,
Chair,
CDI Board

