



# THE CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

## Annual Report 2015

### CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD:



2015 has been a fantastic year for CDI, with a lot of developments, strong programme delivery and the maximising of opportunities in true CDI style that have come up over the year. Below are just a few of the highlights of 2015.

Throughout 2015, we were delighted to be involved in a coalition of 30 organisations who joined together to develop and launch the "Hands up for Children Campaign". The campaign's Five Thriving Childhood Principles set out the case for an increased investment in prevention and early intervention for children and families, and a commitment to gradually realigning resources from crisis driven interventions to

preventative ones. To further support this campaign CDI held an event with the Blueskies Initiative (based in Clondalkin) in Tallaght Library on the 24th of September. For more information on this campaign see [www.handsupforchildren.ie](http://www.handsupforchildren.ie). The campaign can be followed on Twitter at [@handsup4children](https://twitter.com/handsup4children) and [#handsup4children](https://twitter.com/handsup4children).

In April, we saw the launch of a 'Parenting Tips' website <http://www.tusla.ie/parenting-24-seven> which includes '50 Key Messages for parenting'. This is a collaborative project between CDI and Tusla, the Child and Family Agency. It offers very practical tips for parents and is also a great resource for practitioners.

On the 19th of October we held our animation launch "*Defying Gravity: How one community used science and spirit to make their dream a reality*", which was a huge success, see our animation on <http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/videos> The launch was an emotional event attended by parents and children who have been involved in CDI's work, and





Images from the launch of "Defying Gravity: How one community used science and spirit to make their dream a reality"

also Senator Katherine Zappone who was one of the original architects behind the development of an early intervention programme in Tallaght West. On the 1st December we also held an event to showcase these videos to senior policy makers in the city centre.

Throughout 2015, CDI undertook a strategic review process with the CDI Board and staff, whilst also holding consultation sessions for parents and service providers. This Annual Report details the highlights, achievements, hard work and enthusiasm of the CDI Board and staff in supporting the children and families of Tallaght West and beyond.

Dr. Suzanne Guerin, Chairperson CDI.

intervention work at 13 sites across Ireland. In 2014, CDI secured funding of €4m from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Atlantic Philanthropies to deliver a range of programmes in Tallaght West until August 2016. CDI currently coordinates seven intervention programmes mainly in Tallaght in West Dublin, but also in other communities across Ireland. Six of the programmes are part of the ABC programme, whilst the Family Links Initiative is resourced via a separate funding stream (see below for more information). These programmes were rigorously evaluated during their delivery to help identify 'what really works' to improve outcomes for children in a disadvantaged area and within an Irish context. Each of the Evaluation Reports and Policy Briefs are published and available on our website [www.twcdi.ie](http://www.twcdi.ie).



CDI Vision

## CDI BACKGROUND:

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. CDI began its work in late 2003 in order to develop a strategy to improve the health, safety and learning of the children of Tallaght West and to increase their sense of belonging to their community. From 2007 to 2013 CDI was one of three co-funded Prevention and Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) sites in Dublin. CDI is currently part of the Government's Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme which supports prevention and early

## GOVERNANCE:

CDI takes great pride in good governance as it gives us and our funders' reassurance that our approaches, spending and strategy maximise the investment in our work.

The Board of CDI is chaired by Dr. Suzanne Guerin. In 2015 there were on average 11 Board members and 10 meetings of the Board. The CDI Board members are all extremely experienced, knowledgeable and bring valuable contributions to the work of CDI. For



more detailed information on our board members see [www.twcdi.ie/what-we-do/meet-the-board-members](http://www.twcdi.ie/what-we-do/meet-the-board-members) and for the board functions see [www.twcdi.ie/what-we-do/board](http://www.twcdi.ie/what-we-do/board). There are established and efficient governance and sub committee structures supporting CDIs compliance with regulations and the Charities Governance Code. For more information on CDI Governance see [www.twcdi.ie/what-we-do/governance-chart-2015](http://www.twcdi.ie/what-we-do/governance-chart-2015). CDI has signed up to the Governance code and standards and was involved in an annual audit by Pobal in May 2015.

The CDI Board saw a lot of changes in 2015 with the resignations of Joe Horan (former Chairperson of CDI), Tommy Cooke, John McGarry, Dr. Kieran O'Dwyer and John Lahiffe, all of whom made a vital contribution to the work of CDI. We appreciate the time, enthusiasm, professionalism and expertise that they offered to CDI over the years and we wish them well. However, we are delighted to say that we welcomed in six new members to the Board; Professor Mary Corcoran who is a leading Sociology expert based at Maynooth University; Anita Nolan, who is currently studying for an honours degree in Deaf Studies in Trinity College Dublin and working as part of the team in a local women's refuge; Bonnie Brady, who is an expert in Human Resources Management and has considerable experience of community development and advocacy; Helen Johnston who currently works in the National Social and Economic Council; John Murray who is a qualified accountant and project manager in IBM; and Paul Murphy who recently retired from the Irish Prison Service where he was the Head of Psychological Services. CDI is delighted to welcome all new Board members and we look forward to working with them.

The CDI team consists of 13 staff with a range of backgrounds and disciplines; all are hard working, professional and are working collaboratively to achieve the organisational goals. In 2015 we expressed fond farewells to Audrey Habington our Administrative Assistant and Emma Freeman our Antenatal to Three

Initiative Co-ordinator who both left CDI in 2015. Bernadette Rock joined the team as Research and Evaluation Officer in November 2015. For a full list of the CDI team see [www.twcdi.ie/what-we-do/cdi-staff-team](http://www.twcdi.ie/what-we-do/cdi-staff-team).

## CDI PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS 2015:

In 2015, CDI coordinated seven intervention programmes, five in Tallaght and three in Limerick, which were Doodle Den, Doodle Families and Family Links. Six of the programmes were funded under the ABC programme and one through the Katherine Howard Foundation and the Community Foundation of Ireland.

### 1 Doodle Den

From September 2014 to August 2015 Doodle Den was delivered to 285 children through 19 groups in Tallaght, Ballyfermot, Dublin City Centre, Limerick and Carlow. An assessment of the service found an average gain of 21% in the children's phonics, 54% in their writing skills and 56% in sight vocabulary. In September 2015, there were 23 groups delivering the Doodle Den programme across Tallaght, Limerick and Dublin City Centre, with four new Doodle Den groups in Grangegorman and three in the Docklands as part of the ABC Programme. This reflected the ongoing expansion of the literacy programme. 345 children were involved in the programme across the 23 groups. 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>

### Doodle Den Interactive web-site:

[www.DoodleDen.ie](http://www.DoodleDen.ie)

CDI is delighted with the response to [www.doodleden.ie](http://www.doodleden.ie) which has had almost 18,000 visitors since it was launched in September 2014. From the 1st of January to the 31st of December 2015, there have been 4,669 interactive sessions and 9,059



views. The site features a range of literacy activities based on the manual for the Doodle Den Programme. Children can visit six different “houses” which are filled with activities that range from phonics and sight words, to writing, sentence structure and grammar. Children are also invited to send in their work which can then be displayed in the library of the website.



### **Doodle Den Facebook page:**

We have developed a Doodle Den Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/doodleden.ie/> which has proven to be a great way of sharing news from Doodle Den groups around the country, as well as information about resources, literacy activities and events. Currently we have over 300 likes and this page is regularly updated.

### **Doodle Den Implementation Guide:**

The Doodle Den Implementation Guide was developed by our Quality Specialist Anne-Marie Reid and published in 2015. The guide is based on CDI's experience of what it takes to deliver and replicate Doodle Den in new communities over the last seven years. The implementation guide is available on our website <http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/other-CDI-publications>.

## **2 Chit Chat Speech and Language Therapy Service:**

The SLT service offers therapeutic support to children, and also works with parents, teachers and carers to maximise their development. In 2015, it was delivered in Tallaght West by two CDI full-time speech and language therapists. There were 121 referrals to the Chit Chat early intervention speech and language service, of which 72% were boys and 28% were girls and 856 therapy sessions were attended. The main source of referral to the CDI SLT service was parents with support from the CDI facilitators on-site. The average waiting time for the service in 2015 was three weeks. Ten coffee mornings were attended by 80 parents and a speech and language booklet was produced together with the HSE and 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>.

## **3 Parental Support in Early Years:**

There are nine Parent Carer Facilitators (PCFs) employed in nine community Early Years Services in Tallaght West. The PCFs offer a mix of formal and informal supports to parents. Examples of the informal support are: coffee mornings; nutrition courses; personal development courses; family days; play initiatives; information; support on school transitions and a range of one to one supports to parents on a wide range of issues. They also deliver a range of Parents Plus Programmes to parents, including the Early Years Programme and Parenting When Separated, with 41 parents completing courses. The PCFs worked with almost 600 families in Tallaght West, with 177 parents and 245 children being referred to various agencies for support. Seven services ran parent and toddler groups attended by 70 children and 55 adults. To view a video on CDI's Early Years study and its evaluation findings please click on the following link - <http://vimeo.com/81506829>.



**Parenting Web-site:**

The parenting24seven website <http://www.tusla.ie/parenting-24-seven> is a partnership between CDI and Tusla’s Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS). The website is an online resource offering evidence based key messages on what works best for children and families at different stages of childhood and in different situations. The key messages are from a parenting support document outlined by the Child and Family Agency for supporting parents to improve outcomes for children. The website has been up and running since April 2015 and was officially launched in December 2015.



**Parenting24**

**4 Doodle Families:**

Doodle Families has been developed as a family literacy programme that brings First Class children and their parents together to participate in literacy activities focused on their family life. It aims to support the home learning environment and provide a booster programme for children, who have previously participated in Doodle Den. The idea came from some schools which found Doodle Den very beneficial and who were looking for follow up supports. From February to May 2015 this initiative was under pilot in three schools and with 18 families in Limerick. The first phase of evaluation took place, which focused on identifying and developing the best approach to implementing the programme. A follow up comparative study will be progressed next year.

**5 Antenatal to Three Initiative (ATTI) 0-3 Programme:**

ATTI is an interagency approach to improve access and co-ordination of services for families of children aged 0-3. It aims to improve health, educational and social outcomes for children and families, and to improve the effectiveness of existing services for them. The ATTI steering group drives the work and oversees progress and consists of representation from An Cosan, Public Health Nurses, The Coombe Hospital, GP Practice Nurses, TUSLA, South Dublin County Childcare Committee, Best Start, Barnardos and CDI. There is a wider network of ATTI consisting of 174 agencies, which acts in an advisory capacity and who are all supported through ATTI activities.

In 2015, we published a needs analysis report of services for 0-3 year olds in Tallaght. As the first part of the evaluation process for ATTI a Baseline Data Report was completed in January 2015 and is available on our website [http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/CDI\\_ATT\\_Report\\_01.09.15.pdf](http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/CDI_ATT_Report_01.09.15.pdf) The research showed that although there was a lot of informal work being carried out between agencies, there was a need for more formal structures and increased knowledge of services.

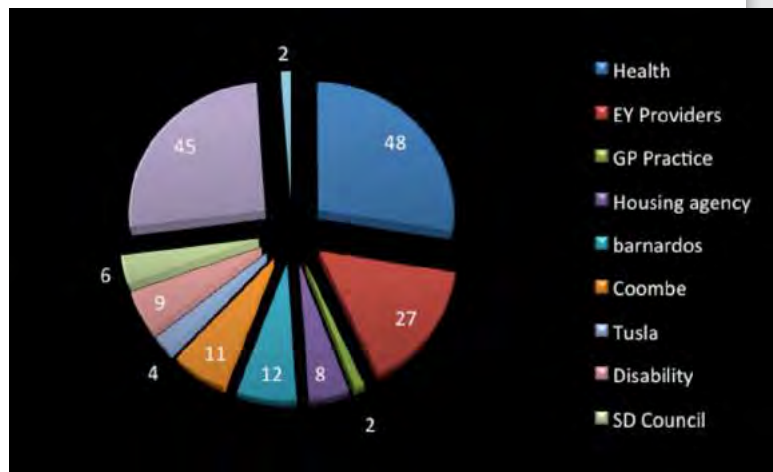


Figure 1: Representation on the wider ATTI network:

In February 2015, ATTI hosted a dedicated speed networking event, which was attended by 56 different



service providers. The event was a first step in developing enhanced interagency work and improved pathways of care for families and young children. Attendees requested that this event be held on an annual basis. Public talks were also co-ordinated on Peri-natal Depression on the 20th of May, Attachment Theory on the 14th July and Domestic Violence on the 14th of October and all sessions were fully attended.



Speed Networking Event, February 2015

## 6 Restorative Practice:

Restorative practices are an evidence-based approach that help us develop and sustain strong and happy organisations and communities by actively developing good relationships, preventing the escalation of conflict and handling conflict in a creative and healthy manner.

### CDI RP Training:

CDI Training in Restorative Practices (RP) was delivered to 490 people in 2015 including:

- 326 people took part in *Getting Started with RP* - This training takes place over two mornings, a week apart, and provides an overview of Restorative Practices along with practical tools for using a restorative approach in your daily life.
- 80 people went on to undertake *RP Upskilling training* - This training is open to people who have done our *Getting Started with Restorative Practices* course and takes place over three days. It provides participants with the tools and confidence to facilitate restorative circles, restorative meetings and restorative conferences.
- 65 people took part in our 2015 *Summer Courses for Teachers "Using Restorative Practices to Strengthen Positive Classroom and School Norms"* – This is a Summer Course for Primary and Post-Primary Teachers which is accredited by the Drumcondra Centre for Education for Continuing Professional Development and Extra Personal Vacation (EPV). We ran four Summer Courses in July and August, which was a considerable increase from the one course, which we ran in 2014 and this reflects the increasing interest in RP in schools across the country.
- 19 participants took a place on our *Training of RP Trainers Course* – which equips participants to deliver training in Restorative Practices.
- In 2015 CDI's RP training was delivered in a wide variety of venues around Dublin and the country, the most far-flung being training delivered by Kieran O'Dwyer and Michelle Stowe with an inter-agency group at Cork City Council in November.



**RP Resources:**

CDI also continued to play a lead role in the development of Restorative Practices nationally. CDI and the National Restorative Practices Strategic Forum (RPSF) <http://www.restorativepracticesireland.ie/> were delighted to have Fr. Peter McVerry launch two important Restorative Practices resources. The first was the RPSF's *Towards Excellence in Restorative Practices – A Quality Assurance Framework for Organisations and Practitioners* <http://www.restorativepracticesireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/RPSF-QA-Framework-FINAL.pdf>.

Written by Dr. Kieran O'Dwyer, the Framework draws on best practice at home and abroad to outline the values and principles underpinning restorative practices (RP). Fr McVerry also launched A Community Wide Restorative Practices Programme – Implementation Guide, which is available on our website [http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/CDI\\_RP\\_Implementation\\_Guide\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/CDI_RP_Implementation_Guide_FINAL.pdf) Written by CDI's Claire Casey, the guide draws together the learning from research and CDI's experience of implementing an RP Programme in Tallaght over the past five years.

the South Dublin Mediation Service and the Tallaght Restorative Project, we have agreed that this is a useful addition to the supports already available. The leaflet is available on [http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/RP\\_Com\\_Service\\_Brochure\\_2015.pdf](http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/RP_Com_Service_Brochure_2015.pdf) In July 2015, CDI was delighted to support the Candle Community in Ballyfermot in being launched as a restorative organisation.



In addition to this in May 2015, a plan was launched to make Waterford a restorative County. CDI was delighted to present at the launch of the Waterford Restorative Practices Network five year strategy <http://www.wrpn.ie/index.html>. There were more than 100 people present, which is a real testament to the great work being done by the members who are all volunteers with the Network. Hearty congratulations to one and all.



**Restorative Community Services**  
Building Strong Happy Communities

**RP Communities:**

As part of our ongoing work to embed restorative practices in the community, CDI is pleased to announce that a panel of facilitators is now available to work with individuals and groups to help them resolve conflict. Having liaised with other services in the area such as



For information on CDI's Restorative Practice and its evaluation findings please click <http://vimeo.com/81508581>. For more information on Restorative Practice see <http://www.twcdi.ie/our-programmes/restorative-practice>

## 7 Family Links:

This programme was first developed and piloted in 2014 in Limerick prison and is funded through the Katherine Howard Foundation and the Community Foundation of Ireland. Family Links continued to develop throughout 2015 in Limerick Prison. The programme involves two core elements: increased awareness and support amongst prison staff on the importance of prisoners maintaining good family relationships, and delivery of Parents Plus Programme to prisoners and their partners. The approach involves collaboration with John Sharry from Parents Plus, the Irish Prison Service (IPS), the Irish Prison Service College (IPSC) and a community partner – Bedford Row.

Throughout 2015 training was delivered by a combination of the IPSC, Parents Plus and CDI. Over 40 prison staff benefitted from this training, with 20 prison staff becoming Family Liaison Officers (FLOs), including two members from the teaching staff. The role of the FLO is to support prisoners during routine daily interactions about strengthening their relationship with their families. Additionally, FLOs avail of opportunities to support this process with the prisoners' partners in the waiting area. Ten prison staff (including two teachers), eight staff from Bedford Row and two teachers from Wheatfield Prison trained in the delivery of the Parents Plus Programme. The first delivery of Parents Plus commenced both within the prison and in Bedford Row in April with nine participants commencing and seven completing. A second round commenced in November with six commencing and three completing. The feedback from participants has been broadly positive, with an understanding of the need for some adaptations to be made to the programme to ensure a 'good fit'.

Throughout the delivery of Parents Plus, prisoners and their families had access to a more relaxed visiting area with longer visiting times, where they had an opportunity to put some of the learning into practice. Graduation ceremonies were held for both groups and it was also an opportunity to reflect on the learning and celebrate their achievements. The evaluation of Family Links is ongoing by the University of Limerick and an interim report was reviewed in mid 2015. While the programme is still in its early stages, the general feedback has been that there are shifts in attitudes and behaviours of both prison staff and prisoners. There are plans to further develop the programme with possible roll out to other prisons in 2016.

## 8 Healthy Schools:

Given the positive follow-up fourth year finding from the Healthy Schools Programme, CDI felt it necessary to develop a policy brief on the findings. Following a tendering process, Maureen Bassett was awarded the work, which commenced in September 2015. The development of the policy brief involved a wide consultation with all relevant stakeholders. The policy brief will be finalised and on our website in the Spring of 2016.

## CDI Training / Conferences & Sharing our Learning in 2015:

### Training:

#### 1 Quality Services Better Outcomes:



CDI's 'Quality Services, Better Outcomes' workbook and training provides a practical resource for frontline staff, service managers and organisations that are currently implementing or intend to implement, evidence informed programmes and services for children and/or their families,





drawing on research examples of best practice. CDI offers introductory workshops and tailored training to suit organisational needs. In 2015, requests were made from two groups to tailor the workshop using the Quality Services Better Outcomes Workbook. One input was with the consortium from Ballyfermot ABC who requested a focus on implementation. There was good representation of all relevant stakeholders with learnings shared across all. A second workshop was delivered to managers and staff of County Childcare Committees. While the focus was on managing change, a general input was given on all aspects of the Workbook. From 2013 to 2015 168 participants have availed of training. In 2015 20 people completed tailored training with a 95% rating of very good to excellent for the knowledge of the facilitator, 95% very good to excellent for the level of engagement and 95% very good to excellent for the usefulness of the Quality Services Better Outcomes Workbook. CDI regularly offers training using this resource and can tailor delivery for specific issues. The workbook is available on <http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/Quality-Services-Better-Outcomes-Workbook-Final.pdf>

## 2 Seminar on Alternatives to Violence:

CDI hosted a seminar on the Alternatives to Violence Project, to facilitators who provided Phase Two training in November 2015. The AVP training programme enables participants to deal with potentially violent situations in new and creative ways and it has developed largely through work in prisons. We were very fortunate to host community-



based workshops in AVP in Tallaght as it provided an opportunity for local RP Trainers and practitioners to undertake useful continuing professional development. For more information see <http://avpireland.ie/>

## 3 Using Technology to Introduce Young People to Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) and Mindfulness:

On the 12th of December CDI hosted training on “Using Technology to Introduce Young People to Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) and Mindfulness”. “Pesky gNATs” and “Mindful Gnats” are Apps designed for mental health professionals to use with young people (9 years old +) to respectively deliver a Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) intervention for anxiety and low mood or to introduce mindfulness skills training in child friendly ways. This talk described how we can use an understanding of developmental psychology, clinical psychology and computer science to translate CBT and Mindfulness into something more accessible to younger people on a not-for-profit basis.

### Conferences & Presentations:

- The Global Implementation Conference was held in Dublin on the 27th & 28th May 2015. CDI Quality Specialist Gráinne Smith presented with Noel Kelly from Preparing for Life on “The Prevention and Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) – An Irish experience of Scaling and Capacity Development in Communities experiencing Social and Economic Deprivation”.
- Gráinne Smith, in collaboration with a representative from Bedford Row and Limerick Prison, presented their experience of delivering the Parents Plus Programme in Limerick at the Parents Plus *Innovations in Working With Families* Conference.
- CDI CEO Marian Quinn and Pat Dawson, Governor Limerick Prison presented on Family Links: Supporting Parenting for Prisoners and their Partners in October 2015 at the Annual Psychology Society of Ireland Conference.



- Marian Quinn presented on “Service Evaluation Processes and Liabilities: A Commissioner’s Perspective”, to the Irish Evaluation Network on the 6th November 2015.
- Gráinne Smith and Sonam Prakashini Banka (PhD Researcher, TCD), presented the fourth year follow-up findings from the Healthy Schools Programme at the Children’s Research Network for Ireland and Northern Ireland Conference on December 10th. Marian Quinn also presented on CDI’s experience of archiving data and maximising access to research information.
- Throughout 2015, the CDI team also made a number of presentations on our work to Social Science and Social Care Students in Tallaght IT.

CDI presented at a number of events throughout 2015 and copies of the presentations are available on <http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/presentations1>

## Research Developments:

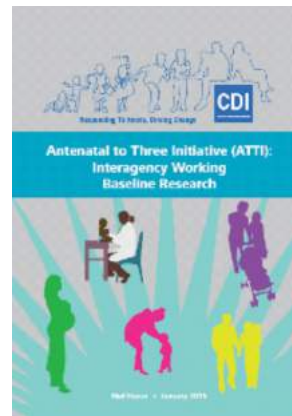
CDI has a commitment to using research to inform our work and being a producer of evidence in terms of our independent evaluations, for more information on these evaluations see <http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/evaluation-reports>.

With the ending of our funding under the Prevention and Early Intervention Programme (PEIP), this aspect of our work was significantly limited. In 2015, we received a small additional fund from the DCYA to reinvigorate this important aspect.

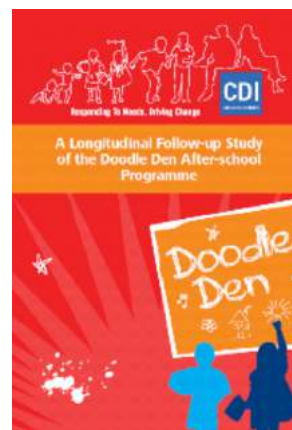
This funding allowed CDI to recruit a part-time Research and Evaluation Officer to oversee current CDI programme/initiative research evaluations and to lead a community survey to follow up on our previous studies, “How are our Kids?” and “How are our Families?” This will be entitled “How is our

Neighbourhood?” In addition to appointing a part-time Research and Evaluation Officer, the grant enabled us to commission an independent evaluation of Doodle Families, the family literacy programme developed as a follow up to Doodle Den.

### CDI Research evaluations published in 2015:

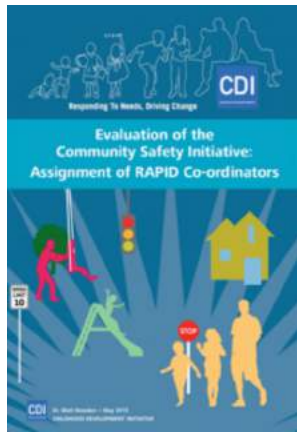


- 1 Ante-natal to Three Interagency Working Baseline Research was published and presented to the Steering Group in January 2015. The Initiative is working to improve pathways across all services and agencies for 0-3 year olds in Tallaght. The research includes inputs from over 60 relevant individuals working in a cross sector of agencies and maps the current level of interagency working across the 0-3 cohort. The report is available on [http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/CDI\\_ATTI\\_Report\\_01.09.15.pdf](http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/CDI_ATTI_Report_01.09.15.pdf)



- 2 The Doodle Den Longitudinal Study was conducted by Queen’s University Belfast. The study revisited the children involved in both the original control and intervention groups to investigate the long term benefits of participation in Doodle Den. The findings were impacted by a low number of participants as consent was sought retrospectively and numbers agreeing to take part were inevitably low. The importance of ethical approval and consent which allows this level of follow up is noted. As a result of the small number of participants, the findings from the study are inconclusive. The report is available on [http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/Doodle\\_Den\\_Longitudinal\\_Follow-up.pdf](http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/Doodle_Den_Longitudinal_Follow-up.pdf)





**3** Evaluation of the Assignment of RAPID Coordinators to deliver CDI’s Community Safety Initiative was published in 2015.

This independent research was carried out by Dr. Matt Bowden of the Centre for Social and Educational Research (CSER) at Dublin

Institute of Technology, and it describes the benefits and challenges of integrating the community safety approach in a new team. The report is available on [http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/CDI-CSI\\_RAPID\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/CDI-CSI_RAPID_Report_FINAL.pdf)

**Archiving of CDI data and sharing our social research data:**

CDI currently has three datasets available for public use via the Irish Social Science Data archive [www.issda.ucd.ie](http://www.issda.ucd.ie), and it is hoped that others will follow. These datasets are now 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 at [www.twcdi.ie](http://www.twcdi.ie).

These archived datasets relate to the following evaluations and can be found in the following locations:

- **Doodle Den:** Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Childhood Development Initiative’s Doodle Den Literacy Programme, 2008-2011, <https://www.ucd.ie/issda/data/doodleden/>
- **Community Safety Initiative:** Evaluation of CDI’s Community Safety Initiative: Community Safety Surveys, 2010 and 2011, <https://www.ucd.ie/issda/data/cdicommunitysafety/>
- **Mate Tricks:** An afterschool programme aimed at enhancing pro-social skills, Currently being uploaded to <https://www.ucd.ie/issda/data>

**Communications:**

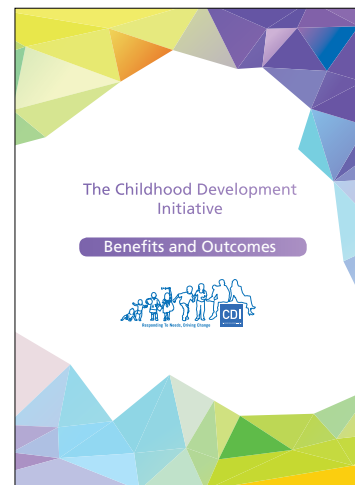
CDI prioritised disseminating the learning in 2015 through a variety of means as detailed below.

**Newsletters:**

There were four newsletters developed and disseminated in 2015, to access these go to <http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/newsletters>

**Press Releases:**

We issued three news releases in 2015. There was repeat coverage in the local paper, the Tallaght Echo and also online on parenting and children’s sites such as rollercoaster.ie. One of the coverage items is attached (from the Tallaght Echo). For more information on press releases see <http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/Press-Releases>



**CDI Web stats – [www.twcdi.ie](http://www.twcdi.ie)**

Website sessions and users were slightly up in 2015 over 2014.

- There were 11,186 users of the CDI website in 2015, 2% increase on 2014;
- 7,401 different users accessed the CDI website in 2015, a 3% increase on 2014;
- There were 30,847 page views on the CDI website in 2015, a 17% decrease on 2014.

We carried out work to improve the layout, content and design of the CDI website, but no major work was undertaken.

**CDI Social Media:**

Twitter

We had 280 followers on Twitter in January 2015 and this increased to approximately 370 by year end meaning that CDI added approximately 90 followers during the year. CDI sent or re-tweeted approximately 90 messages during the year. Overall to date (at March 2016) CDI has posted 445 tweets, we are following 384, and have 383 followers and 35 likes. <https://twitter.com/twcdi>

Facebook

There were 25 items posted to Facebook during the year and approximately 540 likes were received bringing the total likes to 1,340 by year end. Overall likes are now up to almost 1,400 (at March 2016).

**Video:**

- A major communications output of CDI in 2015 was the Defying Gravity Animation which comprises three short videos telling the CDI story Past, Present and Future, (as described in the opening section). They can be viewed here. <http://twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/videos>
- CDI also published two high quality Restorative Practice Videos which include Problem Solving in a Secondary School and a Fishbowl Circle working session. These can be viewed here: <http://twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/videos>



**CDI Election Manifesto:**

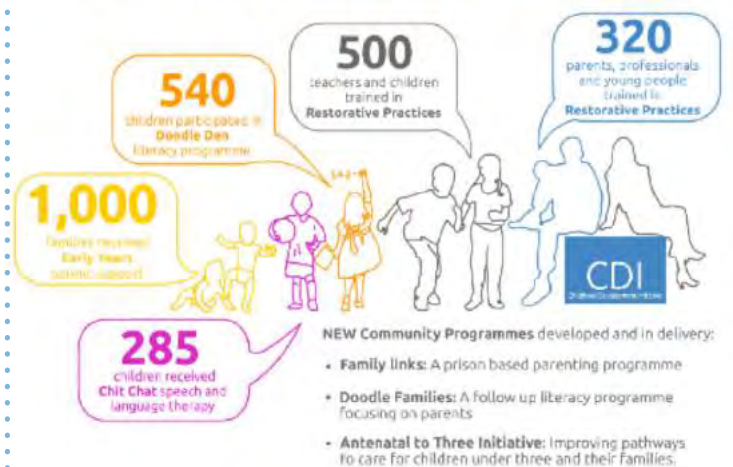
We produced a CDI Election Manifesto document to inform individual politicians and political parties on our work and the need for continued support for prevention and early intervention initiatives. To view this document click on

[http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/CDI\\_Summary\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/CDI_Summary_FINAL.pdf)

**CDI in Numbers:**

An updated “CDI in Numbers document” was produced in September 2015 (see below). We also produced a “Summary Benefits and Outcome of CDI’s Work” document, which is available on [http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/CDI\\_Benefits\\_and\\_Outcomes\\_8pg\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.twcdi.ie/images/uploads/general/CDI_Benefits_and_Outcomes_8pg_FINAL.pdf)

**CDI in Numbers: Autumn 2013 – Autumn 2015**



**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 representatives from a number of key organisations participate in our governance structures. Strong links are also



maintained with the evaluation teams and the other PEIP sites to maximise sharing the learning.

## Financial Statements:

The 2015 audited 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, with continued successes in our programme delivery, as we have successfully scaled up the delivery of Doodle Den and Restorative Practices and are working with key stakeholders to sustain and mainstream our established and proven programmes to deliver improved outcomes for children and families. We have further developed our new programmes with the pilot of Doodle Families and the Family Links Initiative and we have made significant progress in enhancing key interagency relationships through our Antenatal to Three Initiative. All those who participate in CDI's governance structures have been critical to driving and overseeing our work, offering scrutiny where required, guidance when needed, and always providing a further layer of credibility and expertise.

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.

There are inevitably challenges ahead with the current funding due to cease in August 2016, however we will continue to seek ways of sustaining programmes in Tallaght West and in the other communities who have invited us in. Where possible we shall continue our commitment to disseminating the learning, and shaping future policy and practice to improve outcomes for children and families. We look forward to more developments in the year ahead, and the opportunity to respond to needs, drive change and to continue to support improved outcomes for children, families and communities.



## The Area Based Childhood Programme 2013–2017

