

# *Milestones, Memories and Momentum:*

*CDI, Ten Years On*





## Introduction

Based in Tallaght West, CDI emerged from the professionalism, passion and persistence of a consortium of 23 concerned individuals and organisations in the community, who had a vision of a better place for children. Through innovative partnerships, we brought together the science of evidenced-based practice and rigorous evaluation, with the spirit of an approach focused on the identified needs of children and families.

Ten years on, and much has happened to make that vision a reality. Along with our partners in the community, the many experts whose wisdom we draw on, and the funders and services who support us in our work, CDI has designed, delivered and evaluated a suite of prevention and early intervention approaches across a spectrum of local needs including language, literacy, health, early years, conflict management and community safety.

We have provided services to almost 4000 children, over 8,000 parents and well over 1,000 professionals. We have independent data on the work we do, which gives us all assurance about the positive impact of these models and approaches; and we work closely with services to ensure that delivery is of a high quality and maximizes the chances of improved outcomes for children and families.

We believe we have sustained a balance between the 'science and spirit' of evidence informed interventions: we use the best available research and engage with academics and practitioners to understand and resolve implementation challenges. We work with integrity to best utilise the resources available to the community, and we continually monitor and assess the impact of what we do. But we also listen carefully to all our stakeholders, and revisit consultation processes because we know that needs change and evolve.

This document sets out some of the milestones we have hit along our ten year journey; we hope it will trigger some memories for those who have trodden that path with us, and that it will give a sense of the momentum and energy which has been both crucial to and a result of, the work in Tallaght West.

It has been a privilege to be part of this journey.

The CDI Team.

## Our Journey So Far

2007

### January

- CDI is constituted as a Ltd. Company.

### May:

- CEO takes up employment;
- First meeting of South Dublin Childrens Services Committee.

### September:

- Core Team commence employment;
- Family Fun day at the farm;
- First service is piloted at Little Childrens Centre, Fettercairn;
- Governance training for all Board members.

**December:**

- Christmas Carols and mince pies for all stakeholders;
- Meeting with original consortium to update on progress.

**November:**

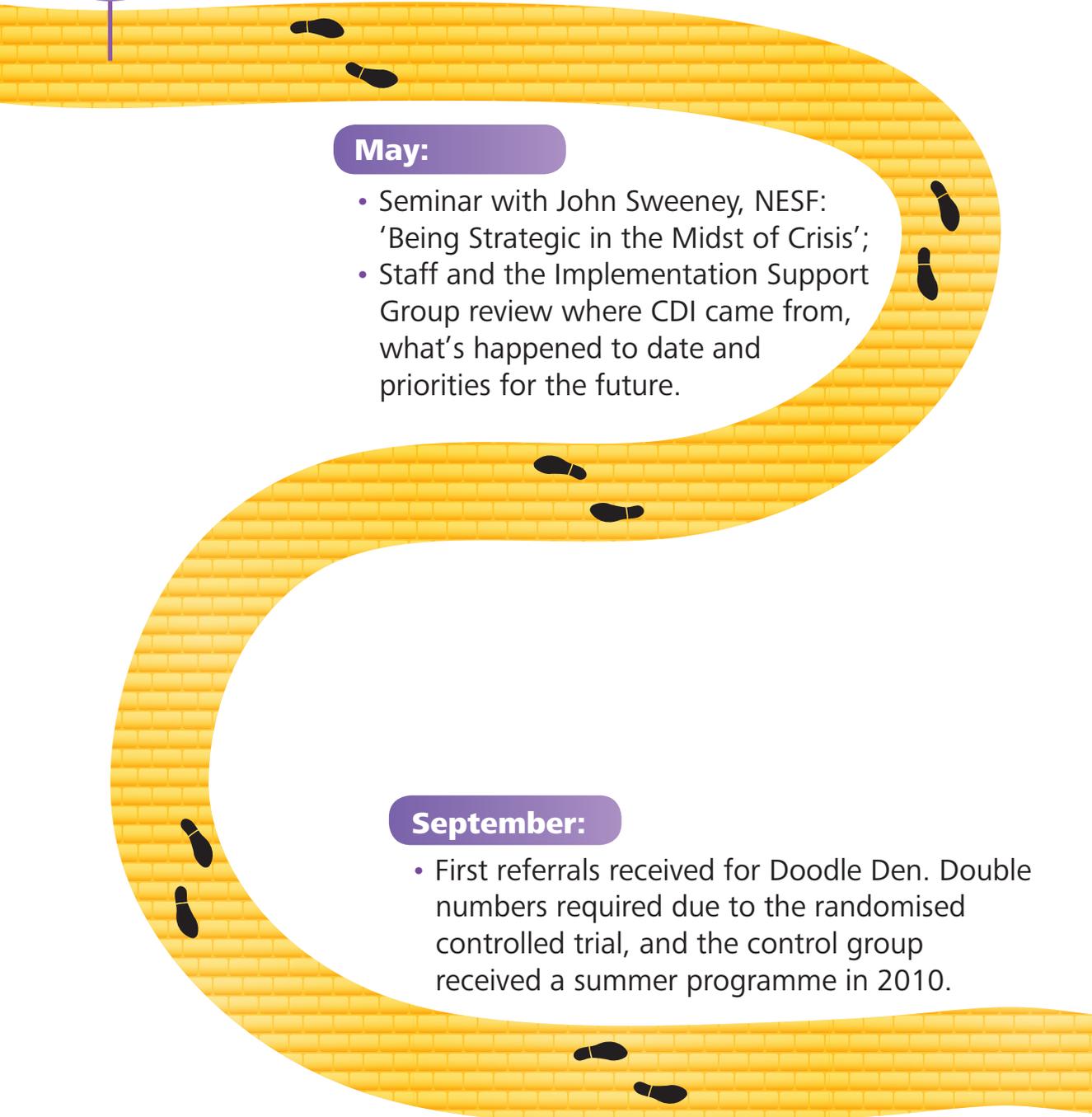
- Service provider consultation and update meetings;
- Highscope training commences;
- First service provider newsletter disseminated.

**October:**

- Community newsletter disseminated to 1000 households in Tallaght West;
- First Team residential held in Blessington.



2008



**May:**

- Seminar with John Sweeney, NESF: 'Being Strategic in the Midst of Crisis';
- Staff and the Implementation Support Group review where CDI came from, what's happened to date and priorities for the future.

**September:**

- First referrals received for Doodle Den. Double numbers required due to the randomised controlled trial, and the control group received a summer programme in 2010.

**December:**

- 25 local practitioners complete their training with the Parents Plus Programme;
- The CDI Board meets nine times in 2009 and 175 children now receiving a High/Scope curriculum.

**September:**

- CDI Move into their new offices at 'The Farm', provided by South Dublin County Council;
- Hannen Speech and Language training for teachers commences with 45 participants.

**July:**

- 17 early years practitioners complete their High scope training;
- 425 children complete the Healthy Schools Baseline Assessments.

**May:**

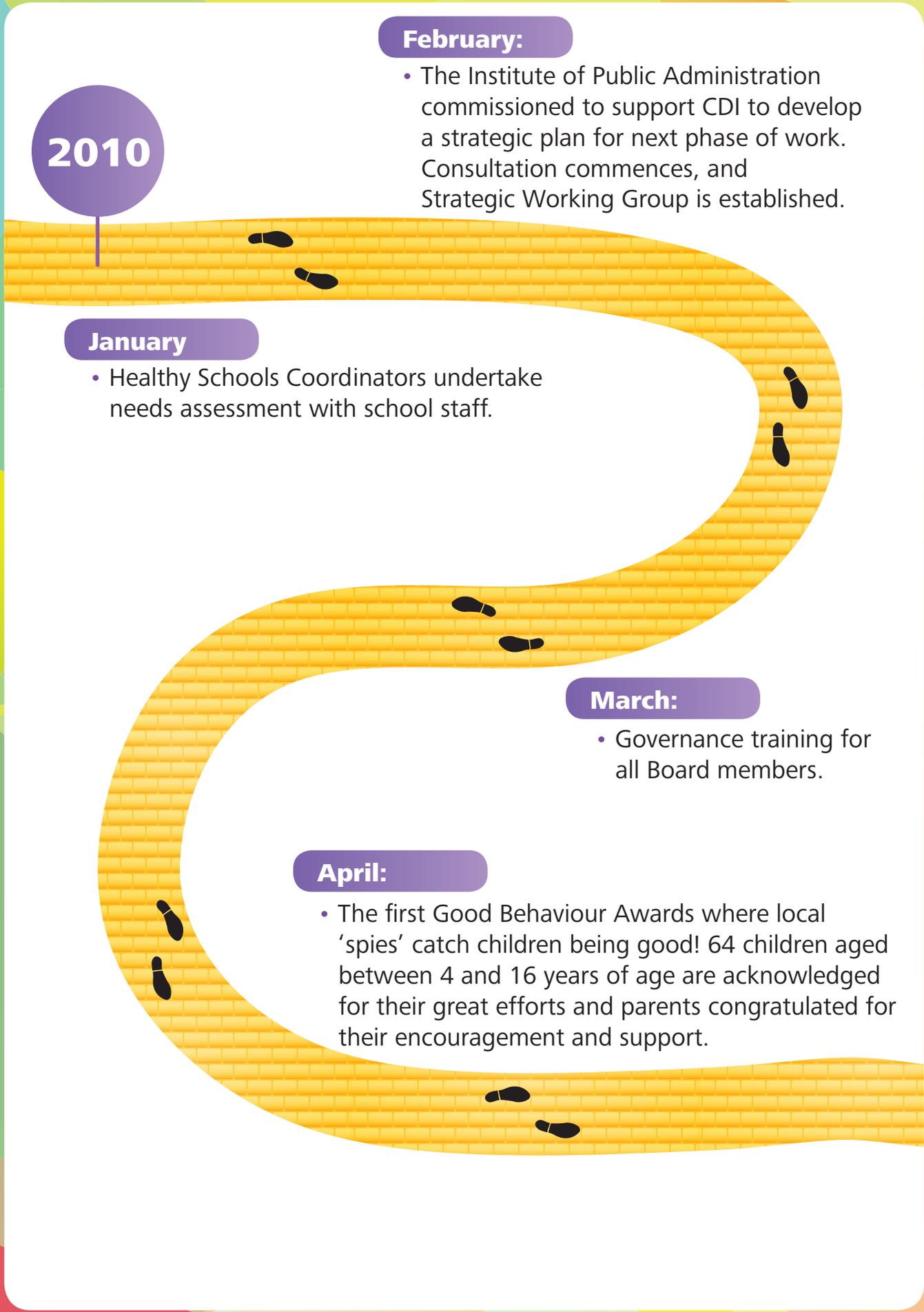
- Dr Noelle Spring is appointed Chair of the CDI Board of Management. Noelle has been a member of the Board since its inception.

**April:**

- Dr Katherine Zappone retires as Chair of CDIs Board of Management.

**2009****March**

- CDI hosts a study visit for colleagues from Northern Ireland, including the PSNI to share learning about community safety. A return visit subsequently takes place for our Community Safety Steering Committee.



2010

### February:

- The Institute of Public Administration commissioned to support CDI to develop a strategic plan for next phase of work. Consultation commences, and Strategic Working Group is established.

### January

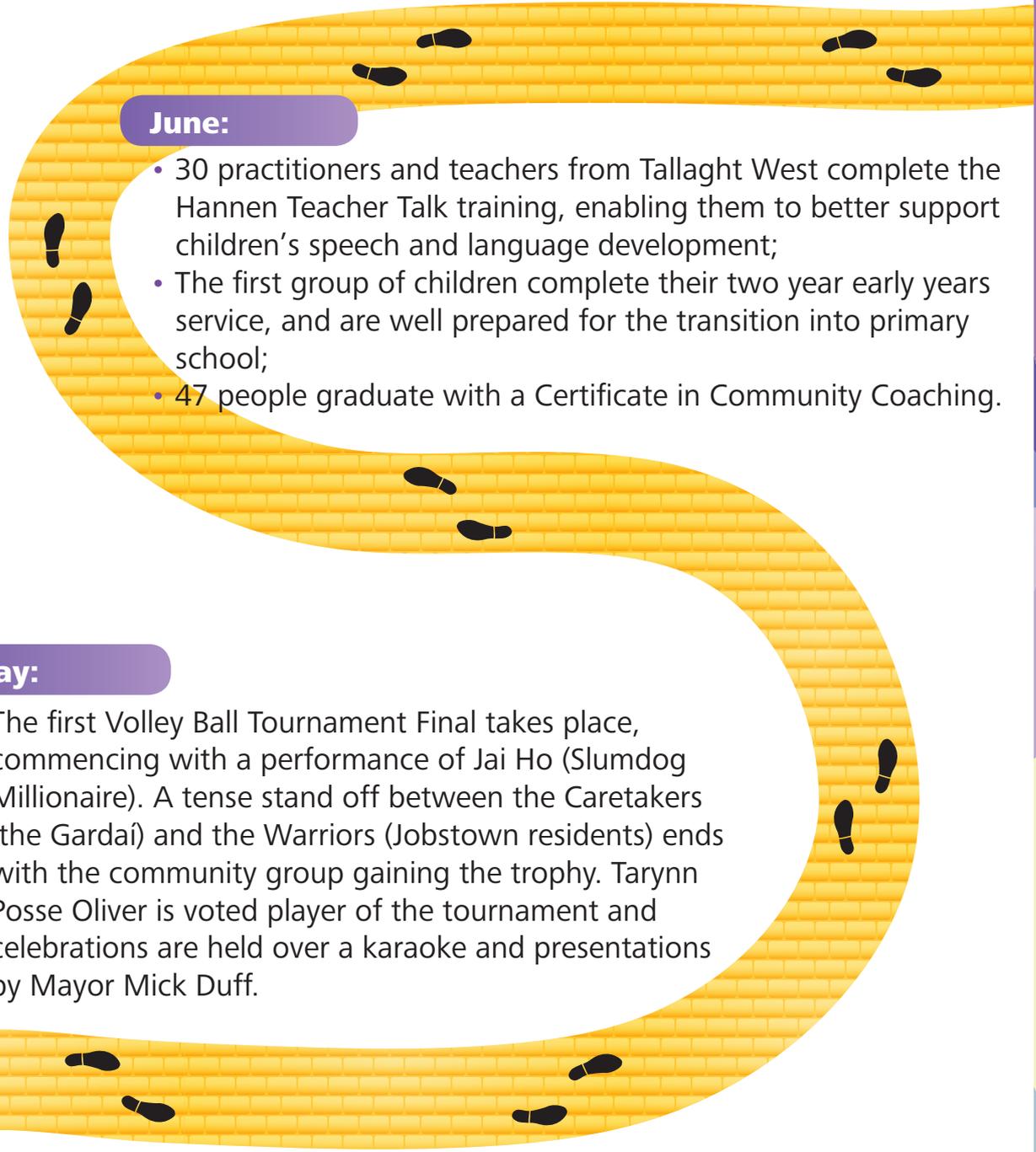
- Healthy Schools Coordinators undertake needs assessment with school staff.

### March:

- Governance training for all Board members.

### April:

- The first Good Behaviour Awards where local 'spies' catch children being good! 64 children aged between 4 and 16 years of age are acknowledged for their great efforts and parents congratulated for their encouragement and support.



### June:

- 30 practitioners and teachers from Tallaght West complete the Hannen Teacher Talk training, enabling them to better support children's speech and language development;
- The first group of children complete their two year early years service, and are well prepared for the transition into primary school;
- 47 people graduate with a Certificate in Community Coaching.

### May:

- The first Volley Ball Tournament Final takes place, commencing with a performance of Jai Ho (Slumdog Millionaire). A tense stand off between the Caretakers (the Gardaí) and the Warriors (Jobstown residents) ends with the community group gaining the trophy. Tarynn Posse Oliver is voted player of the tournament and celebrations are held over a karaoke and presentations by Mayor Mick Duff.

## July

- Evening seminar for residents entitled 'Know your justice system'.
- A 'Speech Carnival' held for parents from across Tallaght West.

## September

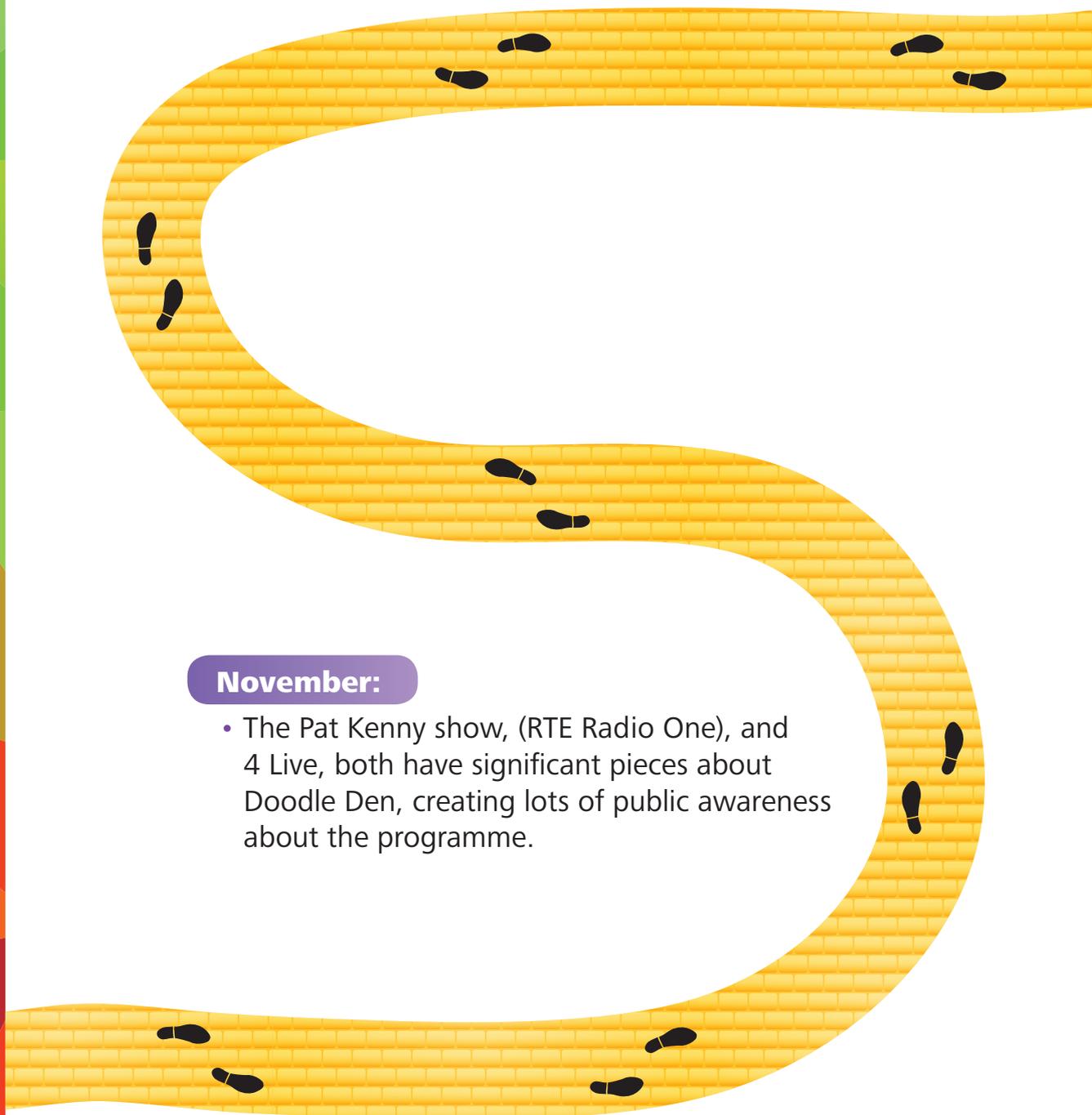
- President Mary McAleese comes to celebrate CDIs' work at the Tallaght Stadium. Parents Sharon Tawyodh and John Maguire share their experiences of CDI services with over 300 people living and working in Tallaght West. The Presidents visit is preceded by a morning conference sharing the interim findings from all CDIs independent evaluations.

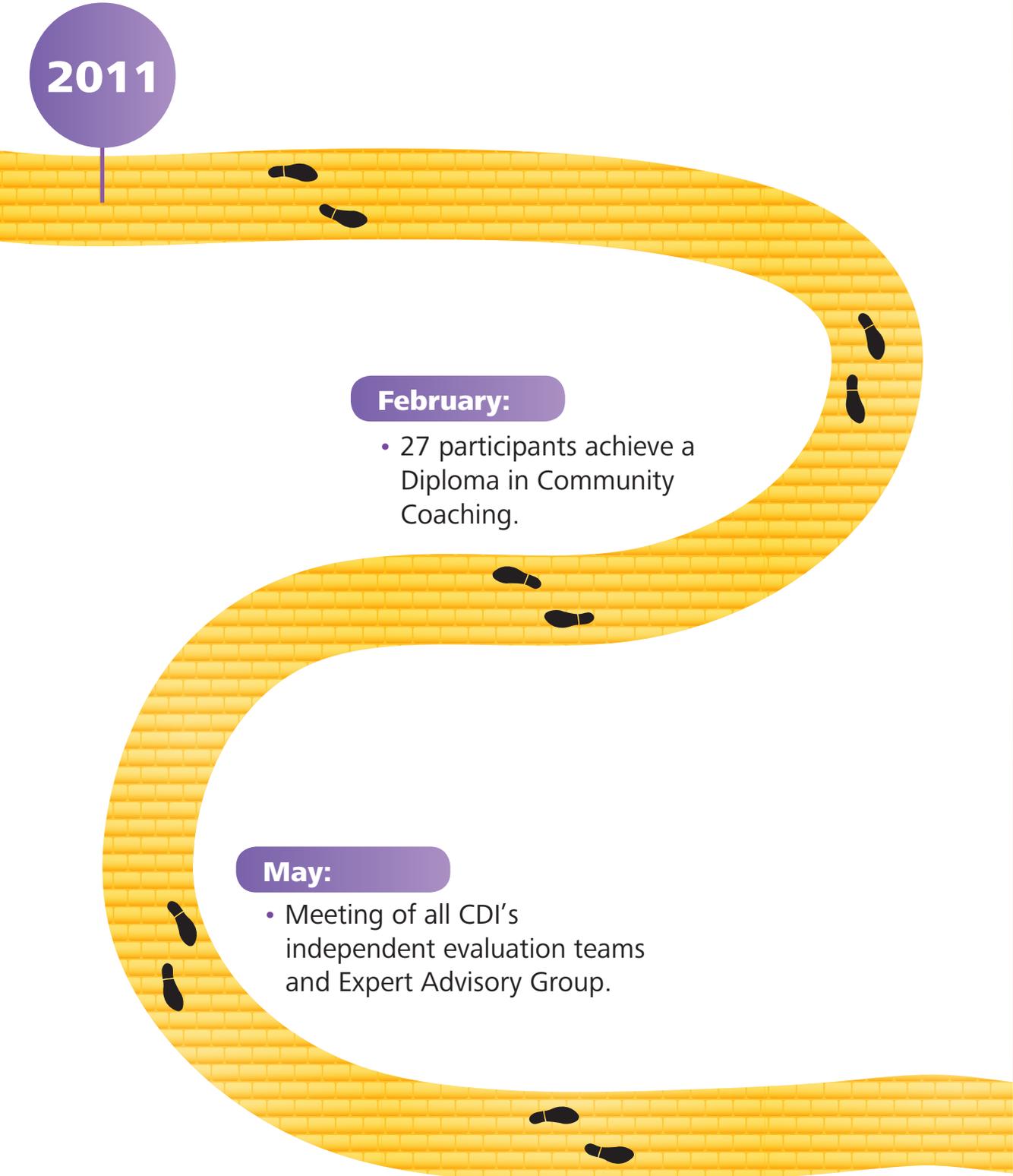
**December:**

- High scope training is completed by another group of early year's practitioners, bringing the total now trained in this early years approach to fifty.

**November:**

- The Pat Kenny show, (RTE Radio One), and 4 Live, both have significant pieces about Doodle Den, creating lots of public awareness about the programme.





2011

**February:**

- 27 participants achieve a Diploma in Community Coaching.

**May:**

- Meeting of all CDI's independent evaluation teams and Expert Advisory Group.

**June:**

- Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald TD, presents certificates to local practitioners.

**December:**

- Research completed and report finalised for latest Community Survey: "How are our Kids?".

**November:**

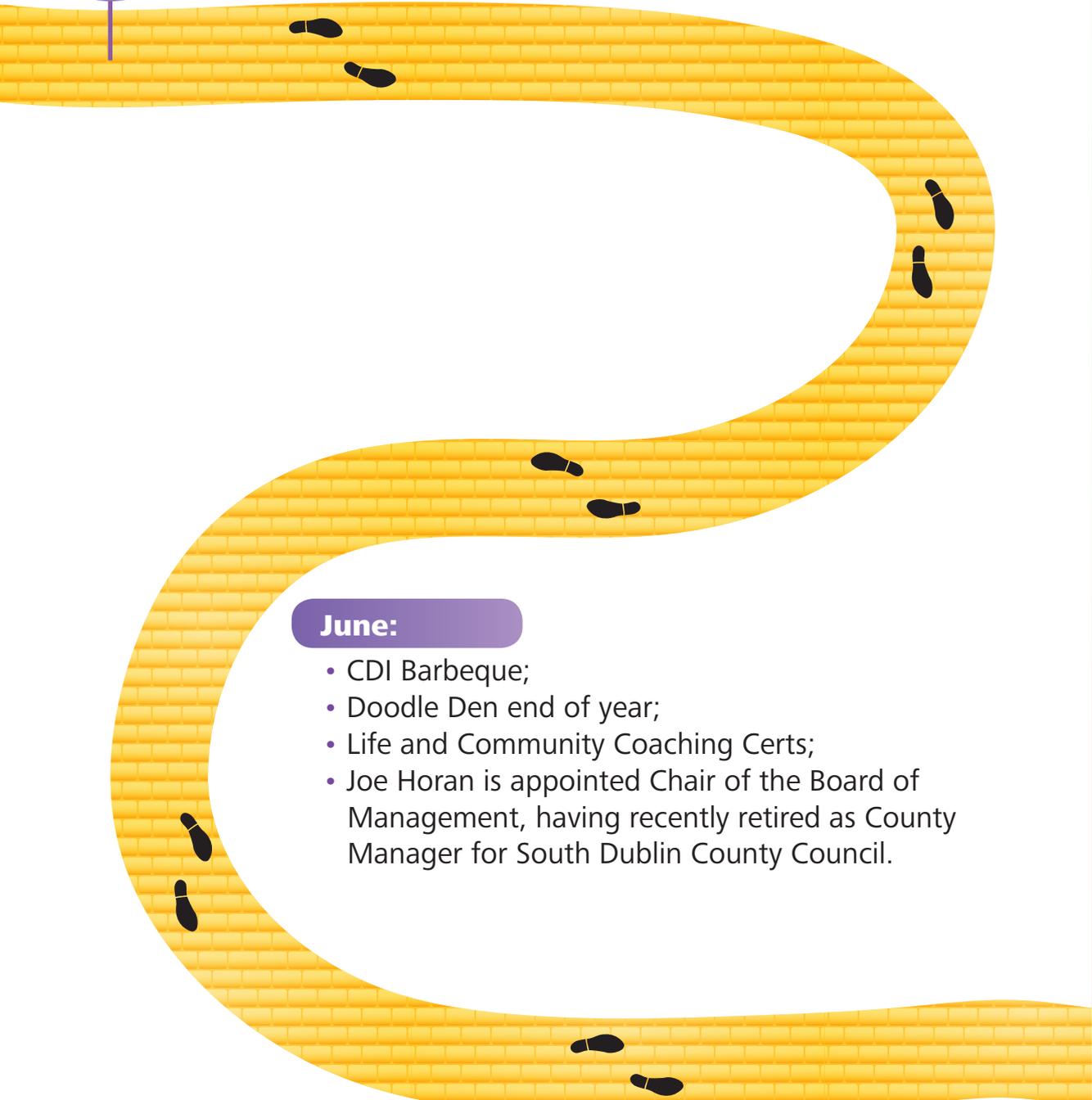
- Almost 30 practitioners trained in the delivery of the Parents Plus Programme.

**September:**

- "Quality Services, Better Outcomes" Conference attended by over 150 participants concluding with the launch of CDI's Workbook by Minister Joan Burton.



2012



**June:**

- CDI Barbeque;
- Doodle Den end of year;
- Life and Community Coaching Certs;
- Joe Horan is appointed Chair of the Board of Management, having recently retired as County Manager for South Dublin County Council.

**July**

- Family Day to share the evaluation findings with families from Tallaght West.

**December:**

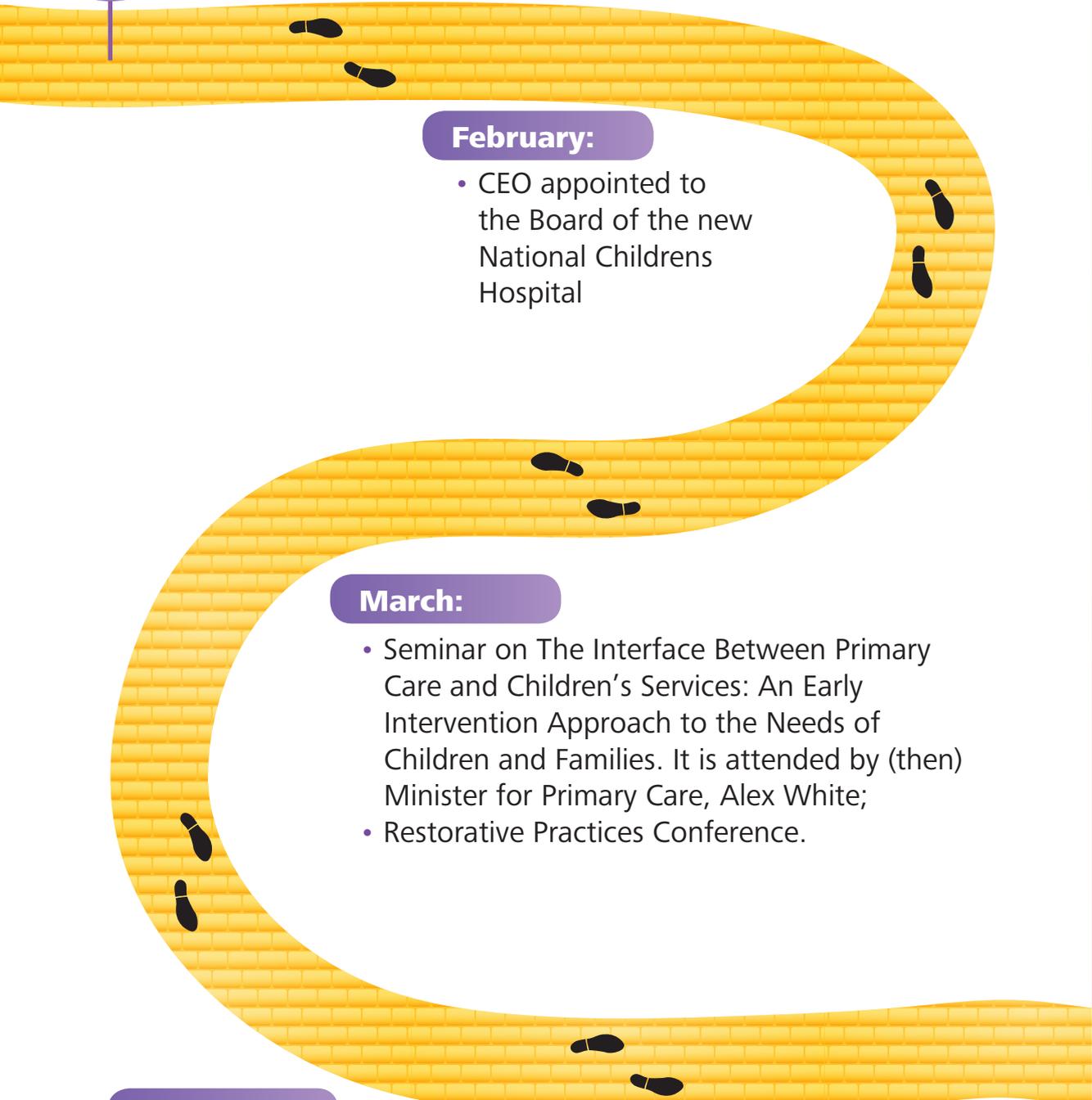
- Advisory Committees are established to support the sustainability and mainstreaming of CDI's proven models.

**November:**

- CDI publishes evaluation reports on Doodle Den, Mate-Tricks, Healthy School's Programme, and Speech and Language Therapy and held round table meetings with key policy markers and implementers regarding each of the reports;
- The Doodle Den evaluation report is launched by John Murray in Buswells' Hotel;
- The independent evaluation of our Speech and Language Therapy service is launched by Micheál O Muircheartaigh.

**September:**

- Nine additional Doodle Den groups begin, three of which are based in Limerick City.

**2013****February:**

- CEO appointed to the Board of the new National Childrens Hospital

**March:**

- Seminar on The Interface Between Primary Care and Children's Services: An Early Intervention Approach to the Needs of Children and Families. It is attended by (then) Minister for Primary Care, Alex White;
- Restorative Practices Conference.

**May:**

- Restorative Practice Evaluation Report launch;
- Seminar for third Level Institutions on Incorporating Research Evidence into Academic Learning: Teachers seminar on Research and Evidence to Inform and Prevent Educational Disadvantage.

**December:**

- Tailored workshops and training are provided to Staff in Louth /Meath ETB on incorporating evidence and developing an outcomes focused approach.

**October:**

- Consultation results in the identification of two new developments: Doodle Families, and our Ante-Natal to Three Initiative.

**September:**

- Launch of CDI's "Next Chapter" Report, which sets out our strategy to 2016. This was the result of months of consultation with those living and working in Tallaght West.

**July**

- Teacher training on Using Evidence Based Programmes to Support Speech, Language and Literacy Development Amongst Young Children in Disadvantaged Communities.

**2014****February:**

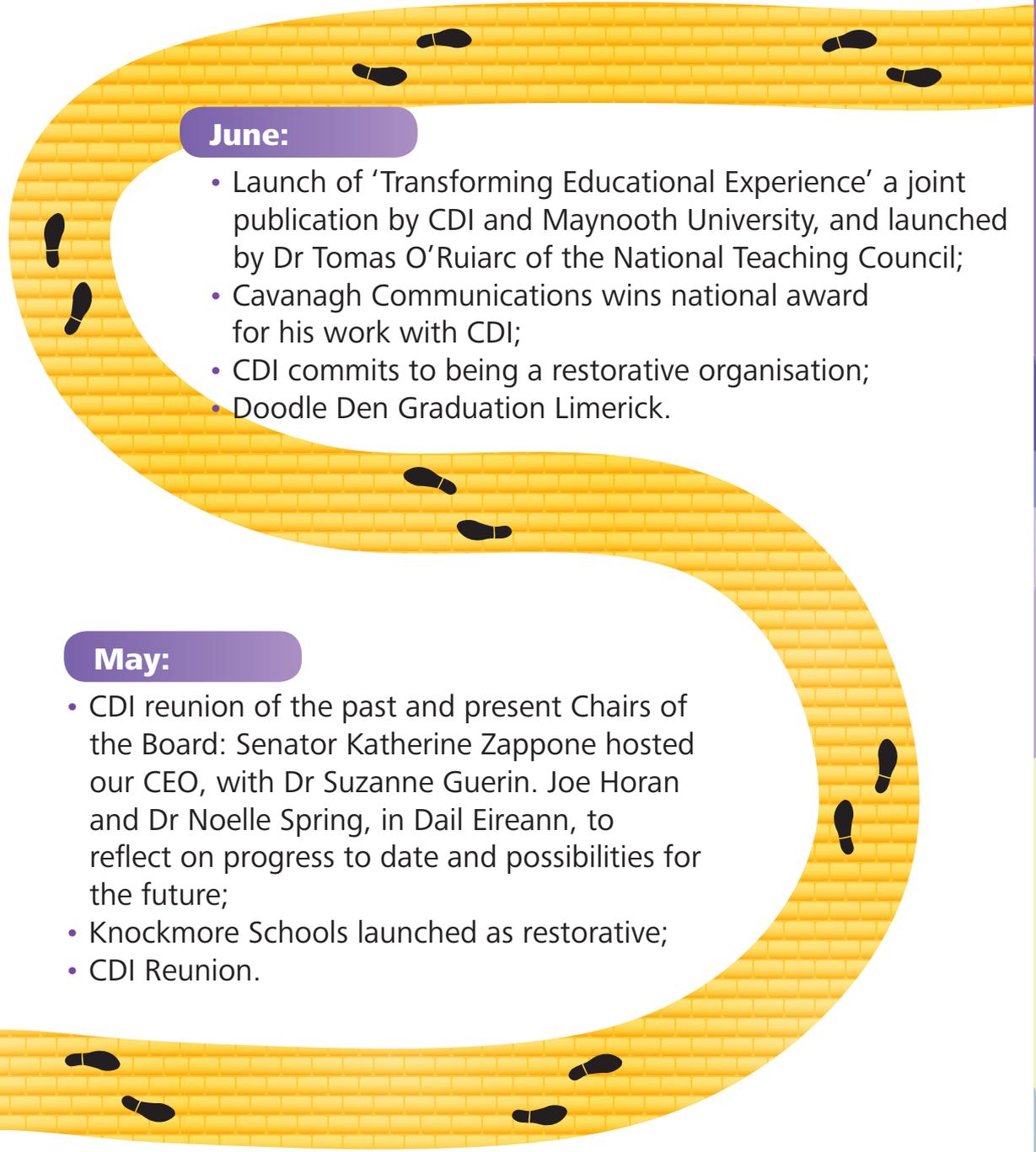
- Results from Trinity Colleges follow up study on the Healthy Schools Programme find positive improvements amongst participating children, especially in relation to obesity and social connections.

**January**

- Team, Board and Implementation Support Group consider future plans and priorities for CDI.

**April:**

- Launch of CDIs overall process evaluation, with Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald;
- Dr Suzanne Guerin replaces Joe Horan as chair of the Board of CDI. Suzanne is a long term member of the board and was vice chair previously;
- CDI is successful in accessing funding from the Katherine Howard Foundation to develop supports for parents in prison. This initiative is a partnership with the Parents plus Charity, and the Irish Prison Service.



### June:

- Launch of 'Transforming Educational Experience' a joint publication by CDI and Maynooth University, and launched by Dr Tomas O'Ruiarc of the National Teaching Council;
- Cavanagh Communications wins national award for his work with CDI;
- CDI commits to being a restorative organisation;
- Doodle Den Graduation Limerick.

### May:

- CDI reunion of the past and present Chairs of the Board: Senator Katherine Zappone hosted our CEO, with Dr Suzanne Guerin. Joe Horan and Dr Noelle Spring, in Dail Eireann, to reflect on progress to date and possibilities for the future;
- Knockmore Schools launched as restorative;
- CDI Reunion.

**August:**

- First ATTI coordinator commences employment;
- CDI CEO interviewed for Irish Times feature article on child poverty.

**September**

- The first Steering Group meeting of the ATTI takes place;
- [www.doodleden.ie](http://www.doodleden.ie) is launched;
- The 1000th child commences Doodle Den;
- Restorative Practices Ireland website launched.

**October:**

- St Mark's Junior and St Mark's Senior in Springfield launched as 'Restorative Practice Schools';
- Foluke Oladosu travelled to Malta to collect an award which recognised 'Educational Innovation in Addressing Early School Leaving' presented by the ESSE Observatory;
- CDI receives first place in the Europe-wide awards for effective Prevention of Early School leaving;
- CDI visit Welsh prison to observe best practice in relation to supporting families with a parent in prison. The Family Links, model develops further subsequent to the visit.

## December:

- Fr Peter McVerry launches two Restorative Practices resources:

“Towards Excellence in Restorative Practices – A Quality Assurance Framework for Organisations and Practitioners.”

“A Community Wide Restorative Practices Programme – Implementation Guide.”

## November:

- The Social Work Team in South Dublin County Council (SDCC) is awarded a plaque in recognition of its incorporation of Restorative Practices;
- CDI showcases our Restorative Practices Programme to TD's and Senators at Leinster House, having been invited to present by Senator Martin Conway;
- CDI launches its ninth policy brief on *Professional Training and Supports for those working with children and Families from Disadvantaged areas.*

**2015****March:**

- Pilot of Doodle Families begins

**February:**

- ATTI hosts a Speed Networking Event in Rua Red.

**April:**

- Delivery of Parents Plus programme begins in Limerick Prison.

**May:**

- Graduation of the first parents to complete the Family Links Parenting programme for families impacted by imprisonment.

**June:**

- ATTI holds a seminar on perinatal depression, attended by over 70 practitioners.

**July**

- Restorative Practices summer courses for teachers delivered in numerous venues;
- Over 40 teachers participate in Restorative Practices training.

**December:**

- CDI and Trinity College School of Nursing and Midwifery present the findings from the Healthy Schools Programme follow up evaluation at the annual conference of the Children's Research Network.

**November:**

- Defying Gravity animation launched by Senator Zappone, with local speakers sharing their experiences of CDI services.

**September:**

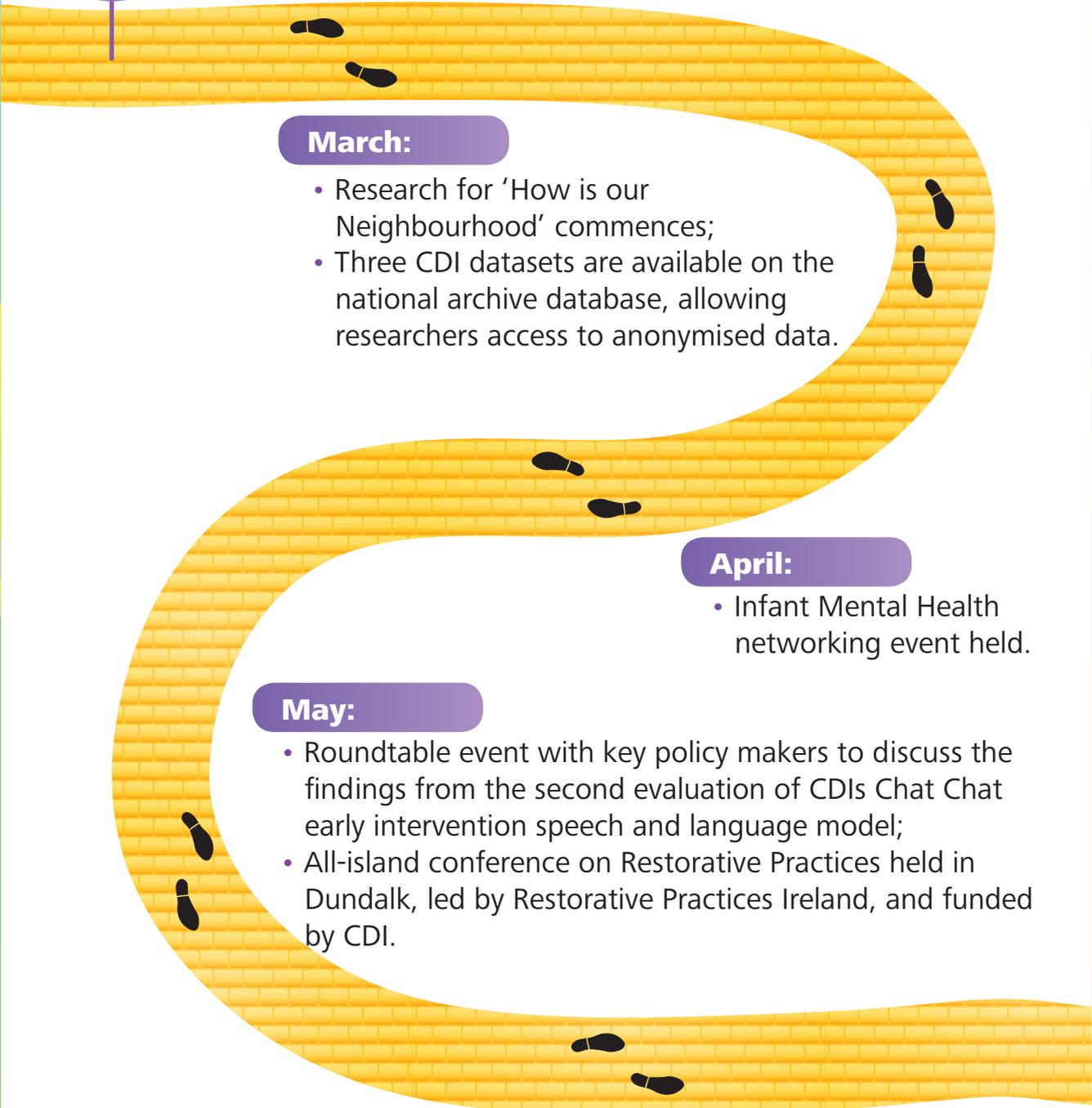
- Doodle Den starts being delivered in a number of schools in Dublin's North Inner city and Grangegorman areas;
- Launch of the interim findings from ATTI;
- Launch of CDIs community restorative service, offering support to those living and working in Tallaght West, to facilitate the more effective management of and reduction in, conflict.

**August**

- Publication of the independent evaluation of the assignment of RAPID coordinators to CDI's Community Safety Initiative.



2016



**March:**

- Research for 'How is our Neighbourhood' commences;
- Three CDI datasets are available on the national archive database, allowing researchers access to anonymised data.

**April:**

- Infant Mental Health networking event held.

**May:**

- Roundtable event with key policy makers to discuss the findings from the second evaluation of CDIs Chat Chat early intervention speech and language model;
- All-island conference on Restorative Practices held in Dundalk, led by Restorative Practices Ireland, and funded by CDI.

**June:**

- CDI publishes a Toolkit for those wishing to archive research.

**December:**

- Presentation to the Science Communications Conference about engaging hard to reach audiences;
- Meetings commence with other local organisations to drive delivery of supports for families living in emergency accommodation;
- Venture commissioned to undertake a feasibility study for CDI on potential role in scaling up capacity building activities.

**November:**

- Tenth anniversary planning group established to coordinate celebrations.

**October:**

- Board governance training with Ivan Cooper from the Wheel;
- CDI nominated for a Chamber of Commerce Award.

**August**

- CEO presents to the Chinese Visiting Committee on working with children and families.



2017



### January

- ATTI seminar held considering the implications of the national maternity strategy and the Nurture programme, and how to maximise their impact locally.



### February:

- American student intern, Anna Budny, starts with CDI;
- Launch of the independent evaluation of the Family Links initiative;
- Presentation to Masters Students at the Institute of Public Administration about evaluating community based services and informing policy

**June:**

- CDI commissioned by Oberstown Childrens Detention Centre to support the integration of restorative practices.

**May:**

- Tallaght Infant Mental Health Network is established for those who participated in the Master Classes, and with leadership from four local professionals;
- First Graduation for CDI RP trainers takes place.

**March:**

- CEO appointed as independent nominee to the Oberstown Review Group;
- CDI brings together a number of key stakeholders to consider opportunities to utilise resources in the area and the changing national paediatric model of care;
- CDI is nominated for an Aontas Star Award for Restorative Practices.



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## The **A**rea **B**ased **C**hildhood Programme 2013–2017

