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1. Launch of the 'Next Chapter' 2013-2016

CDI was delighted to recently announce details of the 'Next Chapter' of its work in Tallaght West which is to now continue up to 2016.

Tallaght West has been chosen as one of the Government's *Area Based Responses for Children* (ABC) and CDI has been asked to coordinate this work in the local area.

This is a major development for CDI and we are delighted to now be moving into a 'Phase 2' of our work.

This will mean a €4m investment in Tallaght West over the coming three years which will build on the learning from the prevention and early intervention programmes delivered from 2007 to 2013.



We held a launch event at our Office which was attended by the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr Dermot Looney, as well as representatives from schools and other local services that work with CDI.

The work which CDI will be focused on from Autumn 2013 to Summer 2014 includes:

- 500 families to receive *Early Years* parent support
- 240 children to participate in *Doodle Den* literacy programme
- 150 children to receive *Speech and Language Therapy* Intervention
- 670 parents and staff to receive *Restorative Practice* training
- 100 young people to receive *Restorative Practices* Training
- A new programme or model to be delivered specifically for 0–3 years olds
- A Doodle Den follow up programme to be developed
- A final evidence based report from Phase 1 to be completed and published
- IT based supports for children's literacy and parenting to be developed.

Marian Quinn, CEO CDI

[Read more about the 'Next Chapter'](#)

[View Videos of the 'Next Chapter' launch](#)

2. Policy Brief on Professional Training and Supports

CDI recently launched its ninth policy brief entitled *Professional Training and Supports for those Working with Children and Families from Disadvantaged areas*.

The brief draws together relevant learning from across CDI's seven published prevention and early intervention programme Evaluation Reports in order to inform policy and practice with regard to the higher education, professional training and practice of those working with children and families.

Key recommendations included in the brief are:

- Early years (pre-school) training includes modules on speech and language development and engagement with parents
- Health promotion be included in training and continuous professional development for teachers
- Restorative Practice training modules be included in teacher training courses
- Community engagement training be developed for managers and front line staff who work with residents including local authorities, Gardaí, probation and youth services
- All children's services improve interagency working and service user pathways to improve user experience and benefit
- Training and skills in parental engagement become a greater priority for all organisations and services working with children and families.



CDI Chief Executive Marian Quinn said it is essential to respond to the evidence on what really works for children.

“There are very clear reoccurring themes across our reports and we have brought these together in this Policy Brief for the benefit of all professionals who work with children and families and for the training courses they receive. In particular, the need for all practitioners who work with children to be trained and skilled at engaging with parents and for better interagency working to improve service user pathways were central themes to emerge.”

[Read the Policy Brief](#)

3. Consultation on Programme for 0-3 Year Olds

CDI is currently working to identify the unmet needs of 0–3 year olds in Tallaght West, and identify an appropriate response which would begin delivery next year.

The consultation process to identify the needs in the community and how to best meet them is underway and will continue throughout the month of November. To date CDI has met with local services and parents to get their insights on what is currently happening within Tallaght West in relation to children aged 0–3 years.

We have heard what is working well and what can be done to improve the outcomes for this age group. We have also met with experts and policy makers in this field to shape a plan based on the feedback from the consultation with local

agencies/services and parents.

Themes are emerging and it is hoped that by the end of 2013 we will have a plan which will be ready for delivery in 2014.

4. Computer Supports for Children's Literacy and Parenting

CDI is currently working to develop two new supports for children and families which are computer based, one on children's literacy and the other on parenting skills.

In the area of children's literacy we are looking to take elements of the Doodle Den programme and make them available through a website and a smart phone app. This would mean that children could use a computer, tablet or smart phone to improve their literacy skills based on the content of Doodle Den.

In the area of parenting we are identifying some key evidence based information on parenting and how this could best be presented to parents through a website and phone app.

We are at an early stage of development of these projects and they will become available next year.

5. Final 'Phase 1' Report to be Launched in Early 2014

CDI is near the end of producing its final report from Phase 1 of our work in Tallaght West, which covers 2007 to summer 2013.

This report will draw together the overarching learning from all seven prevention and early intervention programmes that we have published to date focusing on 'how to' best deliver early intervention programmes. The report will present useful guidance about engaging with communities, service users and other service providers. It will be a valuable reference for groups and professionals working in community development across Ireland.

The Report will be launched early in 2013 and we will share the findings far and wide.

6. Doodle Den now Being Delivered in Four Counties

Doodle Den had a great start to the school year with 50 people attending this year's training day. We are delighted to continue delivery in the existing sites in Tallaght West and Limerick and are happy to again expand the programme to new areas this year.

St. Martin de Porres joined the Tallaght group this year and are working in conjunction with St. Dominic's Old Bawn SCP. There are now seven groups delivering Doodle Den in Tallaght.

In Limerick, three new groups in the City Centre began delivering Doodle Den to the children in their schools. This work is being carried out in conjunction with SSTAY SCP in St. Michael's Infant School, St. John's Infant School and Maria King Presentation Primary. In Limerick, 90 children across six groups will participate in the programme this year.

We are also delighted to be working with Respond! Housing Association in Enniscorthy, County Wexford, CASPr (Community After Schools Project) in Dublin's inner City and St. Clare's Primary School, Cavan, who are delivering Doodle Den for the first time this year.

2013/2014 is set to be a great year for Doodle Den with 16 groups delivering in four counties across Ireland.

7. South Dublin County Council Team Receives RP Award

CDI was delighted to award a plaque to the Social Work Team in South Dublin County Council (SDCC) in recognition of its incorporation of Restorative Practices (RP) as a way of working.

Mayor Dermot Looney accepted the award on behalf of South Dublin County Council and congratulated the Council's Social Work Team for its success in adopting RP.

Team Leader Niamh Millikin and Social Worker Tony Stewart made a joint presentation on how RP has assisted the Team in supporting individuals and families in crisis by enabling them to come up with solutions that work for them.

CDI extends its thanks to the SDCC Social Work Team and in particular to Tony Stewart, who became an RP Trainer last year and has walked the RP talk ever since!



8. Oireachtas Briefed on Restorative Practices in Tallaght

CDI was delighted to have recently had the opportunity to showcase our Restorative Practice Programme to TD's and Senators at Leinster House.

We were invited by Fine Gael's Seanad Spokesperson on Justice, Disability and Equality, Senator Martin Conway, who has a keen understanding of the benefits of restorative practices and is working to promote their use among policy makers.

Linda Leavy and John Madigan of Foróige Tallaght presented on how RP has helped their work, and two of the young people that they work with, Joe Doherty and Nicole Reddin, were with us as well.



Over 30 staff and politicians attended the briefing (Senator Conway assured us this was an impressive turnout!) and all were hugely impressed by Nicole and Joe's explanation of how RP has helped them and their peers to develop better relationships with each other and adults (including their teachers!) and to sort out

problems when they arise.

John and Linda were very clear on how RP has become “business as usual” for many of the youth workers in Tallaght who have found it very helpful in their work. Big thanks to all for a great event!

RP Training Opportunities

CDI is offering the following series of workshops for anyone who has undertaken Restorative Practices training already:

How Restorative Am I?

Explore how to use the RP tools to achieve better outcomes in a day-to-day setting.
When: 10am to 12.30pm on Wednesday 11th December 2013

Bedding RP into an Organisation

Learn about what works to embed RP as a way of working across your organisation.
When: 10am to 12.30pm on Wednesday 29th January 2014

Monitoring the Impact of Being Restorative

Learn about how to track progress towards the improved outcomes you expect from using RP.

When: 10am to 12.30pm on Wednesday 26th February 2014

Where: All training will take place at CDI, St. Mark’s House, Cookstown Lane, Fettercairn.

To book: Contact Claire Casey, Claire@twcdi.ie or 087 280 6450

OUT AND ABOUT



9. Educational Innovations in Tallaght

CDI recently hosted a seminar for Primary School Teachers, Principals and allied health professionals on preventing educational disadvantage.

The seminar *Educational*

Innovations in Tallaght offered an opportunity to share CDI's learnings with professionals in the education sector.

Pictured at the *CDI Educational Innovations Seminar* l-r were: Professor Mark Morgan, Michelle Butler (CDI), Anne-Marie Reid (CDI), Michelle Quinn (CDI Speech and Language programme), Marie O'Connor (South Dublin Libraries), Fiona O'Connor (TED Project, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick), Chris Meehan (Principal of Knockmore Junior School), Allison Clarke (newly qualified teacher), Tomas O'Ruairc (Director of the National Teaching Council), Holly McGann (CDI) and Eithne Coyne (Principal of St. Mark's Community School).

10. Seminar Held for Academics

CDI held a successful seminar for Academics to present findings from our evidence based programmes, particularly as they relate to the education and training of practitioners.

We were delighted with the outcome that the seminar was attended by Academics from most of the major Universities and Colleges across the country, who deliver training to professionals who work with children.

11. Early Childhood Ireland Conference

Early Childhood Ireland hosted an event *A Global Gathering for Early Childhood 2013*. The theme of the gathering was **Today's Children; Tomorrow's World, Turning Points**.

CDI's Gráinne Smith presented at the conference on: (1) findings from CDI's intervention studies which highlight the critical role of *parents and family* in achieving positive child outcomes in early intervention and (2) the implications of these findings for *policy and practice*.

[View the presentation](#)

Further Information?



Childhood Development Initiative

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www.twcdi.ie



CDI the Next Chapter

2013 - 2016

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