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CDI Newsletter : February 2011

Item Type	journal
Citation	Childhood Development Initiative, 'CDI Newsletter : February 2011', [journal], Childhood Development Initiative, Dublin, 2011-02, CDI Newsletter, Volume 5, Issue 1, February 2011
Publisher	Childhood Development Initiative, Dublin
Rights	Y
Download date	2026-03-14 20:36:30
Link to Item	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14765/77287

CDI Newsletter



Meeting needs, making changes, improving outcomes

February 2011, Volume 5, Issue 1

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Lunchtime Seminars

February 17th, 12.30--2pm
CDI Office

'Understanding Second Language Learners'

Facilitated by: Jennifer Grundulis, Senior Speech and Language Therapist

March 31st, 12pm-2pm
RUA RED

'Adult Attachment Theory'
Facilitated by Sheila Hayes, Clinical Counsellor:



President Mary McAleese meets the children from Sacred Heart Snr School

A New Year's greeting from Noelle Spring (Chair)

It is with great pleasure for 2011 that I welcome the first edition of the Childhood Development Initiative's newsletter. I am mindful that we all live in what seems a very strange and uncertain time. The current economic uncertainties seem to have been compounded the last few weeks by the inclement weather, which is so unusual for November. All this turmoil may result in people feeling more vulnerable and unsure about what the future holds.

Many people who have lived through previous hard times give good counsel at this time. Their message is that it's important to stay calm and continue to do what you can as that's what gets us to a better place. This message is very relevant for CDI as we enter the final 15 months of the current phase of the initiative. We are striving to come up with a strategic plan that builds on what has been achieved to date in a way that makes sense of the enormous investment of funding, commitment and sheer hard work that we have seen from so many people since the idea for CDI was formulated.

On behalf of the Board I would like to assure you that we will stay focused on the task in hand and continue to work towards significant policy changes to ensure better services for children and families in Tallaght. I would sincerely like to thank all the staff team for their commitment and, extremely hard work throughout last year. I would also like to thank my colleagues on the various Boards and Sub-Committees, without whom we would not have the smooth governance of this initiative. Thanks to all of you that work and live in Tallaght West for your support and participation in the work of CDI. All of us involved with CDI look forward to continuing to work together throughout 2011.

Noelle Spring
Chair – CDI Board of Directors



The Story So Far Event



CDI was delighted to welcome President Mary McAleese to close CDI's 'Story So Far' half day seminar event that took place on the 29th of September, as we were joined by over 400 people, many of whom are families whose children receive CDI services.

In her welcome speech, Marian Quinn spoke of the inception of CDI - the coming together of a committed group of people who wanted more for the community of Tallaght West and whose vision was shared and supported by the commitment and generosity of our funders: The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. Working towards this vision has involved the creation of 175 new early years places, over 300 children have participated in Doodle Den; over 300 children are participating in Mate-Tricks; 1100 children are benefiting from the healthy schools initiative; the Community Safety Initiative is working with over 200 households, over 250 parents have taken part in some form of formal parent education, whilst 120 practitioners have received significant training and ongoing support and 54 full time and part time jobs have been created. In summing up Marian said the CDI Story 'is an important story to tell, a critical story to hear, and most importantly, an essential story for us all to learn from'. Marian then invited parents, Sharon Tawyodh and John Maguire to share their experiences.

Sharon Tawyodh: Parent

Both Sharon's children have participated in the Doodle Den Programme. Sharon spoke of her family's experience with Doodle Den and said it has 'changed our lives'. Before starting on the Doodle Den programme, Sharon described homework as a 'nightmare'. 'Homework is now a pleasure' she told the audience, 'the difference Doodle Den has made is enormous'.

John Maguire: Parent

John spoke of how both his children have gone to an early year's service and how they had benefited from that. John said playschool helps prepare children for school gives them something to look forward to and allows them to interact with other children. John said preschool strengthens learning by teaching children to work things out themselves, improves their ability to listen and understand speech and encourages a problem solving approach to conflict. He also spoke of the need for us to not only ensure that children are ready for school, but that schools are ready for children.

Address by Mary McAleese, President of Ireland

President McAleese opened her address by describing 'The Story So Far' as a 'celebration of community at its best' and a 'special day' for Tallaght.

Throughout her speech President McAleese shared many wonderful anecdotes from her own childhood and experiences as a mother. President McAleese acknowledged the complex decisions parents are faced with on a daily basis, how our children rely on us to make really good decisions and how there are times when we all need professional help, information and skills to help us make those positive choices.

Society relies on our good decisions, she said, because 'if we want our communities to be strong, we have to have strong kids, who turn into strong adults - problem solvers, not problems'. This is 'what CDI is investing in', President McAleese said, it's a 'fantastic investment' and this investment flows through to the child, the community and the country.

President McAleese summed up by congratulating the community of Tallaght, the children and CDI for their achievements and described their work as an 'amazing jigsaw puzzle' changing people's lives.

Noelle Spring, Chair of the CDI Board

Noelle thanked President McAleese for her warm and encouraging words which served to heighten our energy, motivation and commitment to our work in Tallaght West. We have high hopes for the future of CDI, Noelle said, and the potential for this initiative to continue to go from strength to strength. In concluding her speech, Noelle thanked all present for their support and hard work and closed by saying 'we look to the future, the future of our children and the future of Tallaght Westwhich is looking very bright'.



Governance Update

CDI Board of Directors

The CDI Board, chaired by Noelle Spring, provides strategic leadership and is responsible for strategic implementation, governance and accountability.

Members:

- Noelle Spring (Chair), Development Director, Katherine Howard Foundation;
- Dr. Suzanne Guerin, School of Psychology, University College Dublin;
- Anne Genockey, Manager, Rainbow House, An Cosan;
- Monica Conboy, Manager, AIB Bank, Tallaght Village;
- Professor Tommy Cooke, DIT, Community Links Programme;
- Emily Kelty, Community Representative;
- June Kelly, Community Representative;
- Sherin Abdelnaby, Community Representative;
- John Lahiff, National Coordinator, Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE);
- Sandra Thorpe, Senior Partner, Level 4 - Right Strategy, Right Process, Right Talent, Right Results.

CDI's Internal Financial Function – Contracted Out

Following an open, competitive procurement process, CDI has contracted out its internal financial function to accountants, D'Arcy Lynch Partners (DLP). DLP's work has included a review of financial returns to date for all service provider and evaluation team contracts, improved financial reporting mechanisms, a review of internal financial procedures and development of revised procedures. DLP will have an ongoing role in reviewing quarterly financial returns from service providers and evaluation teams and ensuring the integrity of CDI's financial procedures.

Finance and Risk Sub Committee – New Membership

CDI's Finance and Risk Sub Committee has welcomed two new members in 2010. Mr John McGarry, State Street Corporation and Mr Maarten Bongenaar, Combined Insurance, and Mr Nichol McNicholas, Barrister at Law. We are extremely pleased to welcome these new members to our Sub Committee and are confident they will make a meaningful contribution to CDI.

Governance and Corporate Services Coordinator – New Appointment

Following the resignation of Evelyn Brennan in March 2010, we were pleased to recruit Paula Corrigan to CDI in June 2010 as the Governance and Corporate Services Coordinator. In her role Paula has overall coordination responsibility for the efficient and effective governance and administrative management of CDI, including procurement, financial management and performance reporting. She has significant experience in managing procurement processes, contractual responsibility and shaping government policy. Paula has already impacted positively on CDI's internal governance and processes.



CDI's Strategic Planning Process

Whilst a five year funding commitment is unusually lengthy in this sector, CDI has been conscious of the need to plan towards consolidating and sharing the learning from such a significant investment. As far back as 2008, we invited John Sweeney from the National Economic and Social Forum to work with us in considering mainstreaming options.

In early 2010, following a competitive tendering process, the Institute of Public Administration was commissioned to consult with key stakeholders regarding those elements of the work and processes which should be continued and extended, and the key lessons to date.

In considering this report (a summary of which is available at www.twcdi.ie) the Board and Implementation Support Group agreed to establish a Strategic Working Group to progress the development of a strategic plan. This group is focusing on:

- Ensuring the sustainability of those services established by CDI in Tallaght West, which appear to be effectively meeting a need;
- Maximising opportunities through which to influence and shape policy, curriculum development and professional training and support;
- Identifying structures, mechanisms and practice tools which enable the extended delivery of CDI programmes beyond Tallaght West, into other disadvantaged locations which have identified relevant needs.

It is intended that the document will be completed early in the New Year, offering us a framework for discussing the future of the various programmes and services, beyond the existing funding.

The Strategic Working Group

As CDI moves into its third and final year of implementation in the current phase, the need to consider and plan Phase Two of our ten-year strategy is acknowledged as an urgent priority. CDI has established a Strategic Working Group to progress this work with membership from the CDI Board, Implementation Support Group and CDI executive.

In addition, as there is limited representation from the education sector on the ISG, a co-option from the VEC has been agreed. The SWG will produce a strategic planning document in December 2010, for submission to Government, Atlantic Philanthropies, and others, which outlines:

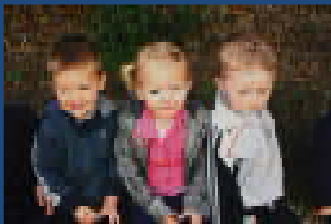
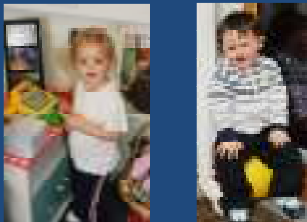
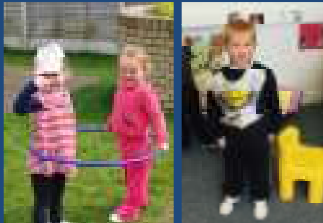
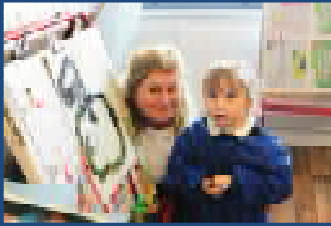
- The background, context, experience to date, and progress so far, of CDI's work in Tallaght West;
- Making an economic case;
- The Bridging Phase: September 2011 to August 2012;
- The Roll-out Phase: September 2012 to August 2015.

Lunchtime Seminar

February 17th, 12.30pm -2pm, CDI Office
'Understanding Second Language Learners' facilitated by Jennifer Grundulis, BS, MS, CCC-SLP, Senior Speech and Language Therapist.

CDI Speech and Language Therapist, Jennifer Grundulis will be providing information on children learning English as a second or additional language along with ways to support the children and their families.



ECCE Children

January saw a beautifully white introduction to 2010. With staff turnovers and services completing their two year participation in the CDI ECCE programme/evaluation, it is hard to believe that all of what I am about to tell you got packed into 2010. Below is a breakdown of what went on for Early Years in 2010.

Staff Turnover:

Helen Cameron (Senior Speech and Language Therapist/SLT) finished working with the CDI ECCE programme in February. Helen had been a fantastic addition to the ECCE programme, setting up systems, processes and training in order to deliver the Speech and Language service to children and families in the ECCE programme. Jennifer Grundulis replaced Helen in June, and hit the ground running, getting to know the services, children and families, while supporting children with their transitions to primary school. But, more of this later!

Completion of two years participation in the CDI ECCE Programme:

It was hard to believe that come March, services were in their last term of the delivery of a specific two year programme. This was a difficult time for all concerned, with funding and job uncertainties. But, thankfully, while service provision took a different shape, no services closed and practitioners managed to secure further employment in alternative settings. I know this has been said already, but it cannot be repeated enough, the dedication and application of services and staff to this programme was admirable. I believe that there will be a lifelong positive impact on all those who participated – CDI, state agencies, services, practitioners, and most importantly children and families.

Training:

- **HighScope:**

The third round of HighScope training was completed. This now means that there are approximately 50 trained HighScope practitioners in Tallaght West: what a great achievement! This was followed up with a booster session on Large Group Activities, with another session on the use of the Programme Quality Assessment (PQA) tool scheduled for December. Parent/Carer Facilitators attended a full day's introduction/overview on High/Scope focusing on strengths based approaches.

- **Hanen Teacher Talk Training Series:**

Prior to Helen Cameron's (Senior Speech and Language Therapist) departure, she completed the Hanen Teacher Talk Training with up to 30 practitioners. This three day training equipped practitioners with the skills and expertise to provide a rich and stimulating language learning environment for young children, which encourages language development, builds early literacy skills and provides a physical and social environment that encourages peer interaction.

- **Reflective Practice:**

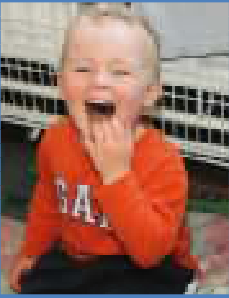
Apart from CDI's focus on the use of reflective practice, a training session for managers was facilitated by Muireann O' Keefe from DIT. This session looked at 'why use reflective practice' focusing on its importance in delivering a quality service. A similar session took place in December with all practitioners.

- **Governance Training:**

A series of workshops were held for Managers and Boards of Management on governance issues and roles and responsibilities of personnel within a service structure.

- **Siolta:**

The implementation of this quality framework continued from 2009, with services undertaking baseline assessments, and completion of standards. While this has some demands on service's time, it is been greeted with enthusiasm and ability, with immediate changes and improvements in service's delivery of a quality service.



- **Parents Plus Community Course (PPCC):**

While facilitators were trained in the latter end of 2009, ongoing support and supervision by Dr. John Sharry continued on into 2010. There are now approximately 25 facilitators trained in the delivery of the PPCC. Those trained are now in the process of seeking accreditation, with one or two already being successful in achieving this. This has resulted in over 150 parents receiving this support.

- **Child Protection Policies:**

Managers attended a workshop facilitated by the HSE, on the devising of and implementation of child protection policies. While the demand for Children First training remains high, some services availed of the training in 2010.

While all of this was going on, services were kept busy with attending Communities of Practice (CoP), managers' meetings and other training sessions provided by Jennifer (SLT).

Family Days:

Family days play a big part of the programme delivery, and children, families and services attended some great places, like Lullymore, Roundwood, Imaginosity, Corcaigh Park, The Zoo, and Tallaght Library, to name but a few. Families also attended activities within services, which gave them an opportunity to understand what happens during the HighScope curriculum and to have some fun!

Speech Carnival:

In July, Jennifer and Sinead O' Mahony (Healthy Schools SLT), along with some little helpers, facilitated a Speech Carnival. This was a fun day of games and activities with the goal of helping children to develop their speech and language skills along with giving parents activities they can do at home with their children. In addition, Jennifer added some 'Top Tips' to the monthly newsletter, and here is a flavour of some of them:

Does your child mispronounce words sometimes? All children pronounce words incorrectly as they are learning to speak. It's a normal part of development. If you notice that your child has a hard time with one specific sound (like f as in "fish" for example), you can help them to hear the correct production of that word by using a simple technique. When a child says a word incorrectly (example, "look at the bish!"), we have a tendency to correct that child by saying something like this:

"No, you said it wrong, it's fish. Say fish."

Instead, try bombarding them with how to say the word the correct way, but without telling them they are wrong:

"Yes! A fish! Look at that fish! It's a lovely gold fish! How many fish do you see? Let's count the fish. One fish, two fish, three fish! We found three fish! I see mama fish, daddy fish and baby fish. A fish family! Hello fish family!"

This sneaky way allows your child to hear the correct pronunciation at least 10 times, giving them a better idea of how to say the word properly.

September was a month to showcase the work of CDI and this took the shape of a seminar ending with a visit and a speech by the President of Ireland Mary McAleese. This was a great event, and some of the learning for it included:

- Considering the range of needs and provision within communities like Tallaght West and other communities in Ireland – there is no single service that meets the needs of children and families;
- In order for programmes to be effective, they need to be based on strong evidence;
- The impact of higher qualification levels of staff;
- How best to mainstream the learning from the CDI ECCE programme;
- Ensure the workforce development plan incorporates the need for evidenced based interventions for children and families.



As we enter the final phase of the three-year CDI Doodle Den programme, it is hard to believe where all the time has gone. How quickly these children have grown up! Some of those who started the first Doodle Den programme are now coming along wanting to join one of the Citywise after-school groups.

Undoubtedly, the programme has brought us many joys and challenges. Joys in that we see many young children grow in self confidence and in their literacy abilities. We see an increased interest in learning which will stand to them throughout their lives. We also see many parents growing in their own self-confidence and participating more in their children's education. The programme has also given the teachers and youth workers involved a real appreciation of how much they can learn from each other.

The challenges were varied, given that the programme had not been tried out before, that it involved a whole series of different groups, and that it involved getting people with different educational perspectives to work together in a unified way. Success in meeting these challenges owes much to the Doodle Den back office and the constant desire to maintain a high educational standard throughout.

Citywise delivers the Doodle Den programme to children from five different primary schools with the help of their respective teachers and with youth workers from Citywise. CDI provides ongoing training for all the staff. All the schools and other agencies, such as the South Dublin County Council Library, have also been very supportive of the programme. The programme proves the value of cross-agency support and groups working together for the good of the whole community.

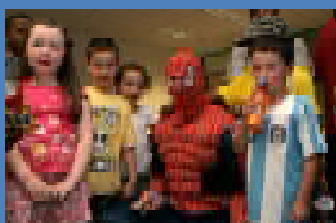
At this stage our main hope is that the very good foundations which this programme has laid will lead it to continue for many more years, to the benefit of the lives of the wider West Tallaght community. To date it has borne real fruit as we expect the evaluations to show, and long may that continue.

John Keogh
Manager, Doodle Den at Citywise Education

The programme has gone from strength to strength over the last year. John's reflections on the Doodle Den programme highlight the journey everyone involved has taken and continue to take in. Part of the journey for Doodle Den at present is the training of trainers. Thank you to all the staff from Citywise and An Cosan and the children and parents involved in Doodle Den for showing such enthusiasm and creativity. We are delighted that Doodle Den was the focus of some significant national media attention in recent months. The *Pat Kenny Show* had a lovely piece including interviews with children participating in the programme, as well as a parent who spoke about how helpful it has been in giving the whole family greater confidence. Principal Mary Molloy spoke passionately about the impact the programme has had on children and classroom.

In addition, *4 Live* had a great piece which gave us an opportunity to talk about the objectives and theory underpinning CDI, as well as the wider CDI strategy.

Aileen Murphy
Quality Specialist



Mate-Tricks Programme



The Mate-Tricks Programme enjoyed a very successful 2010, with the Year 2 intake graduating in June and the Year 3 intake getting off to a great start in September. With two years of implementation under its belt, the programme's profile has increased greatly in the locality. It is really well known by teachers, parents and children in Tallaght West which meant there was a great buzz at referral time in May.

This year's children are settling in well to the pro-social behaviour programme and great rapport has been built with children and parents alike. Children have been improving their listening and speaking skills, working hard on their teamwork and learning all about emotions and how to express and cope with different emotions. Of course, there has been lots of time for games and fun and making new friends along the way.

Parents have attended two parent sessions and one family session and we are already getting positive feedback from them about the new skills they can see their children using at home.

As a whole, the Mate-Tricks Programme has gone from strength to strength this year and we hope to continue this into the New Year. We are looking forward to working on the skills of problem solving, perspective taking, refusal skills and giving and receiving criticism with the children in the months ahead and looking forward to what will hopefully be brilliant feedback from the evaluation team towards the end of 2011.

Ashling Geoghegan
Acting Senior Youth Officer, Tallaght Youth Service.

As Ashling noted, 2010 has been a successful year for the Mate-Tricks Programme. The Mate-Tricks staff have been working hard to deliver a high quality service which both teaches specific skills and provides a fun learning environment for the children participating. A key development in 2010 was the commencement of the train the trainer process for Mate-Tricks, which provides an opportunity to develop local expertise and is a positive step towards long-term sustainability.

Aileen Murphy
 Quality Specialist, CDI





Well, 2010 was another busy year for the CSI, with a lot of work being done to build both community engagement and the capacity of key stakeholders to develop the Community Safety Agreements we are working towards on our pilot sites.

Community Engagement Events and Activities

At the start of the year, the CSI organised a number of **BIG BREAKFAST** meetings where residents came along to our office in Fettercairn to share good food, talk, laughter and ideas on how to improve Tallaght West. The second of our Big Breakfast meetings was attended by Thos McDermott of South County Dublin Sports Partnership who informed residents of the services they are offering. The Sports Partnership has a whole range of great events, activities and services, most of which are either free or very low cost – check them out at <http://www.sdccsp.ie>.

In March, we continued with the breakfast theme when we organised a successful event on **PANCAKE TUESDAY**, where community workers and residents were invited in to be tempted by fantastic pancakes and a huge selection of pancake toppings. The children had a ball choosing their toppings for their pancakes and played away with each other. The Gardaí participated in the tossing and a lot of fun was had by all. The event was well attended and we got to meet a lot of new community residents which was great for CDI.

Our second **CHILDREN'S GOOD BEHAVIOUR AWARDS**

in April were an outstanding success which saw 64 excellent children aged 4 to 16 years receive Awards. We had real fun when two of our volunteer Spies visited the estates to remind children they were being observed. They received a warm welcome and could easily have been mistaken for the pied piper as children from all over gathered around them discussing all the good things they have been doing.



Following this we gathered the information from all our Spies and organised the ceremony, which attracted a turnout of over 250 residents from the four communities of Tallaght West. The children were beaming with excitement when presented with certificates by Inspector Gerry Delmar and given the opportunity to speak to Mayor Mick Duff. CDI received very positive feedback from parents who reported the impact the Good Behaviour Awards have on children as they become more aware of keeping their estate clean. *"Having the spies visit the sites and the children believing they are being observed is having a great affect on the children in our estate, as they constantly knock on my door for black sacks to clean up the area,"* said Carmel Williams, Brookview Court. The Next Good Behaviour Awards, for Children aged 5 – 12 living in Jobstown, (Cloonmore Park & Cloonmore Green), Brookfield (Brookview Court & Brookview Drive), and MacUilliam Estate, are taking place on **FEBRUARY 22nd**. Contact Joyce for more information, joyce@twcdi.ie.

Active community engagement events continued during the summer months. Community Forum members on the CSI pilot sites in Cloonmore and Brookview, and in Mac Uilliam Estate organised a series of **NEIGHBOURHOOD CLEAN-UP** days and a **COMMUNITY FESTIVAL** in Jobstown. Both activities attracted good attendance and participation by local residents. It was really great to see the level of enthusiasm among children taking part in the clean-ups, and residents reported that the children are continuing to pick up litter well after these days - a good sign for the future.



CSI Capacity Building Activities

Our CSI Capacity building activities are about equipping people with the information and skills they need to develop the Community Safety Initiative. For example, in July we organised a Seminar called **KNOW YOUR JUSTICE SYSTEM** which was attended by residents and service providers. The audience heard three very interesting presentations from the Community Gardaí, the Young Persons Probation Service, and the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission. There was a good discussion following the presentations and the people attending this seminar found it very useful in getting a handle on the way the Gardaí, probation and Courts operate. For more information, check out the following websites:

Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission: www.gsoc.ie
 Probation Service: www.probation.ie
 Irish Youth Justice Service: www.iyjs.ie
 Department of Justice & Law Reform: www.justice.ie

This year the CSI seriously stepped up its capacity building work by launching an intensive **RESTORATIVE PRACTICES TRAINING PROGRAMME** which aims to make Tallaght West a Restorative Community. The principles underpinning restorative practice are increasingly being embedded in the work of a wide range of organisations - statutory, community and voluntary. Closely aligned to mediation, coaching and restorative justice, restorative practice (RP) provides a framework in which practitioners, managers and organisations become explicit about what they are doing and why, focus on individual and organisational responsibility and support and challenge each other to identify solutions.

Having held a number of seminars and focus groups, CDI established an inter-agency Management Committee which oversees an extensive but flexible training programme that began in July 2010. To date, 285 people have undertaken RP training and these people have come from a wide range of groups including residents; schools; South Dublin County Council; Tallaght Youth Service; the National Education Welfare Board; the Health Services Executive; Young people, Early Years educators; Community Resource Centres; and Traveller Support Projects. The feedback from participants has been generally very positive and ways in which trainees anticipate using the skills acquired include:

- Resolving neighbourhood disputes;
- Empowering Residents Associations;
- Resolving family disputes;
- Developing relationships between residents and agencies;
- Assisting victims of crime;
- Managing children's altercations;
- Integrating new families into communities;
- Tackling antisocial behaviour i.e. Litter, Drinking, Graffiti,
- Loitering;
- Building relationships between parents and teachers;
- Dealing with conflict; and
- Building relationships between staff and Boards of Management.

CDI have established a monthly Community of Practice to support those who have undertaken the training to implement a restorative approach in their work. The training is currently being delivered on a monthly basis and is free to anyone living in Tallaght West or working with families and/or children in the area. Further information on restorative practices and the benefits this approach can bring is available at www.iirp.org. Contact Joyce Cahill for information on how to get involved in Tallaght West. Joyce@twcdi.ie





The Safe & Healthy Place (S&HP) Steering Committee, which is a multi agency partnership with residents of Mac Uilliam Estate, met regularly during the year. Following the publication in March of a comprehensive analysis of needs in Mac Uilliam, the Committee worked on developing and implementing an Action Plan based on identified need. The Mac Uilliam Estate Needs Assessment report contains interesting and useful information about both the population profile of the estate and the priority needs in the community as expressed by residents of the area, and is available for download from CDI's website (www.twcdi.ie) or by contacting Claire (claire@twcdi.ie or 087 280 6450). The report reveals that there are over 700 children living in Mac Uilliam, 88% of whom are aged 14 years and younger.

This large and young population made the provision of safe facilities and activities for children a top priority for the work of the S&HP Committee, and participating agencies worked hard to get these in place as quickly as possible. South Dublin County Council (SDCC) began much needed work to landscape areas of the estate and to provide a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA); a Community Garden and a Park which should be completed shortly. The RAPID team assisted with the planning for the MUGA by getting residents and young people from the area involved in discussions about the design and use of this new facility. SDCC are currently working on establishing a Management Committee for the Community Garden – contact Su Clarke at the Council if you would like to know more about the garden or are interested in getting involved with managing it, sclarke@SDUBLINCOCO.ie / 086 6063688.

Tallaght Youth Service (TYS) rowed in with getting things up and running for young people by organising a highly successful Soccer World Cup tournament at the start of the Summer. At this time, YYS also recruited adult volunteers who went on to undertake training in youth work and to set up two clubs – one for children aged 10 to 12 years, and a second for young people aged 12 to 14 years. In addition, YYS staff also run a Club for 12 – 16 year old children. For information about these Clubs, contact Fiona McDonnell at YYS, fmcdonnell.tys@Foroige.ie / 086 2522591.

For 2011, the S&HP Committee is planning to have a big Community Celebration to mark the opening of the new Park and MUGA. It is also planning to organise regular Coffee Mornings and information sessions at Barnardos where residents can come to meet their neighbours and get information about matters of interest. If you would like to help out with organising the Community Celebration or Coffee Mornings, or even just have ideas about what you would like to happen during either contact Claire Casey at CDI, claire@twcdi.ie / 087 2806450.

CSI/S&HP Evaluation

The CSI/ S&HP evaluations continued to develop in tandem with the roll out of the initiatives which made for some very interesting learning along the way! The evaluation team (John Reddy, Dr. Noreen Kearns & Dr. John Canavan from NUI Galway) was extremely busy in the first quarter of 2010 conducting interviews, attending meetings and examining relevant documents. Findings from the first interim report were presented to the CSI Steering Committee in June with the purpose of informing the CSI's plan of action.

The first interim evaluation report covered the period from the beginning of October 2008 to the end of August 2009 and included the following findings:

- Safety is a major concern for people living in Tallaght West;
- The CSI shows early signs of both inter-agency collaboration between stakeholders and community building;
- The importance of clear roles and responsibilities, an agreed action plan, and full representation at an early stage were highlighted; and
- The pilot site approach was good for building support for the goals of the CSI.

Over the coming months, by building on the findings from the interim evaluation and our own ongoing reviews of our work, CDI will be working on:

- The expansion of the CSI to further pilot sites;
- The development of local agreements using a Restorative Practices framework for the resolution of neighbourhood disputes;
- The agreement by the CSI Steering Committee of a coordinated action plan including concrete targets; and
- The finalisation of a Manual for the CSI.

In the meantime, Joyce and Claire want to thank everyone who has worked with us during 2010 to make Tallaght West a safer and healthier community. We can't do it without you!

With the snowy start to 2010, schools had a few extra days to prepare and plan themselves for the year ahead, and it seems to have worked well. There was a great bit of work carried out in 2010, with both Anca and Siobhan embracing the year with much gusto.

Healthy Schools Coordinators (HSC) activities:

- **Needs Analysis:**

The year kicked off with Anca and Siobhan assisting in carrying out a Needs Analysis with the teachers of their respective schools, which helped give a better understanding of the current issues and identification of solutions. In order for parents to feed into the process, a focus group discussion was undertaken by the Healthy Schools Coordinators and the Home School Community Liaison Officer.

- **Healthy Schools Active Week:**

Anca was involved with the Active School Week in the Chroi Ro Naofa Senior School, which was in April, organised by the Active School Committee which Anca is a part of. The week involved obstacle courses, basketball competitions, badminton, swimming, as well as walks and a visit to Shamrock Rovers. All teachers and staff from the school were delighted to participate and co-operated wonderfully to make this week a huge success.

- **Healthy Breakfast:**

Two “healthy breakfast and a chat” sessions for parents were held in Chroi Ro Naofa Junior School, the first with guest speaker Rosemary Curry, Principal Speech and Language Therapist, HSE, who gave parents an update on the developments in Speech and Language Therapy in Killinarden and the second with nutrition specialist, Sharon Jordan, from Carambola, who talked to parents about reading labels and gave them information and support on how to use this information when they do their shopping.

Siobhan also organised a healthy schools week in each of the schools which involved healthy lunch competitions, skipathons for the Junior School, walk to school initiatives, lunchtime and after school activities. Talks for parents of Junior and Senior Infants about play were also held.

- **Cooking Sessions:**

'Little Chefs' which targeted 5th and 6th Classes offered the opportunity to cook and learn about healthy menus and easy after school snacks and meals, through visits to the library. They also learned about budgeting in relation to buying ingredients to prepare a meal.

- **Continuation of Activities:**

Activities such as Cardio Kids, Skipping, Yoga, Tae Kwon Do and Dance, which were started in 2009, continued into 2010. These activities continue to keep the children interested and looking for more. It is important to note the value of these activities, as one Principal noted, “there has been a perceivable shift in parents’ perceptions of health”. In addition to these activities, the HSC’s continue to work with parents, supporting them to make referrals and attend appointments; and hosting informal coffee mornings which have particular topics for discussion.

Speech and Language Therapy:

The Healthy Schools Speech and Language Therapy service got well underway during 2010. Sinead O’ Mahony, Speech and Language Therapist, prepared all the referral processes and met with teaching personnel to inform them of the service and how to access it. As this post was part-time, delivering on an incremental basis, with the service commencing in Cnoc Muire Junior School, moving on to Early Start in Croi Ro Naofa Junior campus. In addition to providing a SLT service to children and families, Sinead also undertook some training with teachers in early language and literacy development, which was a great success.

Given the valuable nature of an SLT service, it was decided to make the post into a full time position from September. The aim of the full time post is to continue with the Healthy Schools Programme and also work with some Early Years Services that are on the same campus as the Healthy Schools. As the summer ended, Sinead tendered her resignation in pursuit of a permanent post, and so began a recruitment process which yielded a good result in the employment of Michelle Quinn. Michelle took up her post in October, and like Jennifer hit the ground running (there must be something special in the training of a Speech and Language Therapist). Since October, Michelle has taken up where Sinead left off, and has delivered training to teachers in the Early Start, Naionrí and Scoil Caitlin Maude.

In recognition of the importance of this service we are now finalising agreement on a dedicated evaluation of the outcomes for children, and what helps them to access the service.

Seminars:

- **March Seminar:**

A seminar which focused on the healthy school's objectives, rationale and direction was held. John Lahiff, author of the Healthy Schools manual, presented on the background of the manual and a 'whole school approach'. The Evaluation Team from Trinity and Maynooth presented the methodology being used to evaluate the programme, outlining some emerging themes. A representative from the Welsh Health Promoting Schools Network also spoke on the implementation of a healthy schools programme within their schools. Professor Tom Collins from the National University of Ireland Maynooth facilitated a plenary session at the end of the day. Participating school Principals, HSC, HSCL, Healthy School's SLT, representatives from the DES, HSE, and Health Promotion were among the invited guest list.

The seminar provided a great opportunity to revisit the aims of the Healthy Schools Programme; hear from the coordinators on the implementation of the programme; learn from the evaluation team what the research says about whole school approaches, along with observations from the baseline assessments; and hear from a Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes. While there were differences in these two programmes, some of the issues were similar with the conclusion that it takes time for change to be identified, embraced and implemented.

- **June Seminar:**

The Evaluation team gave a presentation to staff from all five schools giving an input on the baseline findings from the evaluation. This was well received with a huge attendance. The presentation helped focus the work of the coordinators for the coming academic year. An input was also given from NUIM on the planned Masters in Education, which is an exciting opportunity for teachers and others working in the education sector, and this is due to commence in the coming weeks.

- **September Seminar:**

As with the ECCE programme, September was a month to showcase the work of CDI and this took the shape of an all day seminar ending with a visit and address by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese. This was a great event, and some of the learning from it included:

- A manualised programme is more complex when delivering a process-driven initiative;
- The development of the programme is a process, and time is needed for trust and relationships to evolve;
- Coming to a common understanding of targets and the methods to achieve them takes time;
- There is a need for strong governance and leadership and clear lines of accountability;
- Schools are very busy places and for schools to embrace the Healthy Schools Programme is quite challenging;
- In terms of mainstreaming the programme, or elements of the programme, there is a lot of learning for the School Completion Programme to take on board from the evaluation of the Healthy Schools Programme;
- The role of the Healthy Schools Co-ordinator in working with schools and linking with parents, services and other organisations was seen as crucial and should be taken forward and mainstreamed.

Concerns about undernourished and underweight children are an issue for schools and other service providers and this wasn't highlighted in the evaluation. It was explained that this is an area that the evaluation team is aware of, and will be looking at as part of the overall evaluation;

It was also clarified that the area of school absenteeism is being considered by the evaluation team both in terms of collecting information on how many children there are to avail of the healthy schools programme and also to see if there is an improvement in attendance rates.

Work Plans:

Caroline Peppard from the HSE – Health Promotion Unit met with both coordinators and CDI to help plan the work. It is hoped to focus the work on children's social and emotional well being, while supporting parents to be aware of the issues children face and how best to manage these. Plans were discussed and agreed with the individual Principals.

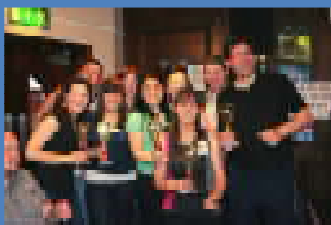
CDI's All In Volleyball League:



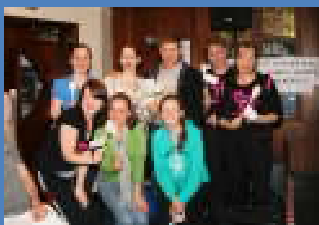
1st Place 'Warriors'



2nd Place 'Caretakers'



3rd Place 'Mavericks'



4th Place 'Mad Cows'

May saw the finale of **season one's** 'All in Volleyball League'. It was a great night with an electric atmosphere as the crowds gathered on the balcony and the teams took to the floor for the event that kicked off with a bit of a surprise as the CDI team along with community residents danced the 'Jai Ho' Bollywood style. (check out the link to see it live <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkomynGNBJI>). On completion of their dance the four final teams were asked to join in and it had to be seen to be believed!

The evening matches began with a fight for third place between Maverick's (Teachers from Sacred Heart) Vs Mad Cows (CDI Staff). The music blared as the two teams entered the hall and the cheers roared from the balcony. At times you could hear a pin drop as this was no time for fun. It was very competitive as each team grappled for the points. Maverick's won but it was a close one and Mad Cows should be proud of themselves.

The final match was played between the Caretaker's (Community Gardai) and the Warriors (Jobstown Community). This was bound to be a tough match as both were equally skilled. It was obvious that both teams came to win as there was no time for jokes and mistakes were not taken lightly. Warriors won and it meant a lot to keep the cup in the community.

The awards were presented by Mayor Mick Duff and Jim Rock, International Boxer. Tarynn Posse Oliver won the Best Player of the tournament. Everyone joined in the karaoke which we have on video and CDI will be using the evidence throughout our term here to get results!

This January saw the finale of **season two's** 'All in Volleyball League'. It was a great night with the screams from the crowds gathered on the balcony so loud it was very distracting for the referees.

The fight for third place between Maverick's (Teachers from Sacred Heart) Vs The Wild Coyotes (Staff from the Tallaght Leisure Centre). This turned out to be a really tight match with the game coming down to the final serve with the Coyotes winning by only one point.

The final match was played between the Caretaker's (Community Gardai) and the Headbangers (Community). This match was fought hard by both sides with the Headbangers supporters giving the Caretakers a run for their money. The Headbangers were victorious in the end taking the cup by a margin of over 20 points.

All the presentations took place upstairs in Crough's Lounge where all the teams who had taken part in the league gathered to join in the celebrations.

We will be running a **ONE DAY TOURNAMENT** on May 21st, to enter please contact Paula for a registration card at paula@twvcdi.ie on phone 4940030



CDI does 'Bollywood.'

CDI's All In Volleyball League: Season Two:

There were eight teams in the league this time round. The **Wild Coyotes, (Leisure Centre)**, changed their name, but that is not the only thing they changed as they got rid of the beer-guts, lager louts and anything else they felt was holding them back. For all the good it did them! They appeared gleaming each week, muscles bulging through their tee-shirts determined to let us know just how fit they are.

The Caretakers' (Garda), as usual cared less about anyone, turning up in uniform each week and piling out of the Garda van with the sirens going full blast. The immediate reaction from the rest of the teams was always the same, with each team wondering if they had finally been caught! The team had two Tom's: one blinded people with his false smile while the other (Tom O' Dwyer) jabbed them in the back with his baton. The biggest shock on this team was when Damien (who would sell his mother to win a match), decided in his last match to be nice. This threw everyone into shock including his team mates.

The Jobstown Warriors, (Residents of Jobstown) felt the need to live up to their name. They fought all the way. So much so they fought each other. Things got so bad they walked off the pitch and deserted the league. They have not been spotted since.

Shanty Shooters, (An Cosán), no medals given for guessing who this team is. They were nice, honest and fair. All the wrong ingredients for a volley ball team. For their first few matches they stood and giggled when the ball came their way. They tried on occasion to pull the damsel in distress, not realising no one cared. They attacked the ball like it was the enemy wanting it cleared at all cost. It did cost a lot as the balls could not be retrieved. They finally grasped the concept that you hit the ball but that is where their talents end I'm afraid. They agreed to get in a lot of practice before our next league.

Sacred Sinners, (Residents from Killinarden): This team sprang out of nowhere. They were good and seemed to have a balance between taking the game seriously and having fun also. Each game showed great improvements in their skill and ability to play. They lit up the pitch with their enthusiasm and good spirit. However they had no concept of how to lose gracefully. The horns came out, the referee was attacked and they resigned. They called 'Fix' so many times it wasn't funny. They agreed to go off and work on this before our next league begins. Good Luck Girls.

Mad Cow's, (CDI). Well what I can say about this team? Nothing much has changed since our last encounter. They are truly mad and they are truly cows as they chew cud before and after each game. Grainne continues to be the team captain and although she is ruthless and competitive she is too nice to her team. She smiles through gritted teeth as Tara turns up in her wedding dress and Aileen forgets her lucky shoes once again and Marian continues to read notes whilst playing.

Mavericks, (School teachers, Sacred Heart). Well this team is persistent if nothing else. They do have talent and the improvements are obvious. They are a nice team but very annoying. The man on the team does not open his mouth, he flies around like a lunatic reaching each ball like his life depends on it. Anca is still bossy boots with her false smile and her shining teeth. They never complain or ask questions (other than did we win?), they drink water like ladies whilst all the time counting down the days when they will sing karaoke and hold the winning cup.

Finally we have the **Headbangers, (Residents from all over the place).** Nothing changed here since our last encounter with this team. The Mummy was unable to play as she ran out of bandages. Handsome looked like Jack Nicolson (the Shining). He was so crazy everyone including his own team were afraid to cross him. This team shows no mercy at all. If one misses the ball he gets a good telling off and his fingers are broken one by one. Their aim is to win at all costs and so far they have succeeded.

Quality Enhancement Programme (QEP)

The Quality Enhancement Programme has been providing training opportunities for all those working with children and families in Tallaght West over the course of 2010.

The lunchtime seminars have been well attended and ideas from the various presentations are being incorporated into the planning and delivery of all seminars. Feedback from the informal networking that occurs over sharing lunch has been positive with staff from different agencies getting a chance to meet one another. Themes covered during the year include:

Lunchtime Seminars:

- **February 25th:** 'Early Childhood Development' *Input by Sarah Mc Cabe (HSE)*
- **March 25th:** 'The Developmental Needs of Primary School aged Children' *Input by Sarah Mc Cabe (HSE)*
- **April 29th:** 'The Adolescent Years' *Input by Maurice Devlin (NUI Maynooth)*
- **June 24th:** **Safeguarding and Information Sharing: 'The Legislation Context and Tips for getting it Right'**. *Input by Superintendent Pat Burke from the Garda Vetting Unit*
- **October 28th:** **Top Tips for Promoting Language Development** *Input by Jennifer Grundilis, Senior Speech and Language Therapist.*
- **November 25th:** **Attachment Theory, and How to Promote It** *Input by Sheila Hayes.*

Seminars:

- **January 28th:** "Child and Adolescent Mental Health: Theory, Practice & Policy". *Input by Dr. Sarah Buckley (Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, St. Patrick's Hospital and co-author of "Mental Health in Children & Adolescents – A Guide for Teachers"); Dr. Tony Bates (Clinical Psychologist and founding Director of Headstrong – The National Centre for Youth Mental Health in Ireland); and Aleisha Clarke (Health Promotion Research Centre).*
- **March 29th:** CDI, SDCCC and NCNA presented 'IMAGES of REGGIO EMILIA'.
- **May 2^{5th}** 'Promoting Quality Services: The Theory, Practice and Lessons for Tallaght West.' *Input by Aileen Murphy, Grainne Smith (CDI, Quality Specialist), Marguerite Hanratty, (CDI's Quality Services Officer), Ger French and Siobhan O'Brien*
- **July 19th:** 'Know Your Justice System', *Input by Tom O' Riordan (Local Garda Station), Majella Hickey (The Probation Service) and Graham Doyle (Garda Ombudsman Office).*
- **June 14th:** 'CDI Healthy Schools Programme Seminar', *Input by Trinity College Evaluation Team,*

Training:

The following training took place in 2010:

- **Advanced Group Facilitation Training**, 19 participants;
- **Community Coaching Certificate**; 47 graduated;
- **Community Coaching Diploma**; 23 participants will graduate in February 2011;
- **Governance training**; 22 participants.



*left:
Life and Community
Coaching Graduates
2010*

**Thought
for the
day!**

**Everyone
should have
a spouse,
because
there are a
number of
things that
go wrong
that one
can't blame
on the
government.**

Our Address:
**Childhood Development
Initiative
St Mark's Family and
Community Centre,
Fettercairn
Tallaght
Dublin 24**

**We're on the Web!
Visit us at:**

www.twcdi.ie

Coaching Course:

CDI is delighted to announce that 47 participants took part in two Life and Community Coaching courses run over a three month period. These courses were offered to both residents and service providers living or working in the area of Tallaght West.

On June 8th CDI hosted a graduation evening in which the participants received their certificates and 26 participants advance to Diploma level which will be completed in February 2011.

"The Coaching Course was very enlightening. It was very positive in that it is about helping people reach their potential and find success. As a group we worked well together as people were generally honest with each other and themselves. The course has also been useful for me in my work as there was a great focus on planning a way forward in situations and finding solutions to problems," Tony Shaw, SDCC.

Comments from the facilitators:

"Adrian and I found both groups excellent to work with. The broad mix of backgrounds within both groups provided for a rich and stimulating learning experience. Their enthusiasm, commitment and openness to the training made the whole experience a very positive and rewarding one for us," Eoin Mc Cabe, Irish Life Coaching Institute.

*Life and Community
Coaching Graduates*



*Pictured above:
The group from 'The International Network of Children's Research
Centers' on their visit to CDI.*