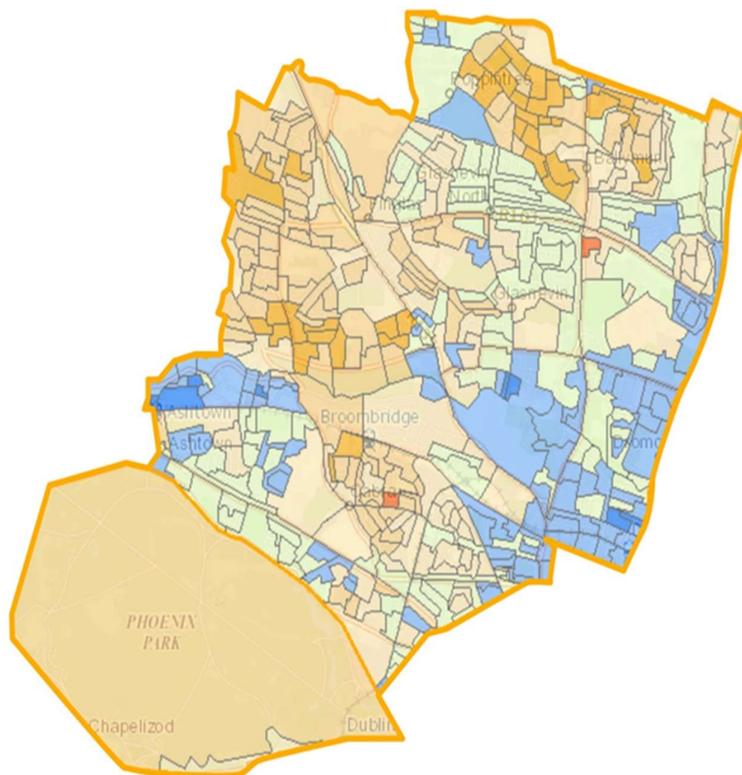


SICAP End of Year Narrative Report 2021



Supporting Local Communities since 1991

1.01 Strengthening Community Capacity 3

1.02 Community Grant 6

1.03 Innovating for Inclusion 7

1.04 Social Enterprise 9

1.04A Community Care and Repair 12

2.01 Supporting Educational Success in School Age Children 13

2.02 Pre-Development and Promoting Wellbeing..... 14

2.03 Supporting Access to Education..... 15

2.04 Supporting Access to Employment 17

2.05 Enterprise & Economic Development 18

2.06 Employer Engagement 18



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DNP 2021 End of Year SICAP Action Narrative Report

GOAL 1

1.01 Strengthening Community Capacity

DNP launched this action at the Social Inclusion Seminar which took place on February 25th, 2021. While this event was scheduled to take place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Northwood, COVID-19 restrictions did not allow for this. Instead, the seminar took place on Zoom. Eighty-three individuals attended the seminar representing thirty-eight Local Community Groups (LCGs). Senator Mary Fitzpatrick (DNP Board member) delivered an inspiring input on the importance of community activism for promoting social inclusion, community solidarity and resilience in times of adversity. Three LCGs who were awarded grants in 2020 presented their work. These were: The Meeting Place Club, St. Vincent's Basketball Club and Finglas Addiction Support Team. These presentations included 2 videos and a photographic display. The presentations highlighted the resilience of group members and the strategies adopted to implement their actions in the context of a global pandemic. DNP's Social Inclusion Brochure 2020 was also launched on February 25th. This report presents detailed information about DNP Social Inclusion Programme activity in 2020. [Click here for Social Inclusion brochure 2020](#)

DNP's Community Grant Programme for 2021 was launched at the seminar and details of the application process and relevant guidelines were presented. Following the seminar two information sessions were held (March 2nd and March 3rd) to provide support regarding preparation of grant applications. These information sessions were held online. In total twenty-four individuals attended representing seventeen LCGs. These workshops and the community grant application process as a whole provide invaluable information as to the capacity building needs of applicants, particularly LCGs at the early stages of development or those who do not have prior experience of developing funding applications.

In compliance with public health guidelines all training events were held online. Details of training events are as follows:

- 'Leveraging Oline Presence using Facebook'- January 12th- Fourteen individuals attended representing nine LCGs.
- Restorative Practice - February 2nd to February 5th (four half day sessions)- Seventeen individuals attended representing fourteen LCGs.
- Grant Writing Workshop - March 24th- Seven individuals attended representing five LCGs.
- Conflict Resolution - April 13th and 20th (two-part training event) – Twelve individuals attended representing five LCGs.
- 'Boosting Online Presence using Authentic Smart Phone Video'- May 5th- Eleven individuals attended representing five LCGs.
- Resilience Training - May 10th- Eight individuals attended representing seven LCGs.
- Project Management – June 2nd- Sixteen individuals representing nine LCGs.

- Project Management - June 9th (second session held due to high demand)- eighteen individuals attended representing, twelve LCGs.
- Committee Skills - June 21st – Nine individuals attended representing five LCGs.
- Visual Notetaking - July 14th (workshop demonstrating alternative approaches to text for notetaking)-11 individuals attended representing four LCGs.
- Financial Management - September 21st -six individuals attended representing five LCGs.
- Volunteer leadership Training - Five individuals attended representing four LCGs.
- Minute Taking – October 6th - Ten individuals attended representing nine LCGs.
- Volunteer Recruitment- October 13th - Four individuals attended representing four LCGs.
- Committee Skills- November 9th - Eight individuals attended representing six LCGs.
- Board Match- November 22nd - Five individuals attended representing five LCGs.
- Grant Writing – December 1st - Nine individuals attended representing 7 LCGs.

In total 80 LCGs participated in group training in 2021.

A central theme of DNP’s work is that of promoting equality and social inclusion. This includes work to address gender-based inequality. DNP hosted an information session on March 8th to mark International Women’s Day. Barbara Condon CEO of Ruhama presented on Ruhama’s work. Ruhama is a National NGO offering support to women impacted by prostitution, sex trafficking & other forms of commercial sexual exploitation. This event raised awareness among participating LCGs regarding services offered by Ruhama. The workshop also raised awareness of the importance of considering that women using services at local level may be victims of sexual exploitation and may need specialist support.

The DNP Community Development Team identified a need to strengthen evaluation of training programmes and to complement written evaluations with more in-depth feedback. The restrictions necessitated by COVID-19 highlighted the importance of informal conversations and networking for providing rich data as to challenges encountered and capacity building needs. It has been difficult to recreate the conditions for such discussion in an online setting. A focus group of LCGs was convened mid-year to identify support needs and to inform development of appropriate responses. Participating LCGs expressed concern about safe return to activity, financial sustainability, and a desire for accurate information in relation to public health guidelines. Concern was also expressed in relation to reduced membership of LCGs, particularly of boards. In response to focus group feedback DNP organised the following:

- Regular circulation of up-to-date public health advice.
- Workshops on Effective Engagement of Volunteers in partnership with the Dublin Volunteer Centre.
- Workshop on Effective Board Recruitment in partnership with Boardmatch Ireland.
- Regular circulation of Funding Digest detailing funding opportunities (complemented by support from Social Enterprise Coordinator with developing funding applications in response to specific funding calls).
- Workshop on Writing Successful Funding applications.

DNP continues to complement group training with bespoke mentoring. Initial engagement in group training can provide an opportunity for assessment and for identification of areas for additional support. In addition to mentoring provided by the DNP Community Development Team, LCGs are also referred to the DNP Mentor panel. These mentors are subject matter experts and are assigned to LCGs following initial assessment by DNP staff. Five LCGs received specialist mentoring supports in 2021. Mentoring focussed on development of public presentation skills and on supporting LCG members to present on their Social Inclusion action at the Social Inclusion seminar. Beneficiary LCGs were The Meeting Place Club, St. Vincent's Basketball Club and Finglas Addiction Support Team. In the second half of the year The Loft (addiction support services) received intensive mentoring in relation to Board recruitment. The DNP Employer Engagement Officer (DNP Employment Services) provided mentoring to the Irish Refugee Council in relation to employer engagement with a view to enhancing work experience and employment options for refugees.

DNP continued to support community networks during this period. DNP participates on the following networks: Cabra Child and Family Support Network, Cabra Policing Forum, The Ballymun Network for Assisting Children and Young People and the Finglas Cabra Local Drug and Alcohol Taskforce. Participation on these networks enables DNP to gain valuable information on member organisations training and capacity building needs. Such participation also provides valuable information in relation to priority need in the community.

In supporting LCGs during 2021, DNP staff noted a desire for a forum for community workers to meet, share information and support each other in addressing challenges encountered. In response to this expressed need DNP invited community workers (paid and voluntary) working in the Dublin Northwest area to an initial exploratory meeting on July 27th. Twenty-six individuals attended representing seventeen LCGs. In addition, representatives of statutory agencies also attended. A poll was conducted during the meeting to identify priority need for those in attendance. The majority identified a need for information on services and supports provided by LCGs as a priority. In response to this, DNP is compiling a directory of LCGs and statutory organisations providing contact details and information on services provided. The second meeting of the Dublin Northwest Community Workers Network took place on October 19th. Sixteen individuals attended representing ten LCGs. At this meeting Northside Homecare Services presented on the suite of supports they provide. The third meeting of the DNW Community Workers Network will take place on February 8th, 2022. This network is open to new members. It is envisaged that each meeting will include a networking/information sharing aspect to be followed by presentations from members. Guest speakers and trainers on specific topics may be invited depending on need identified by members.

Many LCGs rely totally on volunteers in order to organise activities and deliver services and supports. Volunteering is also conducive to development of social connections and in this sense counters social isolation. Engagement in voluntary community activity can also support development of a range of skills and enhance quality of life and employability. Collaboration with the Dublin Volunteer Centre continued in 2021. Staff identified a need for support for LCGs in recruitment and management of volunteers. DNP provided bursaries for representatives of five LCGs to participate in Volunteer

Management training. Participating LCGs were as follows: ChildVision, Tiny Toes (Early Years' Service), Finglas Youth Resource Centre, Care After Prison, and Migrant Rights Centre Ireland.

The following groups moved from stage 1 (Pre-Development and Group Formation) to Stage 2 (Capacity Building and Empowerment) of the Community Development Matrix: Setanta Strings, Greenview Allotments, Ballymun Tidy Towns, Glasnevin Village Residents Association and Santry Whitehall Forum. This development is evident in enhanced competencies in the following areas: committee skills, financial management, project management, ability to write funding applications, administration, and reporting.

1.02 Community Grant

There was strong interest in DNP's Community Grant strand launched at the Social Inclusion Seminar on February 25th. Thirty-four applications were submitted initially. Each application was assessed against a defined set of criteria and twenty-six were approved. Five LCGs were required to submit additional information and were subsequently approved. Two LCGs were referred to the DNP Social Enterprise Co-ordinator (see under 1.04). These groups had limited experience of writing funding applications and required support to prepare the applications. Both applications were successful on re-submission. As the funding available was not fully allocated, an additional eight late applications were approved, bringing the total number of applications approved to 41. Two of these applications were awarded to 'pre-start' Social Enterprises. Approved groups were as follows: St. Canice's Indoor Bowls Club, The Plough Youth Club, Rivermount Boys Football Club, Kilshane Court Residents Association, Friends of Finglas, Greenview Allotment Committee, The Meeting Place, Glasnevin Village Residents Association, Daughters of Charity Adult & Community Education Programme, Global Action Plan CLG, Tolka Rovers Basketball Club, Setanta Strings, Finglas West Family Resource Centre, St. Margaret's Traveller Community Association, An Siol, Community Development Project Cabra, Finglas Support and Suicide Prevention Network, Finglas Maypole Festival, Santry Whitehall Community Forum, Headway Ireland, Cabra Men's Shed, Community Music Collective, Finglas Addiction Support Team (Recovery Initiative), St. Vincent's Basketball Club, To Children with Love (Rising Tide Project), Finglas Addiction Support Team (Outdoor Project), An Cosán, Football Cooperative, Ballymun Active Disability Interest Group (BADIG), Fairlawn Community Gardens, Ballymun City Farm, Ballymun Tidy Towns, Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality, University of 3rd Age, Finglas Youth Resource Centre, Ballymun Photography Group, Cabra for Youth, Poppintree Youth Project Young Men's Programme, Poppintree Youth Project Young Women's Programme, Drop in Well intercultural Group, Cabra Kayaking Club and Finglas Concert and Marching Band. Seventeen of these LCGs had not previously received grant support from DNP. The applications received covered a wide range of initiatives designed to combat social isolation, social exclusion, and inequality. Examples of initiatives approved under the Community Grant include the following: arts & crafts tuition for young people attending a local youth club, training for coaches in a local football club, support for community gardens, outdoor seating for older people in sheltered accommodation, newsletter for people vulnerable to isolation, adult and community education for those with intellectual disabilities, social and therapeutic clubs for children and teenagers with disabilities, leadership training for

members of the Travelling community, educational supports for disadvantaged children, provision of educational/cultural opportunities for migrants, mental health supports and supports for people affected by addiction and their families.

Eight training sessions were delivered on Administration and Reporting requirements. Participation in this training is a pre-requisite to drawing down the grant. All successful grant applicants have now attended. The training provides an opportunity for grantees to become familiar with DNP administration and reporting requirements. These training sessions also provide an opportunity for further assessment of capacity building needs and insights gained inform development of DNP training events.

Development work with grant beneficiaries in the reporting period was as follows:

- Preparing Funding Applications
- Developing knowledge in relation to reporting, accountability and financial administration
- Support with use of technology
- Publicity and Promotion
- Project Management
- Board Recruitment

Project Management presented significant challenges for some LCGs particularly in relation to adaptation of original proposals to restrictions necessitated by COVID-19. The majority of LCGs managed to implement their original action proposals. In supporting LCGs, DNP staff did note a tendency for LCG committee membership to change more frequently than in previous years. In some cases, committee members were concerned about their health and anxious about engaging in community activities. In others, committee members were inactive due to personal illness. This lack of continuity did however result in some disruption of LCG activity and challenges in implementing social inclusion actions. This also resulted in a need for intensive support from DNP staff to ensure successful and timely progression of action proposals.

The Social Inclusion Network met on three occasions during 2021. The aim of the Social Inclusion network is that of developing best practice in Social Inclusion work by sharing experiences, identifying challenges, and developing creative responses. This work is captured in the annual Social Inclusion brochure. The network meetings in June and December included training on Project Management (June) and on Writing Successful Funding Applications (December). The Action Appraisal Committee met on 6 occasions during the reporting period.

1.03 Innovating for Inclusion

There is provision for allocation of awards to 2 LCGs under this action. During this reporting period Pavee Point was allocated an award for delivery of a men's health Programme. This Programme included physical and mental health components. Thirty-six men engaged in a five- week fitness

programme. Each session included a weigh-in and provision of nutrition plans. This physical fitness Programme was complimented by workshops on the following topics:

- Sexual violence
- ‘Life after COVID’- providing an opportunity for the men to share their experiences of lockdown, both positive and negative.
- Exploration of ways in which Traveller men can support their partners with breast feeding.
- Development of cancer awareness.

Rivermount Boys FC delivered a pilot, 8-week fitness course with students from St Malachy’s and St Oliver Plunkett’s primary schools (both urban band 1 DEIS primary schools). This programme consisted of weekly fitness sessions in a local sports hall over an eight-week period. This fitness component was accompanied by educational inputs on healthy eating plans. Participants were also provided with daily exercise routines which they could do in their classrooms. This programme was open to all children in these schools i.e., children aged up to 12 years. Both schools have pupils from a range of backgrounds, including the Travelling community, new communities, and disadvantaged communities. This inclusive programme encouraged the pupils of both schools to build new friendships through teamwork and play.

Rivermount Boy’s FC programme was a pilot which was well received by students and teachers alike, with feedback gained from both groups at the interim visit proving this. Rivermount Boys FC committee have been very appreciative of the SICAP supports received in 2021 and intend to scale-up this programme to include two more DEIS schools in 2022, subject to funding. A key outcome from this pilot is that it is a very cost-effective programme at a rate per pupil of €2 a week.

In addition to the applications already detailed, DNP awarded financial supports to two LCGS to assist with building and refurbishment costs. These allocations were made possible due to approval of carry-over from 2020 funding. Awards are assigned under a ‘Special Projects’ category in this action.

Ten thousand euros was awarded to Finglas West Family Resource Centre as a contribution to building costs. Finglas West Family Resource Centre is an interagency partnership led by Barnardos. Finglas West is a disadvantaged area as evidenced by a number of indicators including low levels of education, high levels of unemployment and a high proportion of lone parent households. This family resource centre will be purpose built and will provide a range of supports for vulnerable children and families.

Five thousand euros was awarded to Finglas Youth Services (Crosscare) as a contribution towards refurbishment costs for a youth café based in Finglas village. This initiative will address anti-social behaviour and engage with young people who are at risk of becoming involved in crime in the area or already have become involved in crime. The café will provide a safe space for young people to come and be supported or signposted to appropriate services. Staff will engage young people in a youth work process and support them to reach their full potential. Cooking programs, counselling services, and afterschool clubs will be offered when Covid restrictions are lifted. Finglas Youth Services will collaborate with other agencies in the community to deliver services in partnership. These agencies will include FAST, Sankalpa, DCC, Finglas Cabra Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force and DNP.

DNP's participation on local networks continued to provide invaluable information on emerging and priority need. As a result of participation on the Ballymun Network for Assisting Children and Young People, DNP became aware of food poverty as an ongoing need. DNP supported the Aisling Project an afterschool's project located in Ballymun by providing a contribution of €2,000 towards food supplies for vulnerable children and families. The Aisling Project has ongoing relationships of trust developed over time with vulnerable children and families in Ballymun and are best placed to assess need in relation to food poverty. Similarly, DNP awarded €7,000 to 'Feed Our Homeless' to address food poverty in Finglas and Cabra. Feed Our Homeless have significant expertise in assessment of need in relation to food poverty and in food distribution and were therefore an appropriate collaborative partner for DNP in terms of addressing food poverty.

1.04 Social Enterprise

In 2021 a number of Social Enterprises were supported in terms of promotion, business planning, and governance. These included, Little Fitness, a social enterprise focussed on addressing social exclusion in young people experiencing homelessness through dance classes, Dyspraxia Ireland (T/A Working Well) which aims to set up a business which provides its client base with quality, supportive employment which pays a living wage and the Sustainable School of Life which provides workshops on sustainable approaches to life.

Four mentor referrals were made to the end of 2021. Details are as follows:

Eco mattress- for assistance with governance to address a need for succession planning and board membership.

Dyspraxia Ireland on how to use Story Telling to market a new social enterprise idea called 'Working Well'. Working Well aims to set up a high standard car valet service in Dublin City centre which will provide work opportunities for people with Dyspraxia. 'Working Well' will ensure that employees earn a living wage while also receiving coaching to increase their chances of gaining employment in the labour market.

Crosscare to explore the feasibility of operating An Equine Care social enterprise in a disused stable in Finglas South.

Finglas Childcare to create a video to promote their service to both new customers and to potential staff.

To the end of year, a total of twelve social enterprises were supported under this action. These were:

Eco Mattress, Mellow Spring Childcare, The Grow Dome, Rediscovery Fashion, Santry Community Resource Centre, Little Fitness, City Farm Ballymun, Community Care and Repair, Finglas Childcare, Working Well, Innovate Dublin and the Sustainable School of Life.

DNP collaborated with five other Local Development Companies in delivering a series of mentoring and training events for social enterprises in Dublin city. The members of this consortium are Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership, Northside Partnership, South Dublin City Partnership, Empower, Inner City Enterprise and the Dublin Northwest Partnership. The Social Enterprise Communities of Practice (SE COP) programme started in quarter four of 2019 and concluded in quarter one of 2021. Following the conclusion of this pilot programme an assessment of the success of the work of this consortium was conducted, which resulted in the following outcomes:

- Sixty-three Social Enterprises benefited from one-to-one mentorship as part of this programme.
- Some of these organisations had been formed as recently as 2020, while others have operated as Social Enterprises, albeit under a different title, for thirty years or more.
- A total of 1,113 hours of mentorship was delivered to the group at large.
- On average, participating Social Enterprises had the opportunity to work with 2.9 mentors.

Social Enterprises in Dublin Northwest benefited from a range of mentoring supports through the SECOP pilot with the Rediscovery Centre’s fashion business gaining mentoring in sales and marketing and Finglas Childcare getting help with digital marketing and website design. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions on non-essential services, demand for mentoring in e-commerce was high with a request from Eco mattress for mentoring in e-tendering which was an area that this business would not have considered pre-pandemic.

Following a funding call from Irish Local Development Network (ILDN) for further funding, and based on the success of the pilot programme, the SE COP consortium applied to the ILDN to run a second programme of mentor and training supports which was approved and will fund mentoring and training supports in quarter four 2021 and quarter one of 2022. Fingal Leader Partnership approached the consortium to join, bringing the total membership to seven. To date, sixty-three social enterprises have registered for the programme, with twenty-six registering for training workshops which will be delivered by the Entrepreneurs Academy. In quarter four of 2021 the following workshops were offered to SECOP registrants:

November

- 2 November (9:30-12:30) - Strategic Action Plan – LEAN Model
- 3 November (9:30-12:30) - Financial Growth Strategy
- 4 November (9:30-12:30) - Digital Marketing Strategy – Beginners
- 9 November (9:30-12:30) - Digital Marketing Strategy – Established
- 11 November (9:30-12:30) - Strategy for Growth
- 15 November (2-5 pm) - CEO Facilitated Peer Learning
- 16 November (2-5 pm) - Board Members Facilitated Peer Learning
- 17 November (2-5 pm) - Marketing Team Facilitated Peer Learning
- 18 November (2-5 pm) - Fundraising Team Facilitated Peer Learning
- 23 November (9:30-12:30) - Ideation & Diversification
- 25 November (9:30-12:30) - Brand: Conveying Your Story

- 30 November (9:30-12:30) - Leading through Innovation

December

- 2 December (9:30-12:30) - Stakeholder Management
- 7 December (9:30-12:30) - Building Your Tribe
- 9 December (9:30-12:30) - Tapping into Corporate Social Responsibility

In 2021, 28 Local Community Groups received supports under this action in capacity building. Supports were delivered via phone or video call and by delivery of 2 Grant Writing workshops. These LCGs were:

Focus Ireland, Finglas Childcare, St. Vincent's Basketball Club, St. Helena's Family Resource Centre, Rivermount Boys F.C, The Meeting Place Club, Sports Across Ireland, Scouting Ireland, The National Learning Network, St. Canice's Indoor Bowls Club, Ballymun Tidy Towns, Finglas Maypole Festival, Finglas West FRC, Finglas Youth Resource Centre, Tolka Rovers Basketball club, Headway Ireland, Global Action Project, Ballymun Regional Youth Resource Centre, Liam Mellows Memorial Committee, Cabra for Youth, Greenview Allotments, Glasnevin Village Resident's Association, Finglas Addiction Support Team, Finglas Youth Services, The Deaf Village, Valley Park United, Setanta Strings, ChildVision.

Supports to build capacity were provided through assistance with applications for the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme, Dublin Northwest Partnership Community Grant, and the Ireland Fund.

Following an extension from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) due the disruption caused by COVID-19, the DRCD Capital Grant 19 was extended into 2021. This extension gave our two remaining social enterprises time to draw down their grants. At the end of year just one grantee had yet to draw down their grant, but this is expected to happen in quarter 1 2022.

Extensive work was conducted in 2021 with three youth services, namely: Cabra for Youth, Finglas Youth Resource Centre, and Finglas Youth Services in developing a weeklong eco-business competition which was to be held during the Halloween school break. A syllabus was developed and mentors with expertise in the following areas of sustainable life skills, videography, business mentoring and drama were contracted to deliver the different modules which focussed on encouraging the young people to come up with business solutions to recyclables going to landfill. The intended timeline for these modules was as follows:

Day 1: A workshop on the importance of diverting waste from going to landfill and exploring recycling of household waste.

Day 2: A workshop on how recycled items can be made into products to sell.

Day 3 &4: Two workshops aimed at developing a sales pitch for their business idea with a focus on developing self confidence in the young people.

Day 5: Creation of a short video sales pitch which would act at their entry to the competition.

Day 6: A small gathering in the Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun to celebrate the young people and to announce the winning entry.

Two of the youth services were unable to engage at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances. With just one youth service still interested in getting involved, the programme was reduced to a one-day series of workshops, to be held in the Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun. 12 young people, representing 2 pods, expressed an interest in taking part but unfortunately this workshop had to be cancelled due to the key youth worker being notified that they had to self-isolate. Following a review of these events, DNP will engage with youth services early in 2022 with the intention of running a summer competition.

Two videos for social enterprises were supported in 2021. The first was for the Community Care and Repair service with the second being requested by Finglas Childcare. While the first video was completed at the end of Quarter 3, the second was delayed and will now be completed in January 2022.

1.04A Community Care and Repair

The Community Care and Repair team is comprised of Tús and Community Employment (CE participants). This team provide a range of services which enhance the quality of life for older and vulnerable people living in disadvantaged communities in Dublin North-West. Services include garden maintenance, grass cutting, home repairs, painting/decorating and installation of grab and stair rails. DNP also administers the Senior Alert Scheme (SAS) on behalf of Pobal. The DNP Community Care and Repair Service also provide repair, maintenance, and painting/decorating services to community groups. The service provides quality work placements for Tús and CE participants and enhances employability of these participants.

As a result of COVID-19 restrictions it was not possible to fully resume the service until the second half of 2021. However, throughout the year the Community Care and Repair Manager and a small number of participants provided an emergency service to ensure safety in homes and to facilitate timely discharge from hospital. This work consisted mainly of installation of stair and grab rails. In the first half of 2021 the Community Care and Repair Manager played a key role in organising and in delivering food supplies for Christ the King School and Finglas School Completion Programme. Nine hundred and twenty school lunch packs were delivered and seventy-two food hampers. In addition, three hundred and ninety-five educational resource packs were delivered. These deliveries were particularly important for vulnerable children and families, providing a point of contact as well as practical support. As a result of participation on various networks, DNP was very aware of the presence of food poverty and the added pressure placed on families as a result of the absence of school meal provision and lack of access to after-school's services which provided food (see 1.03). Delivery of these school meals/hampers was important in helping to alleviate some of the additional demand placed on families in these challenging circumstances. DNP continued to process applications for the Senior Alert Scheme with one hundred and forty-three applications approved in 2021.

Recruitment of Tús and CE participants continued to be challenging in 2021. At end of year the team had eight members, two on Tús and six on CE. Intensive efforts will be made to enlarge the team in 2022. Despite these constraints two hundred and seventy grass cuts were completed in the second half of the year and two hundred- and seventy-six hours work was completed on various maintenance, repair and painting/decorating tasks for individual householders and community groups.

As a result of restrictions and the need to suspend significant aspects of the service, it was possible to devote some time to development of promotional material and to conduct assessments for future work which is scheduled for the first quarter of 2022.

As the Community Care and Repair Service is envisaged as a social enterprise and in the context of challenges to revenue generation in 2020 and 2021, an in-depth review of the service will be conducted in the first half of 2022 with a focus on financial viability going forward. There will be an emphasis on identifying priority areas for work, particularly those which are of an emergency nature and are essential for safety in the homes of vulnerable people.

GOAL 2

2.01 Supporting Educational Success in School Age Children

In 2021, DNP worked with partners, members of the DNP Regional Education Network (REN) in our three clusters Ballymun, Finglas and Cabra to deliver a wide range of programmes to address the prioritised needs of children in the catchment. The REN's members are professionals working locally with children, e.g., SCP coordinators, school Principals and HSCLs. Each cluster met to discuss the priorities in each area and submit applications to DNP for agreed programmes. In Ballymun, programmes were similar to previous years with a focus on holiday provision, academic supports and the universal attendance programme. In Finglas there was a focus on therapeutic supports as well as breakfast and homework clubs, and attendance. Universal programmes: i.e., attendance, restorative practice, trauma informed approaches have not been included on IRIS stats to avoid inflation of numbers supported. The creativity and flexibility of DNP's partners was apparent again this year and thanks to the flexibility of the SICAP programme itself, valuable work with school age children was completed. A new focus on outdoor spaces and horticulture/gardening was a new emerging trend as a way to reach some young people.

DNP Regional Education Network meetings took place on 2nd Feb, 11th May and 5th Oct. All took place on Zoom in 2021, which was necessary but less than ideal and hampered the usual networking and connections that have happened in the meetings in the past. Hopefully in person meetings will resume in 2022.

The training need that emerged from members of the Regional Education Network (REN) in 2021 was LGBTI+ training. Interestingly, it emerged as a need within the REN independently of another network in Finglas (Finglas Youth Resource Centre and Better Finglas) forming to deliver LGBTI+ Community Awareness Training, so both networks attended training by BeLongTo on November 3rd and also benefitted from a follow up webinar and a celebration event held in December.

The focus of the work of this action takes place in disadvantaged communities in DEIS schools, the Covid 19 pandemic has taken its toll arguably disproportionately more harshly on these children than on the national population. The feedback from DNP's partners is that new needs are arising for these children, mental health (anxiety in particular), food poverty and fatigue, exhaustion and burnout for the professionals working with them with continually demanding and ever-changing parameters. In response to this concern DNP were interested to introduce some universal measures to address the impact that Covid 19 has had on the mental health of young people in the catchment. DNP began to offer supports for schools and community organisations working with children and families in the areas of restorative practice and trauma informed approaches in 2021 and will continue to expand the reach of these ways of working in 2022. Thus far two schools and the Trauma Informed Learning Network (focused on supporting professionals working with children and steered by Better Finglas ABC Programme) have availed of support with staff training. Two more schools are planned for early 2022. These additional supports were funded by the 2020 budget carryover.

A DNP staff member is an active member of the Trauma Informed Network which supports local professionals to develop a trauma informed approach for service delivery. A Train the Trainer for Trauma Informed approaches was recently completed by DNP staff with the aim of introducing the approach to DNP, making it a trauma aware organisation alongside other community focused organisations in the catchment.

DNP are active members of both Finglas and Cabra Child and Family Networks which are Tusla led.

DNP also provide admin support to Ballymun Principals Network which enables a greater understanding of the challenges of working with children in Ballymun in particular.

2.02 Pre-Development and Promoting Wellbeing

COVID-19 has continued to impact on the delivery of programmes under this action and has continued to pose challenges in our communities. DNP strived to address the challenges facing these clients through the provision of low-threshold, quality of life enhancement programs. It is hoped that by participating in wellbeing activities, it will assist this vulnerable group manage their complex personal and domestic environments. These needs were exacerbated with the pandemic, so budget underspends from other Goal 2 actions were diverted to provide additional wellness supports. In 2021 over 250 participants participated in our individual programmes and over 500 participated in our non-caseload programmes and workshops.

The Mental Wellness Through Physical Exercise continued to be very popular in 2021 with a rolling intake of participants. Each course comprises of 4-week bootcamp style fitness sessions and is tailored to meet the needs of the individual's health and physical strength. In line with Government restrictions, classes were held both indoors and outdoors. Dublin City Council provided a Park Permit free of charge for our outdoor classes and Finglas Youth Resource Centre provided their large sports hall free of charge for our winter classes.

Two meditation workshops, a decluttering workshop and a garden workshop were run via Zoom. In person arts and craft workshops and planting workshops targeting older people who had been

isolating throughout the year were held at a large GAA venue to keep participants safe. Over 40 people attended.

DNP coordinated the delivery of HFME (Healthy Food Made Easy) courses across the catchment in 2021. Participants on the HFME courses want to do more sessions and have really felt the connection, support, and personal contact on delivery of ingredients throughout the pandemic. Most have changed their eating habits and find the course changes their lifestyle and improves relationships within the family as they are cooking meals from scratch together and buying fewer takeaway foods. In December 2021, DNP secured funding from the HSE for a Coordinator to expand the delivery of this successful programme. A Social Prescriber Link Worker will also be funded by the HSE in 2022 and will link socially isolated people with DNP wellness initiatives.

Safefood Ireland continued to fund DNP to run courses designed to encourage young families improve their nutrition, encourage healthier eating habits, and avoid food waste. Two small courses were run with 26 families participating and also two community workshops in which over 150 families participated as part of the Finglas Family Fun Healthy Eating workshops. DNP have also secured funding from the HSE to run community smoking cessation courses in 2022.

Fáilte Isteach is a community project involving predominantly older volunteers welcoming migrants through conversational English classes. They run twice weekly but due to COVID were run via Zoom. The library facility used for classes was not available to run person to person classes due to Covid restrictions. As this methodology does not suit everyone, when restrictions are lifted traditional face to face delivery will resume.

A total of ten clients availed of counselling this year so far, eight new and two who continued their counselling from 2020. Of these clients, three engaged in the full term of their sessions. Overall, client attendance has been low and very hit and miss. Addiction proved to be a big factor in the low attendance in 2021. Where addiction proved to be the difficulty for these clients in committing to their online counselling, more appropriate supports were recommended in each case.

2.03 Supporting Access to Education

In line with the belief that education can change lives in a positive way, Dublin Northwest Partnership (DNP) continues to support local students with practical and financial supports for full time students that live in the catchment. Practical advice and signposting for everyone in the community is offered. The DNP Education Access Fund (EAF) provides travel supports to students with student Leap Card top ups or resource supports for practical items that enable students to participate fully in their studies. In 2021, DNP supported 213 students. This includes 182 students for the 21/22 academic year. Costs for this action were obviously affected by campus closures early in the year, resulting in a budget underspend. DNP continue to be in no doubt about the effectiveness of the support offered. In this short video (from 2020) the voices of local students can be heard: [DNP: Education Access Fund - YouTube](#) this was used for promotion in 2021. This captures the wrap around nature of DNP services, i.e., people who started in guidance progressing to college, being supported while in college and then returning to DNP for support with career development.

DNP participated in a College Awareness event for parents on Zoom on January 19th. This was a collaboration with DCU Access, DCU in the Community and Northside Partnership. It was very successful and well attended, the first one was oversubscribed. Another well attended talk happened on January 25th, and again later in the year in person at a Setanta GAA venue on 2nd November.

On January 14th, DNP with NCI presented to childcare workers (through Better Finglas (ABC Programme) Early Years Network) the Early Childhood Education Degree which is SUSI eligible at NCI. This year the event was on Zoom and while there were smaller numbers in attendance, it was a very engaged group. Better Finglas informed DNP that there were 10 applicants from one childcare facility alone in 2021.

In collaboration with and with funding from the HEA through DCU Centre for Educational Disadvantage, DNP have established a Lifelong Learning Hub for the promotion of teaching as a career, in Finglas. Potential teachers (both direct progression and mature) are offered support with Irish language classes and application processes through a dedicated coordinator.

The opportunity to provide additional supports to potential third level students arose when DNP was contacted by the Access Department in DCU. DNP have been building and strengthening links with DCU Access. This enabled DNP to offer two LC students (with third level aspirations) in each of our DEIS schools, academic supports with jumpAgrade for the entire school year, i.e., autumn 2021 to summer 2022. Working closely with DCU's Access department has enabled collaboration on supports to schools in the catchment, ensuring that supports are not duplicated. Working in this way makes both of us stronger, using the connection to share links and contacts within specific schools.

DNP also made a submission to the SUSI review in 2021, highlighting the experience of students in our communities. Attendance at PATH seminars increased DNP's collaboration and visibility, as did participation in a 1916 Bursary focus group as a community partner of DCU.

DNP has also deepened relationships with career guidance professionals working in local schools in 2021. Additional activities: academic supports (jumpAgrade), lifelong learning hub (for potential teachers) as well as previous activities around apprenticeships, promotion of DNP services (particularly EAF and Guidance service), college awareness week talks, talks about finances for college, have been a factor in deepening these relationships.

DNP's Apprenticeship programme ran in the spring of 2021, as a Covid friendly alternative to the Apprenticeship Fair held in previous years. Online talks were offered on Zoom in a series, with different employers offering advice on a range of apprenticeships. Interested people within the catchment could sign up to avail to the DNP Apprenticeship Jobs Club, where they were supported to find an apprenticeship or a course that would lead to one e.g., the TU Dublin Access to Apprenticeship Programme. Initially, interest in the Apprenticeship programme was high but waned as the weeks progressed, DNP have spoken to stakeholders and learnings will be incorporated into plans for supporting local people into apprenticeships in 2022.

2021 has been a particularly strong year for collaborations with fruitful relationships developing and leveraging SICAP supports enabling greater impact in Dublin Northwest.

2.04 Supporting Access to Employment

The impact of COVID 19, and subsequent restrictions had a significant impact on direct programme activity for this action resulting in an underspend of budget allocation for this action. The ability to provide community outreach on a face-to-face basis (which has traditionally been the chief means to engage with prospective participants) was curtailed, and additionally there was hesitancy to engage in online learning for those with the most basic digital skills. The combination of poor digital skills, lack of access to digital devices and connection to Broadband/ Wi-Fi is a barrier for many in engaging in the adult and community sector. Even as restrictions ease there has been a significant shift to online learning, undoubtedly leaving many isolated and behind.

The Try It Out programme is a response to some of these concerns. Participants identified by DNP's integrated LES (Local Employment Service) were supported by SICAP staff, with basic digital skills to develop their understanding and confidence in getting online. Getting online provided a platform for this group to engage and meet each other before using these new digital skills to build connections combating isolation. This initiative is also partly funded through the Ireland Fund. This interview on Dublin City FM, Community Chats gives a flavour of the Try It Out Programme: <https://www.mixcloud.com/1032DublinCityFM/community-chats-15th-january-2022/>

While being aware of digital barriers, during 2021 DNP also delivered programmes online for those who had the confidence and tools to participate, the STEPS programme was delivered online to the participants in the Gateway Project, Dublin 7 (The Gateway Project is an initiative aimed at providing vocational training in a supportive environment to vulnerable women), and also to a group of learners who had recently completed adult basic education programmes within the CDETB. The programme aims to support learners in identifying further education, training, and employment goals, with the STEPS programme delivered to support with goal identification.

DNP's Apprenticeship Programme ran in the Spring of 2021 with a series of themed talks. These were aimed at explaining the wide offerings in the apprenticeship sector with both employers and education providers in attendance and available for a question and answers session. Signed up participants received individual support in securing an apprenticeship.

DNP's Education Practitioners Network meeting took place on 15th Apr, this local forum was useful for sharing ideas as well as publicising new programmes and plans, it was attended by adult and community education providers.

DNP Education team delivered two sessions of Zoom and MS Teams training in the Spring of 2021 for local community organisation staff who needed support to learn skills to work online with people in the community.

The Ready 4 Work Programme took place in 2021, it was developed in collaboration with the LES who identified a cohort of long-term jobseekers distanced from the labour market. The programme provided certification and work placements as well as developing the softer skills necessary for securing work.

2.05 Enterprise & Economic Development

In the period January to December 2021, 186 new clients (112 males and 74 females) registered with the service and were provided with information and advice on self-employment. In the same period 22 Group Information Workshops were held providing information on self-employment and were attended by 104 clients.

Between January and December, 19 Introduction to Business Courses were held and were attended by 97 clients. All of these courses were delivered remotely via Zoom. In addition, 20 Introduction to Book-keeping Courses were held and attended by 96 clients, these were also delivered remotely.

One to one Tax Return mentoring sessions via Zoom and phone were made available to assist clients who were more than 12 months in business to complete their tax returns and these sessions were availed of by 32 clients.

Due to COVID restrictions it has not been possible to run our evening “Start Your Own Business” course during 2021. In previous years this course was a cornerstone of our enterprise support service and will resume again as soon as COVID restrictions allow.

In the period January to December, 58 clients progressed into self-employment, 39 males and 19 females. All these clients availed of the BTWEA (Back to Work Enterprise Allowance) or STEA (Short Term Enterprise Allowance) schemes. Due to COVID restrictions a large number of clients have been forced to put their business plans on hold.

During the year many Zoom meetings took place between our Enterprise Officer and staff in the local Intreo offices to ensure that clients continued to receive a comprehensive service despite the fact that in person meetings were not possible. Our business mentors continued to meet clients, but all meetings were over Zoom.

2.06 Employer Engagement

In 2021, DNP’s Employer Engagement Officer (EEO) engaged with employers regarding training needs, recruitment, and programme and event participation throughout the year with a continuation of promoting awareness of current DNP programmes and initiatives. The EEO provided consistent vocational training with DNP’s cohort of job ready clients, with a view to securing placements or sustainable employment. Throughout the year 104 clients were assisted (34 more than target) either through one-to-one sessions or group format. DNP clients were met with on a one-to-one basis online or by phone to understand their needs and requirements, many of those having attended the DNP Jobs Club online workshops and with backgrounds across multiple sectors including Administration, Security, Health and Social Care, Retail, Warehousing and Distribution, Hospitality, Engineering, and IT. The training session material included job searching strategies, application preparation and interview skills. As part of this process, the EEO engaged with employers recruiting on a small and large scale such as IKEA and Sodexo, and local businesses such as DX Ireland, Hyland Shipping,

Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Evans Educational, Northside Upholstery, Evolution Fasteners and Burgess Galvin. However, despite positions becoming available, the EEO consistently found it difficult to put forward candidates due to insufficient numbers identifying as available, interested, and suitable, regarding those which could avail of the PUP payment.

Throughout the year the EEO facilitated and hosted client and employer focused events and programmes such as the 'Online Marketing event' through Zoom which was targeted at local employers who wanted to avail of training on how to market their business online. 17 businesses registered and contributors included We Do Media, Thady Kavanagh Productions, and Go2Web. The event also provided information on financial supports for employers, as this was highlighted as significant through the 2020 Employer Survey conducted, with contributions from the Employer Relations team in the Department of Social Protection. The EEO was also part of the team for the Apprenticeship preparation programme which was spread over five weeks and was targeted at secondary school students. The EEO recruited the following employers to contribute to 1-hour information sessions- Dublin Aerospace, FIT, Freight Transport Association, ESB Networks, SIMI, BT, Teagasc and Cummins Engineering. In the second half of the year the EEO co-ordinated the Ready 4 Work Programme, intended for long-term jobseekers and those distanced from the labour market to prepare for and secure employment in the warehouse, logistics and transport sectors, with certified training and work placements built in. In addition to the contributions made to the content of the programme from Rhenus Chemical Logistics and Primeline Group, others such as Bookhaven, Choice Stores, DPD Ireland, IKEA, DX Ireland and Bargaintown were engaged with regarding work placements, with three programme participants securing full time roles. The EEO also commenced work on reaching out to employers to interview and establish insights for DNP's bank of Cloud resources to be used by clients. The EEO also attended and connected with employers at the Northside Apprenticeship Fair and the Tech Careers Expo, which was conducted online.