

News Release Issued by the Childhood Development Initiative
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Groups launch manual on improving Community Safety

The Childhood Development Initiative (CDI), South Dublin County Council and the Community Safety Initiative Committee joined their expertise to launch a detailed manual on how to improve community safety.

The manual is based on their shared experience of piloting four community safety projects in Tallaght to reduce anti-social behaviour, bullying and people's sense of danger, particularly families and children.

The pilots were part of CDI's Community Safety Initiative (CSI) which has been supported by South Dublin County Council.

CDI Chief Executive Officer Marian Quinn said that documenting the learnings from the CSI programme would provide a guide to other communities in the country on how to develop and deliver community based responses to improve safety.

"We are delighted with this project and it is very gratifying to hear feedback from parents in which they said their estates were 'transformed' and they were now 'happy for the children to be growing up there'.

The incoming Chair of the South Dublin County Development Board Councillor Marie Corr commended the joined up approach of the agencies and residents working together: "This programme has been a success because CDI, the Council and the Gardaí have worked well together and because residents have been fully behind it."

She said that work will continue on some of the pilot sites in Tallaght over the coming months and looked forward to similar projects being undertaken in new neighbourhoods. "It is important that we keep the local projects going in some areas where they are needed and that we make other communities aware of what we have learnt in Tallaght."

To deliver a CSI programme the manual recommends working in small areas of approximately 100 households and highlights the following elements:

- Having the right people at the decision-making table
- Inter-agency commitment
- Quick wins for the community
- A committed Coordinator for at least 1 year
- Short-term sustained interventions with families
- Facilitating young people involved in anti-social behaviour to be included in existing services that can provide ongoing support
- Anchoring young people over the summer.

The Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) works in the community in Tallaght West and since 2007 more than 2,000 children in Tallaght West have participated in CDI programmes.

CDI is part of a major early years research and evaluation project taking place across Tallaght West, Ballymun and Darndale to improve outcomes for children. It is co-funded by Atlantic Philanthropies and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Further Information

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