



## ***CDI Annual Report 2017:***

### ***Chairperson's Foreword:***



#### **Foreword**

I am very pleased to present CDI's 2017 Annual Report and to take this opportunity to acknowledge the fantastic work, innovation and dynamism of the organisation, team and all the services and families with whom we work.

2017 was characterised by engagement with a range of professionals and disciplines; high quality delivery of evidence-informed services to hundreds of children and their families; and the collection and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data across the full range of our interventions.

Inevitably, there were challenges experienced during the year. Staff turnover is always difficult, and CDI saw significant changes in personnel in this period; funding uncertainties have also been a concern, and one which the Board has given significant attention to. There were a number of key, interlinked developments during 2017 that required considerable time and energy from both the team and the Board. These included undertaking a feasibility study and subsequent development of a business model aimed at diversifying our financial sources; establishing a panel of Associate Quality Specialists to support and supplement the staff team in delivering services; training and quality assurance; and managing the operational demands of a diverse and busy organisation whilst also giving sufficient attention to strategic planning and review.

All concerned embraced these developments with their usual enthusiasm and met challenges with pragmatism, creativity and a determination to find an appropriate solution. And all with the good humour that underpins all CDI processes'.

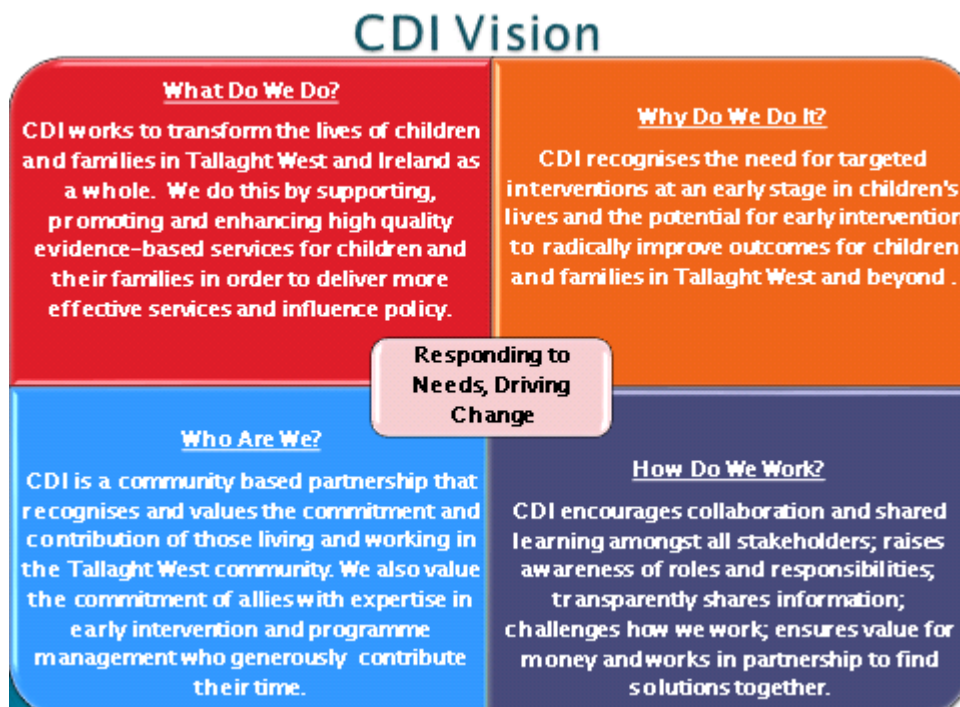
As always, I am extremely proud to be a part of the Childhood Development Initiative, and I would like to acknowledge the exceptional diligence, care and conscientiousness of my Board colleagues, all of whom have brought wonderful skills and expertise to our deliberations. Thanks also to our staff team for their continued hard work, professionalism and capacity for change! And of course, deep gratitude to all those with

whom we worked during 2017: specialist consultants and trainers; members of our governance structures; dozens of front-line practitioners and service managers; evaluators and researchers; policy makers and funders; and of course, the children and families who utilised our services, shared their experiences and helped us to stay focused and relevant.

Dr Suzanne Guerin,  
Chair,  
CDI Board of Management

**CDI Vision:**

Please see below CDI’s vision statement :-



**Governance:**

CDI was one of the first organisations to sign up to the Governance Code and Standards which was reviewed and signed off again by the Board during 2017.

The Board of CDI is chaired by Dr. Suzanne Guerin. In 2017 there were ten meetings of the Board with an average 11 Board members present. The CDI Board members are all extremely experienced, knowledgeable and bring valuable contributions to the work of CDI. For more detailed information on our board members and for board functions see <http://www.twcdi.ie/what-we-offer/board/>



*CDI Board of Management, 2018*

There are established and efficient governance and sub committee structures supporting CDIs compliance with regulations and the Charities Governance Code. For more information on CDI Governance see <http://www.twcdi.ie/about-us/governance-structure/>.

We were delighted to welcome a new member to the Board in 2017: Jim Dolan. Jim Dolan has a background in HR and is an experienced and qualified Human Resources professional with a range of experience in the private and semi-state sectors, Jim currently works in RTE Networks as Human Resources Manager. CDI looks forward to working with Jim and is appreciative of the considerable expertise he brings with him.

The CDI team consists of 15 staff with a range of backgrounds and disciplines; all are hard working, professional and work collaboratively to achieve the organisational goals. In 2017 we expressed fond farewells to Anne Marie Reid who was our Doodle Den Quality Specialist, Laura Sutcliffe who was our Administrator for CDI and Anna Lamprecht who was our Speech and Language Therapist. We also welcomed Paddy O’Feich our Research Officer who is working on finalising a number of reports; Grainne Davitt our Ante Natal to Three Initiative Co-ordinator and also Elaine Fagan, our Parenting Specialist. For a full list of the CDI team see <http://www.twcdi.ie/what-we-offer/the-team/>

Towards the end of 2017, we set up an Associate Quality Specialist panel comprising of professionals from a range of sectors and with considerable expertise who will enable us to respond more quickly to requests for support. For a full list of the Associates please see <http://www.twcdi.ie/about-us/meet-the-board/quality-specialist-panel/>

### ***CDI Interventions 2017:***

#### **Antenatal to Three Initiative:**

The Inter-Agency Steering Group of the Antenatal to Three Initiative (ATTI) continued to drive and support the implementation of ATTI, meeting seven times during the year. The final Evaluation Report of the Antenatal to Three Initiative was published. The report outlines the importance of balancing activities (such as the learning events) with

more strategic approaches to improving service collaboration and improved access to services for children and families.

Following the report's recommendations ATTI has focussed on improving connections between the three core services relevant to parents with children in the 0-3 age cohort (the Public Health Nurses, GPs, and local maternity hospitals). ATTI brought staff from these three health pillars together to look at what makes an effective team and identify actions that could improve communication across the services. Responses arising from these discussions will be progressed in 2018.

A seminar on nutritional health for the 0-3 age group was provided for all disciplines working with pregnant mothers, infants and young children in October 2017. Speakers from the HSE, Tallaght Hospital and the Coombe Maternity Hospital spoke about the importance of nutrition during the early life stage and how to promote healthy eating habits.

The Tallaght Infant Mental Health Network was established in March 2017 with four facilitators taking the lead and administrative support provided by CDI. The Network meets every month with a wide range of disciplines participating, to reflect on how to apply the principles of Infant Mental Health to working with parents and young children.

For more information on ATTI please see <https://www.twcdi.ie/what-we-offer/ante-natal-to-three-initiative-atti/>

For the Final ATTI Evaluation Report please see <https://www.twcdi.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CDI-Connections-Coordination-Report-web.pdf>

### **Parental Support in Early Years**

There are nine Parent Carer Facilitators (PCFs) employed in nine community Early Years Services in Tallaght West. The PCFs work with parents to identify needs and offer support in a wide range of ways including coffee mornings, parent and toddler groups, family days, support with school transitions, home visits, personal development courses and one to one supports to parents focusing on a variety of issues. In addition PCF's deliver education programmes such as Parents Plus to parents both individually and in groups with the aim being to increase parental capacity and confidence. Since 2008 the PCF's have worked with more than 5,500 families and over 450 families receive parental support per annum.

In 2017, 28 families received support from the PCF in their own homes with a total of 46 visits completed. Research has shown that the support offered by PCF's reduces parental stress, improves relationships between parents and their children and encourages growth in the learning environment at home.

PCF's recognise that the needs of families are consistently changing and that they need to continuously develop their skills in order to offer parents the highest level of service. Examples of continuous professional development activities undertaken by PCF's in 2017 include: Communities of Practice meetings; training in a wide range of areas including child protection, diversity, equality and inclusion, understanding autism and much more.

### **Chit Chat Speech and Language Therapy Service:**

The SLT service offers therapeutic support to children, and also works with parents, teachers and early year's practitioners to maximise their development. In 2017, Chit Chat was delivered in Tallaght West by two CDI Speech and Language Therapists, with a vacant maternity leave post from January to May 2017. There were 91 children seen for direct intervention and in total 477 therapy sessions were attended. Fifteen coffee mornings took place this year which were attended by 77 parents.

We continued to work closely with teachers to support speech and language development in the classroom. Language Land, an in-class programme aimed at improving the speech and language skills of children in Early Years and Primary Education was rolled out by Early Years staff and primary school teachers. Eight early years services and two primary schools took part in the Language Land booster training, involving 33 Early Years staff and nine primary school teachers with 400 children being reached by the programme. For more information see <http://www.twcdi.ie/what-we-offer/chit-chat/>

### **Doodle Den**

During 2017, the full Doodle Den service was delivered in 16 schools (Tallaght x 8, Dublin 7 x 4, Dublin 10 x 4), and the same number commenced delivery again in the new academic year commencing September 2017. The proportion of "returning" services is indicative of the commitment to, and trust in Doodle Den.

The Quality Specialist with responsibility for our literacy interventions left during 2017, and we extended our arrangements with a local Doodle Den facilitator and trainer, Jonathan Doyle, to provide quality assurance supports in Tallaght West. Establishing these supports beyond the local community has proved more difficult, although our Associate Quality Specialist panel does now include some literacy experts, which we hope will address this gap in the year ahead.

The Doodle Den manual was revised in 2017, and will be printed and disseminated in early 2018. Ongoing issues remain in relation to availability of some programme resources, but groups are creative about how they manage this.

Our dedicated website [doodleden.ie](http://www.doodleden.ie)

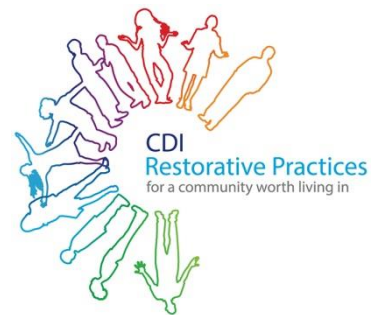
<https://www.doodleden.ie/levels/home/home.html> received 6,933 users and 11,056 sessions during 2017, and a campaign to promote the website will be implemented in 2018.

## Doodle Families

Despite some considerable difficulties in the initial roll out of Doodle Families, in terms of finding appropriate mechanisms to deliver the programme, and following an initial pilot in Limerick, a second round of evaluation and delivery was agreed. In October 2017, seven schools commenced delivery of Doodle Families, receiving training and ongoing support, and with an independent evaluation being undertaken by DCU, St Patrick's.

A second round of delivery will take place in 2018, after which the evaluation findings will be incorporated into programme materials and supports, and agree further delivery.

## Restorative Practices Programme:



Our RP Programme got off to a flying start in 2017 when our RP Training was nominated for an **Aontas STAR Award** in their “adult learning initiatives that promote wellbeing” category. [Aontas](#) is a national adult education support agency and their STAR Awards celebrate the positive contribution that adult education initiatives make to our society, our economy and our local communities. CDI were deeply honoured to be nominated for these awards.

We didn't win but it was wonderful to take part!

Our work to promote RP with policy makers and practitioners continued throughout 2017, including presentations to:

- ETB Ireland's Adult and Further Education and Training Forum;
- UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre's 8th Biennial International Conference; and
- Students of the Level Eight Certificate in Restorative Practices at IT Carlow.

In April, we were delighted to host a visit by a group of Estonian people to CDI to hear about our RP Programme and to organise for three people to pay a return visit to Estonia the following month.

May also saw us return to [Oberstown Children Detention Campus](#) where we are working to support the adoption of RP as “business as usual” on campus. Our work in 2017 included partnering with [Alternatives to Violence \(AVP\) Ireland](#), who facilitated a number of introductory AVP sessions with young people at the Campus which were very well received. This is the first time that AVP has worked with young people in detention and best practice was followed by the

workshops being co-facilitated by adults and two fantastic young people from Tallaght who were trained up as facilitators over the previous eighteen months.

The work in Oberstown is being evaluated internally and we will be very interested to see the outcomes of this innovative project.

Towards the end of the year we began work with the Professional Development Service of Teachers ([PDST](#)) to build their capacity to deliver on two actions in the Department of Education and Skills' [Action Plan For Education 2017](#). These are actions aiming to train all primary and post-primary teachers in restorative practices and the PDST is the lead agency for this work. CDI is keen to support the PDST in this work as it contributes to the mainstreaming of RP training for teachers and schools, and we look forward to formalising this relationship in the year ahead.

### **RP Training:**



Our RP Training continued to develop, with a total of 415 people completing restorative practices training in 2017.

We also had two graduation events in February and November, and were delighted to graduate a total of 30 new RP Trainers.

### **Local Capacity Building Initiative:**

In the last quarter of 2017, CDI engaged Susan Kavanagh to work with us on a local RP Capacity Building Initiative. A new RP [information leaflet](#) for the area was produced to assist with our work to develop and support a group of local Tallaght-based RP Trainers and facilitators, as part of our ongoing strategy to maximise the sustainability of these evidenced approaches.

### **Restorative Practices Ireland:**

CDI continued to coordinate and resource [Restorative Practices Ireland](#) (RPI) during 2017. The report of the consultation in relation to the priorities for RPI over the coming five years was published and is available for download [here](#). RPI worked to finalise a five-year Business Plan that aims to develop the group as an independent all-Ireland national support agency for RP practitioners, trainers and organisations.



### **Family Links:**

Family Links is an Irish Prison Service (IPS) funded Initiative, coordinated through CDI. The Initiative involves two core elements: increased awareness and support amongst prison staff on the importance of prisoners maintaining good family relationships, and delivery of a bespoke parent education programme for parents in prison and their partners. This year saw the continued delivery of the Family Links Initiative in Wheatfield prison, with a further

four men and four women completing another round of the parenting programme in Wheatfield. Family Liaison Officer training was delivered with seven prison officers attending. Officers also received Front of House training from the Irish Prison Service College. Information awareness raising sessions were also held with staff in both the Midlands and Castlerea Prisons, and Local Implementation Groups (LIGs) were established in both.

Visiting facilities were renovated in Wheatfield prison to facilitate 'family friendly' visits and these commenced in December, with very good feedback. Castlerea prison has built a brand new visiting area which will open in early 2018. So, some great progress made in 2017!

Effective links in the community continued, with Tusla co-facilitating the delivery of the programme with the partners in the community, in St. Oliver's Training Centre situated beside Wheatfield Prison.

Another Network meeting was held with staff from all of the visitor's centres, which was also attended by representatives from the Irish Prison Service. As well as sharing ideas, approaches and best practice, it was agreed to get feedback from children and adults visiting prisons, through the use of a survey. This will be conducted in early 2018.

The Evaluation Report, conducted by the University of Limerick, was formally launched by the then Tánaiste and Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald in February 2017. The findings from the report were well received with the Irish Prison Services (IPS) committing to continue the roll out of Family Links. The launch received wide media coverage. The report can be found using the following link: <https://www.twcdi.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Final-Family-Links-Evaluation-Report-January-2017-1.pdf>



*Launch of Family Links Report*

### **Research Developments:**

CDI has a commitment to using research to inform our work as well as being a producer of evidence through our independent evaluations. This year we continued independent evaluations in relation to ATTI and Doodle Families. The former has been completed and is available on our website, and the latter is ongoing. For more information on these evaluations see <http://www.twcdi.ie/research-policy/evaluation-reports/>

We also published the latest in our series of community surveys, entitled 'How is our Neighbourhood?' This report is available from our website or by following this link: <https://www.twcdi.ie/research-policy/community-research/>



Finally, we began work on a housing policy paper. This initiative will draw on publicly available data relating to Tallaght West and data collected by CDI community surveys since 2004, to examine the changes that have occurred in Tallaght West in recent decades in an effort to inform social housing policy going forward. A report based on this work will be published in 2018.

## **Communications:**

CDI continued to disseminate the learning from our work in 2017 through a variety of means as detailed below.

### **News Releases:**

CDI issued four news releases in 2017. There was coverage on RTE Drivetime; Newstalk's Right Hook; Today FM; the Irish Times; the Irish Examiner; local radio across the country; online on [journal.ie](http://journal.ie); [rollercoaster.ie](http://rollercoaster.ie) and Activelink and regular profile in the local paper, the Tallaght Echo.



# Prison parenting project to be expanded to other jails

Cormac O'Keeffe

A parenting programme for parents in prison is to be expanded into other jails after the success of the project in Limerick.

An evaluation of the Family Links programme examined its impact on 15 families with 28 children, whose father was in prison.

The evaluation, conducted by academics at University of Limerick, indicated that the programme improved the fathers' understanding of their role and difficulties their partners faced.

Launching the evaluation report, Tánaiste and Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald said research indicated that improving the quality of the family relationships had an impact on repeat offending.

"If you do something to change this family relationship you can stop people going into prison," she said, adding that interrupting inter-generational crime was important.

The programme is already in Wheatfield Prison and is due to begin in the Midlands and Cork prisons.

The evaluation, conducted by Daragh Bradshaw and



The programme, which is already in Wheatfield Prison, was of benefit to imprisoned fathers.

Prof Orla Muldoon, found that the imprisoned fathers benefited.

"Fathers participating in the programme saw a number of benefits," it said. "This included improved understanding of their role as fathers and parents, improved understanding of the difficulties their partners faced managing children, and an opportunity to engage with their families in a more meaningful way."

Mothers told researchers

their situation was "very distressing" and that they found life very difficult due to the imprisonment.

Mothers said their children benefited from the programme and that their own relationship with their partner had improved.

Mr Bradshaw said that imprisonment took a "psychological toll" on mothers and that children knew their fathers' imprisonment was a "taboo subject" and that they too bore a burden.

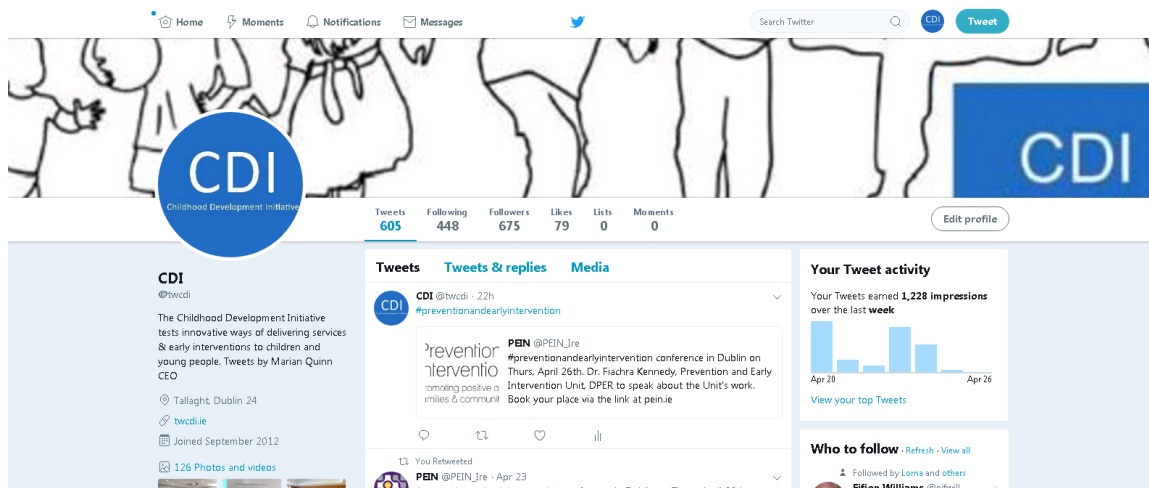
## CDI Web stats:

There were 7,000 users on the CDI website in 2017 with 11,000 sessions and 31,500 page views.

The screenshot shows the CDI website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, What We Offer, News & Events, Research & Policy, Resources, and Contact. A search bar is located to the right of the menu. Below the menu, there is a main heading: "CDI's Ante Natal to Three Initiative (ATTI) is delighted to invite you to a Speed Networking Event". The event details include the date "17th April 2018" and the time "12:00 - 1:30pm". The website also features a "Members Login" button and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. The footer contains the text "Speed Networking" and "www.cdil.ie".

### **CDI Social Media:**

CDI was active on social media throughout 2017, mainly on Twitter and had in excess of 600 followers by year end. CDI was also active at each major activity on Facebook with hundreds of page views and likes.



### **Newsletters:**

There were three newsletters developed and disseminated to a wide database in 2017. To access these go to <http://www.twcdi.ie/newsletters/>

### **CDI in Numbers:**

CDI revised its 'CDI in Numbers' infographic to tell the story of the impact and outcomes of its work up to Autumn 2017. The graphic headlined with the fact that from September 2007 to August 2017 almost 15,000 children, young people adults and staff had been supported by CDI.

### ***Interagency Collaboration:***

As always, 2017 saw CDI engaged in a considerable variety of extended structures at local, regional and national levels. We see this involvement as central to our work, as it offers us the opportunity to:

- Share our learning and experiences;
- Inform the thinking, planning and strategies of other organisations and communities;
- Keep up to date with changing policies, new developments and emerging themes.

The table below maps the various structures which CDI contributed to in 2017:

<b>National</b>	
	PEIN Planning Group
	PEIN Members Events
	PEIN Event Planning Group
	National Implementation Network
	TUSLA National Parenting Group

	National Oral Language Forum
	Implementation Network Schools Group
	Tusla Commissioning Working Group
<b>ABC Structures</b>	
	ABC Mainstreaming Working Group
	ABC Managers Forum
	ABC Ante-Natal to Three Group
	ABC In-School Programmes Forum
	ABC IMH Group
	ABC Early Years Group
<b>Local/ Regional Structures</b>	
	South Dublin CYPSC
	CYPSC Homeless Sub-Group
	CYPSC Prevention and Family Support Sub-Group
	CYPSC Research and Information Committee
	CYPSC Youth Mental Health Committee
	Tallaght Youth Mental Health (The In-Betweeners Project)

### **Financial Statements:**

The 2017 audited financial statements are available on this link  
<http://wp.twcdi.combinedmedia.com/about-us/financial-statements/>

### **Conclusion:**

We look forward to 2018 as an opportunity to utilise our newly established panel of Associate Quality Specialists; further develop our Doodle Families Programme; continue to respond to existing and emerging needs in Tallaght West, whilst also expanding our reach into other communities where our expertise and experience can offer insights and support. We welcome the challenges and opportunities ahead, and remain excited, motivated and optimistic for the future of the children and families with whom we work.

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## **The Area Based Childhood Programme 2013–2017**

