

Meeting 24: Barbican Centre, Drogheda

Friday 16th February 2024

A Plenary session, bringing together all structures of Drogheda Implementation Board, was hosted on 19th January 2024 in place of monthly meetings. This session was an opportunity for members to review action delivery to date and prioritise action delivery for 2024. At this session Board members discussed the funding and likely timeframe for operation which does not provide the necessary scope for a small grants scheme in 2024.

It was noted that the progress report to end June 2023 has been published by Department of Justice on their website and work on preparing the progress report to end December 2023 is underway.

Funding has been provided by the HSE and Department of Health for a Trauma Informed dual diagnosis project to be delivered by DCU and the Recovery College. The project will commence later this month with the establishment of a project implementation group.

Merchants Quay Ireland have been appointed to deliver the Drug Related Intimidation and Violence Engagement lead that is being piloted in this area.

The extension of An Garda Síochána (AGS) boundaries, in response to Action 2.9 of the Drogheda Report Implementation Plan was welcomed. AGS members have been actively engaging with the community in Drogheda South to make them aware of this change.

Drogheda is one of 12 towns piloting Building SAFER communities, a partnership between Alcohol Forum Ireland and the Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network. SAFER is a WHO package which aims to assist governments, national and local policy makers to reduce the harmful use of alcohol and related health, social and economic consequences. Locally, Louth CYPSC will host the steering group for the project.

Drogheda Implementation Board are a partner in the development of a new All Island Community Safety Network. The Network's first event will be held in Drogheda on the 12th March and will share learning regarding policy and best practice in relation to Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence including a presentation on the delivery and roll out of Operation Encompass in Northern Ireland.

Work is progressing well on Moneymore Townland Community Hub with the project implementation team meeting every 2-3 weeks. A tender will be issued imminently to procure architect led design team for the final development.

Louth and Meath County Councils are commencing the preparation for a joint Local Area Plan for Drogheda. A pre-draft issues paper is currently out for consultation. High levels of engagement with public consultation drop-in sessions was noted. It was agreed that Drogheda Implementation Board will prepare a submission reflective of discussions at structure meetings and content of the Drogheda Report and Implementation Plan.

Drogheda Implementation Board hosted a follow up event bringing Arts and Community organisations together (Continuing the Conversation) in January 2024 and some project concepts generated are progressing, several projects from the previous session (Commencing the Conversation) were delivered in 2023.