

Darndale

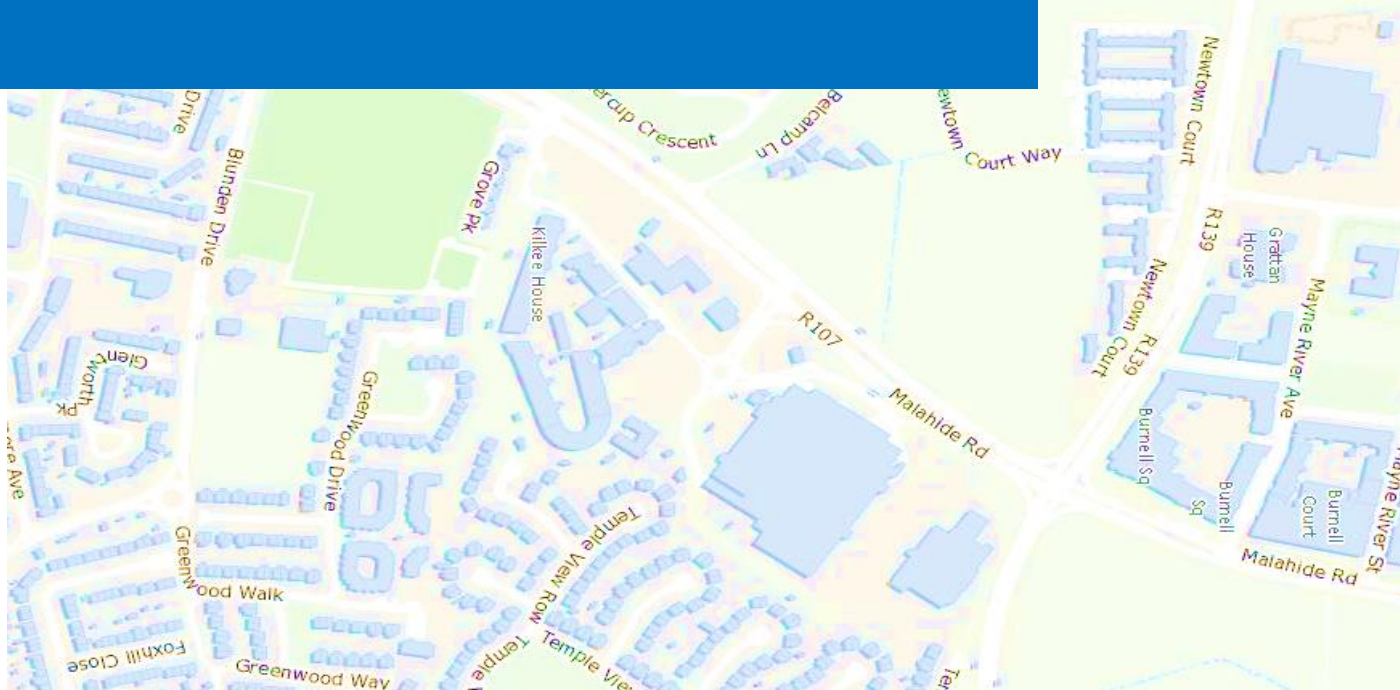
A Long View of an Enduring Challenge

A Socio-Economic & Community Plan

Report for Dublin City Council 2020

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Executive Summary

This Report was commissioned by Dublin City Council in response to the escalating levels of violence in the Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview areas of North Dublin in 2019-2020. It offers a comprehensive overview of the area's assets, services, and supports together with an interpretation of its challenges. The Terms of Reference required a socio-economic analysis and the development of a community plan. In this regard the author has engaged in a historical review of the complexities and enduring nature of the challenges in the area. He has conducted a significant public engagement with 150 individuals and groups including local politicians, former politicians, elected city councillors, statutory and non-statutory agencies, service providers, youth services, Government Departments, sporting clubs and multiple members of the community.

The author has been privileged to hear the opinions of so many interested and committed people who want to improve the area and make a difference. The issues raised were overwhelmingly drugs, gangs, community fear and the need for investment in early years family support programmes. These are the constant and daily experiences of so many people from the area.

Darndale and its catchment area comprises large working-class housing estates in the North Dublin City Council administrative area, in the Local Electoral Areas of Priorswood B and C and the policing district of Coolock. The estates are approaching 50 years in existence, much of which has been troublesome and difficult. It has a population of 6,245 with a high percentage of lone parent families, high unemployment, and below average educational attainment, compounded by poverty, deprivation and high dependency on State and City Council support. The area has a tarnished image associated with crime, drugs, gangs, and anti-social behaviour all of which combine to diminish both the locality, restrict the lives of its community, and hinder its potential for development.

From the early 1970's, the initial promise of a fresh start for many residents quickly evaporated when the poor design of the new estates manifested in difficulties associated with access, orientation and the layout of the estate. This was quickly followed by the exodus of many residents who availed of the "surrender grant" to purchase their own homes in other parts of the city, leaving the area deprived of many of the civic minded people who drive and organise community activities and clubs, so important for communities to thrive.

This Report has traced the history and development of the estates and their communities from that initial promise and ambition, through their decline to its current state of relative isolation and neglect.

The problems associated with crime, drug dealing, drug dependency and anti-social behaviour are extensively documented. These problems surfaced early and became endemic in the area resulting in a situation today where residents, delivery services and employees' express fears for their personal safety when going about their daily work and duties. This was a feature of many interviews and conversations where numbers of people stated that they did not let their children out in the evening time and who stayed indoors themselves out of fear. The Report has identified the existence of a number of street gangs who portray many of the characteristics consistent with gang culture and involvement in the drug trade and who visibly generate a culture of intimidation in public places.

The Report has articulated and mapped an impressive array of services in the area both State, City Council and NGO, all providing much needed support, advice, education, and treatment. The preponderance of addiction problems in the area is evidenced by the presence of several treatment

services, all of whom provide wonderful care, support, and advice to a large number of clients. The efforts of the youth services can only be categorised as exemplary from both a local and city perspective, however it does appear that the current approach will not effectively dissipate gang culture and prevent it from becoming more entrenched. It is imperative that the current generation of young people are dissuaded from criminal lifestyles and that the next generation are more positively influenced. The Report recommends a more coordinated service delivery structure, that collaboratively draws on the individual expertise of the separate organisations to enable a bespoke 'wrap around' youth and addiction support service to identified individuals. The Report also recommends that this collaborative service should have a dedicated overall manager to synchronise all supports and inputs into the youth services of the area. The Report also acknowledges the good work currently being done by both DCC and An Garda Síochána in an effort to stem the tide of disorder and dysfunction and makes various recommendations concerning visible presence, additional functions and activities including the establishment of a Community Representative Forum.

The analysis of the areas' assets indicates the significant community value of the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre, the Newlife Centre, the Northside Partnership and Darndale Park together with its sporting clubs and facilities. These assets have to be supported, nurtured, and developed as much as possible as they are the stabilising pillars of community.

The author also became aware of the vital role that the "Preparing for Life" programme plays in the area in supporting and developing normal behaviours among many dysfunctional and chaotic families, so that children, can participate fully and productively in primary school settings. This is a programme that must be supported and strengthened to assist future generations in their formative years.

Every effort must be made to improve educational attainment and consequential employment opportunities of the area and recommendations made include the need to ensure flexibility in the educational curriculum in secondary education and training settings to encourage and incentivise greater involvement.


The need to awaken community spirit is a significant element of the Report and efforts in this regard will require sustained and long-term investment and support so that committed volunteers and the civic minded individuals can take leadership roles in the community without fear of intimidation or threat. This recommendation should be a priority for Dublin City Council in creating a Community Representative Forum where the voice of the whole community and their issues, fears and ambitions can be heard. It is also recommended that an independent chairperson be appointed to this body.

The recommendations within this report will require careful planning, robust implementation, sufficient funding, and personal dedication by many. It is recommended that these recommendations should come under the remit of the proposed Community Representative Forum where the appointed independent chairperson can hold organisations and departments to account for their progress and where the eyes of the community can monitor progress and results.

The recommendations in this Report are strongly focused on two levels of getting the immediate problems of crime, antisocial behaviour, drug dealing, dumping, and littering under control. Then the longer-term issues of employment, educational attainment, area development and community spirit can be progressed in an incremental but sustained manner for the whole community.

Key Recommendations

Stemming from the full report the key recommendations are presented below providing a high-level overview of all the policy issues included in this report¹. It identifies short-term priorities in green, medium-term priorities in orange and long-term objectives in red. The rationale, details and key stakeholders for each recommendation are presented in the full report and further articulated in the strategic action plan at the end of the document.

Legend:  PRIORITY 1

 PRIORITY 2

 PRIORITY 3

¹ It should be noted that that the key recommendations in this report, together with any associated funding requirements which may arise, are a matter for Government consideration.

Recommendations	Priority
<p>1. Control Crime Effectively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activities of the organised crime groups in the area have to be disrupted and dismantled using all available national and local Garda Síochána resources • An area Crime Prevention Strategy should be developed and implemented • The local Community Policing Unit should be strengthened • A Community Policing Hub should be developed in the area providing constant policing presence and community reassurance • Ensure full assessment and coordination of early release from the Irish Prison to avoid recidivism in the area 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; background-color: #90EE90; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p>2. Dismantle and Dilute Gangs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure constant patrolling and surveillance of the area both physical and electronically • Consider a bespoke dedicated project for the hardest to reach youth offenders and their families • Implement a Restorative Practice approach in all schools in the areas to dilute gang culture and underpin alternative approaches • Conduct an area wide survey to establish extent of drug related debt and drug related intimidation • Establish a confidential drug related intimidation local support network to advise the community on available support options 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; background-color: #90EE90; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p>3. Enhance Community Esteem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Community Representative Forum with significant community participation and involvement • Appoint an independent chairperson to the Community Representative Forum • Strengthen DCC presence in the area and highlight the range of services provided • Assist Northside Partnership to develop the 'Place Based Leadership' programme to enable community leadership capacity • Improve the physical environment of the area e.g. planting, landscaping, and biodiversity projects • Remove all dumped material from Belcamp and initiate a permanent major clean-up of the DBM area • Enforce tenancy agreements and relocate tenants engaging in anti-social behaviour or drug sale and supply 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; background-color: #FFD700; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>

4. Enhance Education Uptake and Community Entrepreneurship

- Develop Phase 2 of Darndale Belcamp Village Centre as soon as possible to enhance entrepreneurial opportunities
- Include community employment contracts within all tender documents for proposed construction developments in the area
- Support the ongoing efforts of the Newlife Centre and Northside Partnership in the area
- Message and advertise to all residents of DBM information and availability of adult and secondary educational programmes
- Develop a pilot ACE programme within local schools and other relevant settings
- Develop bespoke second level educational programmes that attracts the interest of second level students
- Enhance curriculum in the Discovery Training Centre to include bespoke programmes for harder to reach groups and rehabilitating problem drug users
- Incentivise selected second level student to avail of bespoke educational programmes to improve school drop-out rates
- Engage the DEASP in innovative back to work schemes to improve the area's unemployment rate
- Utilise this action plan as the basis of a long-term area development plan that leverages value from all proposed public and private developments in the area

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5. Develop a System of Collaborative Service Delivery

- Develop a bespoke wraparound youth service that offers significant counter attractions to gang culture for youths of the area, that can operate on multiple levels commensurate with identified individual needs
- Appoint an overall area service manager to coordinate collaborative youth service delivery
- Ensure night-time youth and weekend youth activities are regularly available
- Expand the 'Preparing for Life' programme to assist families with school-going children
- Explore opportunities under the Dublin Regional Action Plan 2020, to support education and training providers to increase provision of programmes for upskilling and reskilling of the unemployed within the area
- Explore opportunities to create a custom built one stop shop drug treatment service for the area
- Develop a pilot drugs awareness programme for primary and second level schools in the area
- Explore opportunities to further develop drug outreach services for those hardest to reach adults and young people
- Develop a drug awareness and messaging service² via social media platforms to reach all youth groups in the area that counters the attraction of drug usage

2

² Northside Partnership in collaboration with youth and drug services in the area are currently exploring possibilities in this regard. The author was privileged to join some of the group sessions examining this issue.

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Glossary of Terms

ABC	Area Based Childhood Programmes
ACE	Adverse Childhood Experiences
AGS	An Garda Síochána
BESC	Belcamp Estate Steering Committee
BTEI	Back to Education Initiative
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CDCFE	Coláiste Dhulaigh College of Further Education
CDYSB	City Dublin Youth Services Board
CFSS	Child and Family Support Service
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DBM	Darndale Belcamp Moatview
DBVC	Darndale Belcamp Village Centre
DCC	Dublin City Council
DEASP	Department of Employment and Social Protection
DMR	Dublin Metropolitan Area
DNELDTF	Dublin North East Local Drugs Task Force
DOCCFS	Daughters of Charity Child and Family Support Service
DRD	Drug Related Debt
DRI	Drug Related Intimidation
ECDS	Early Childhood Development Service
EDIT	Edenmore Drug Intervention Project
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Committee for Drugs and Drug Addiction
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
EU	European Union
FAI	Football Association of Ireland
FETAC	Further Education and Training Awards Council
FSS	Family Support Service
GNDOCB	Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau
GYDP	Garda Youth Diversion Programme

HSCCL	Home School Community Liaison
HSE	Health Service Executive
IABA	Irish Amateur Boxing Association
IYJS	Irish Youth Justice Service
JLO	Juvenile Liaison Officer
JPC	Joint Policing Committee
KCCP	Kilbarrack Coastal Community Project
KEEP	Kilmore Empowering Every Person Youth Project
KWYP	Kilmore West Youth Project
LDC	Local Development Company
NEIC	North East Inner City, Dublin 1
NGO	Non-Government Agency
NHCS	Northside Home Care Services
NLC	New Life Centre
NQF	National Qualification Framework
NSP	Northside Partnership
OLI	Our Lady Immaculate
PLF	Preparing for Life
PPFS	Partnership, Prevention and Family Support
QQI	Quality and Qualifications Ireland
RASP	Laneview Learning Centre Ltd
SAHRU	Small Area Health Research Unit at TCD
SICAP	Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme
Sphere 17	Sphere 17 Youth Project Darndale
TUD	Technological University Dublin
TUSLA	Child and Family Agency
UCD	University College Dublin
YCL	Youth Community Leader

Acknowledgements

The author wishes to acknowledge the many people from the various services, agencies and departments who made themselves available for interviews and conversations that provided so many rich insights into the challenges associated with Darndale and its catchment area.

The help and support of Dublin City Council and An Garda Síochána is also very appreciated.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the residents, community and the many individuals who shared with me their experiences, fears, hopes and aspirations for the area.

1.0 Introduction

The existence of troublesome neighbourhoods with persistent problem reputations in suburban settings throughout the world, has been long recognised, often researched but mostly poorly resolved. Examples of notorious housing estates abound such as, Pruitt-Igoe (St Louis, USA, Figure 1), Tower Hamlets (London) and Easterhouse (Glasgow) spring readily to mind. Darndale, in Dublin 17, fits into this category. It has been long assumed by planners, local authorities, and politicians alike, that regeneration will dissipate these types of reputations and make them disappear in the wake of a package of renewal measures. Alternatively, a body of opinion argues that poor image can be an intractable problem that endures and defies amelioration and solutions (Hasting, 2000).



Figure 1 Pruitt-Igoe Estate St. Louis, USA

Research on behalf of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation explored and challenged assumptions around the image of problem estates and suggests that image management can be successful and that direct measures must be taken to address the problem (Hasting, 2000). Stigma of this type blights people's lives and its persistence is a drag on regeneration and progress. Unless stigma is tackled, people will continue to move out of problem areas,

and new residents will be discouraged by it from moving in. Employers, estate agents and other key agencies will continue to undervalue people or property from such neighbourhoods and the long-term sustainability of the regeneration effort will be imperilled accordingly (Hasting, 2000).

An upsurge in violent crime and a series of murders in late 2019 in the Darndale area of Coolock, Dublin 17, prompted Dublin City Council to commission a review of the Darndale catchment area and the development of a Socio-Economic and Community Plan for the area. Retired Assistant Garda Commissioner Dr Jack Nolan³ was requested to undertake this review and report accordingly. The terms of reference of the review are articulated below together with the timeframe for completion.

While the research focus of this Report is primarily on Darndale, the author came to the conclusion quite early in his work, that the proximity of the neighbouring estates of Belcamp and Moatview made it necessary to reference these areas conterminously in the Report. Similarly, as Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview (DBM) are located within the wider area of Coolock from a Garda Síochána, Dublin City Council and the administrative lens of various government departments and agencies, it is also necessary to mention Coolock in a general sense in many places throughout the Report.

1.1 Background and History

Darndale and its catchment area is a series of suburban social housing estates in north east Dublin, located 9 km from the centre of Dublin City. It has a population of 6,245 people (CSO, 2016). Darndale alone consists of 1,100 low-rise, courtyard-based family houses built in blocks. The construction of the

³ Dr Jack Nolan was a policeman for 40 years' operating in almost every part of An Garda Síochána. He was formerly the police commissioner for Dublin city and region, He has a PhD from TCD in organisational change and collaboration and an MSc in Criminal Justice Studies from the University of Leicester, UK. He is a graduate from the UK Police Strategic Command Course.

estate commenced in 1972 and the first residents moved in in 1974. Subsequently estate planning and management difficulties led to a reconfiguration and reorientation of the estate without significant success or social improvements.

The area suffers from image and reputation problems, with constant media attention focused on crime, drugs, murders, and associated intimidation. These issues are compounded by high unemployment, weak education attainment, reduced opportunities for the younger groupings and a sense of isolation, neglect and ghettoisation.

A documentary “On the Edge of Town” aired by TV3 (now Virgin Media) in 2014, articulated the sense of isolation and separation that can be perceived when a visitor discovers that no public transport or through roads traverse the estate. Neighbouring parts of the wider area are very aware of Darndale’s image and despite many related problems, vigorously disassociate themselves from Darndale consciously and subconsciously.

Darndale was designed in 1969 as a high-density low - rise social housing complex on the outskirts of Coolock, within the electoral area of Dublin Bay North and the local electoral areas of Priorswood C1 and C2. The estate was modelled on the Cricketer’s Way Estate, Andover, London, an award winning architectural design in the past (Dinn, 2012).

The actual design of Darndale was considered a counterweight to the high-rise social housing estates that had been a feature of post-war Europe but had begun to fall out of favour with city planners everywhere. The design envisioned a sense of place and community, constructed around a series of courtyards that would facilitate community engagement, neighbourhood intimacy, and places of safety where children could play securely and where neighbours could be in social contact with ease and comfort. This was a noble ambition at the time that



Figure 2 An Aerial View of Darndale Estate Dublin 17

aspired to ensuring the estate had individuality and coherence within the continuum of challenges that invariably manifest within largescale social housing projects (Maxwell, 1976).

Historically Darndale takes its name from the Irish word “Darndál” meaning “daffodil” and indeed the planning authorities in the 1970s maintained the floral connotations by naming the individual parts of the estate Tulip, Buttercup, Primrose, Snowdrop and Marigold, resulting in the estate being often referred to as the “flowers” distinguishing it from the adjoining Belcamp and Moatview estates.

Historically, references to the area can be traced back as far as feudal times when it formed part of the Norman Barony of Cowlocke, with Coolock being one of the barony’s parishes and Darndale a townland within this parish. Indeed, many of the neighbouring areas, Belcamp, Priorswood and Bonnybrook can also be found referenced as early as mid-1800’s in records of Griffith’s 1847⁴ Survey

⁴ Sir Richard Griffith was a geological surveyor and was engaged to survey all of Ireland with respect to boundaries and land values in the 1820’s as Ireland attempted to reform local taxation and in particular implement the Poor Law rate. He strictly managed a team of valuers who scoured the country gathering the requisite information and publishing it on a county by county basis to form what is more correctly known as the Primary Valuation of Ireland, but has become labelled more colloquially with his moniker as GV (Genealogy)

of all lands in Ireland. During those former times, the entire area along with Moatview, were all country estates popular with the upper classes, on account of their proximity to the capital, an altogether different perspective than today. The Belcamp area takes its name from Belcamp Park and can trace historical associations back to the 17th century, when Jonathan Swift was a visitor, as was Countess Markiewicz in the early 20th Century. The area was also home to Belcamp College with whom the Oblate Order had a long association until 2005 when Belcamp College secondary school closed. The Oblates retained their connection to the area through sustained charitable funding of local initiatives and community pastoral work (Burtenshaw Kenny Associates, 2013).

1.2 Present Day

Darndale remains within the Coolock suburban area, which is one of the largest of Dublin's residential areas with a population in excess of 55,000 people. It lies at the centre of the majority working-class northside suburbs of the capital city. The area includes Kilbarrack, Donaghmede, Edenmore Ayrfield, Bonnybrook, Priorswood, Greencastle, Moatview, Belcamp and Kilmore West.

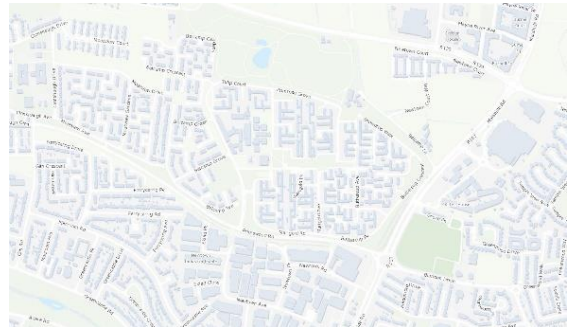


Figure 3 Aerial View of DBM

The majority of Coolock, excluding Ayrfield, was built-up by the then city authority, Dublin Corporation, as part of a programme of the phased inner-city slum and tenement clearances, ongoing roughly between 1952 and 1987. Dublin City Council calculates that addresses containing "Coolock" comprise the largest stock of local authority houses within its jurisdiction and the area is redolent of the local authority building that took place during the 1950s and the 1980s across Dublin.

Today, Darndale and its catchment areas of Belcamp and Moatview is a somewhat rundown, dilapidated, and neglected series of estates. According to the 2016 Census the combined estates and catchment area features a mixed housing stock of 42% owner occupier; 48% rented from Local Authority; 5% rented from private landlord and 5% rented from a voluntary body.



Figure 4 Darndale Estate 2020

Nearby local amenities and facilities include the Northside Shopping Centre, Clarehall Shopping Centre; Beaumont hospital, a Hilton Hotel, an Odeon Cinema, Leisure Plex, several fast food restaurants, community sports hall, community gym and a large industrial estate directly across from the Link Road into Darndale. However, within the estates mentioned there are minimal shopping, no retail outlets, no pubs, or social clubs.

There is a good bus service, offering access to all parts of the city. The area is close to Dublin Airport and also within easy reach of the national motorway network with M50 and M1 motorways all within easy access. The Darndale Belcamp Village Centre (DBVC) known locally as the Bell Building provides a central focus to the area and houses many services for the local community including adult education, youth training, information and support, older people support services, environmental

programmes, administration and job seeking services to the local community. The permanent Traveller halting sites of Cara Park, Northern Close and St Dominick Park, is in the Belcamp area (along the N32) and is considered among the largest halting site facilities provided by local authorities in Ireland. They contain an adult education centre and pre-school facilities for the local Traveller population, both located beside Dominick Park. At least one smaller, more traditional, Traveller settlement is found in the area, close to the Clare Hall Shopping Centre (Blanchfield, 2015). The locating of problem estates and traveller halting sites side by side is certainly not ideal from a city planning perspective, however there are generally little or no integration or racist issues apparent in the area, with many commentators remarking on how well both communities get along.

1.3 Demographics

The Darndale Estate is surrounded and bounded by the large neighbouring areas of Priorswood, Clonsaugh, Ferrycarrig, Belcamp and Moatview. The combined areas of Darndale/Belcamp/Moatview has a population of 6,245, of whom 90% are white Irish nationality and 7% are members of the travelling community with the remaining 3% being Black and Asian (CSO, 2016). Darndale now approaching 50 years in existence, is considered a relatively new residential area in Irish terms and an analysis of 2016 CSO Census statistics indicates that family composition is described as 46% couples with children (727) and 50% (790) mothers only. This compares somewhat unfavourably against the national average of 19% for mothers bringing up families alone (CSO, 2016).

Unemployment is significantly higher than the national average with 36% unemployed as against 4.8% nationally pre Covid-19 and 16.4% September 2020 (CSO, February 2020; September 2020). A further analysis, of educational attainment, offers a more striking image of the area, with 29% of residents of the three areas Darndale/Belcamp/Moatview stating that they have “no formal education or primary school only” as against 13% national average. The situation is similarly worrying from the perspective of third level education with 10% attainment in the area as against 30% national average (CSO, 2016). Also there has been little inward migration to the area as 94% of residents state that they were born in Ireland and 90% describe themselves as white Irish and catholic. The overall area of the three estates is categorised as very disadvantaged or disadvantage according to all socio-economic indicators (Data.Gov.ie, 2016; Teljeur, 2016).

“The Overall Area is described as Very Disadvantaged or Disadvantaged”

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference as provided by Dublin City Council include the following:

“In response to these recent issues it is proposed to engage an independent consultant to undertake a review and to report on the following”:

- Current demographics of the area to include:
 - Population
 - Age profile
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Income levels
 - Crime statistics
- A profile of the current level of services including a mapping of existing statutory, community and voluntary groups, structures and programmes operating in the Darndale area.
- A review of previous and existing statutory and non-statutory plans and reports for Darndale.
- Carry out a public engagement process with all the key stakeholders working and living in the area to garner the opinions of local people, community groups and statutory service providers as to the issues in the area and ideas to address these issues.
- To review best practice in the area of socio-economic and community development on a national and international level to identify successful actions from other areas which may be applicable to Darndale.
- Indicative topics such as Community Development, Sports, Arts, Environment, Public Realm, Education & Training, Safety & Policing, Health Promotion and Economic Development/Job creation should be considered and addressed
- Develop a set of sustainable objectives and actions, to be implemented over a 3-year period, to address issues and put a structure in place to manage the implementation of these actions.
- Recommend revised operational and management structures for oversight of issues in the area.

Timeframe for the completions of the Report was originally the end of February 2020 but this was extended to May 2020 due to a later than expected start date.

2.2 Public Engagement Process

The methodology employed for this exercise involved a significant background research on the history of the area including the social, economic, development and community assets within Darndale and the immediate catchment area. This was necessary as it is difficult to divorce Darndale from its immediate catchment area, as there are a variety of common services and amenities present within walking distance or a short bus or taxi ride from the centre of Darndale. This research yielded valuable insights into the background, social fabric, potential and most importantly the problems and challenges facing the area. The research also discovered considerable evidence of State, City Council, Church, philanthropic and NGO investment in the area for a lengthy period. The research also explored previous research reports and papers on the area that generally appears to have been confined to discrete specialism such as joyriding in the neighbouring Priorswood, an environmental review of Darndale Park, a community health assessment of the area and a review of certain services. The NEDLDTF have also recently completed a review of drug services in the area, as have the CDYSB with youth services both of whom shared their findings with the author. There is also a research project ongoing into youth crime and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in conjunction with An Garda Síochána and the University of Limerick have researched familial and antecedent relationships in crime⁵.

The second stage of the research involved a sizeable public engagement and consultation process with 150 individuals and diverse groups including statutory, non-statutory agencies and Government Departments. The author has walked and driven the area on numerous occasions over the January – March period (pre Covid-19) meeting people and groups at all times of the day and night in order to get a real feel and understanding of the area. Thereafter public engagement was conducted via Zoom or by telephone and email. The author is extremely grateful to the many individuals who gave so freely of their time, knowledge, experience, and expectations, representing a wide cross-section of backgrounds, perspectives, and interests.

The interview programme was carried out with four main groups of people: locally based professionals; members of the local community; people with an interest in young people and/or drug use; and adult drug users or recovering drug users from the area. In the case of the first two groups a semi-structured interview was conducted using an interview guide. In the case of the latter groups the interviews were more informal and focussed on the participants own experiences and their current knowledge of the area. The author particularly appreciated the input of the recovering drug users and the staff and management of the drug treatment centres for their honesty, openness, and desire for change.

The public consultation process involved the holding of focus groups with the community, meetings, and conversations with locally elected representatives of Dublin City Council North Central Area, elected Dáil representatives and their assistants, former Dáil representatives and DCC personnel. Meetings were also held with service providers working in the areas of addiction, family support, childcare, business, HSE, An Garda Síochána, community action individuals, sports organisations, groups, and education providers. The consultation also involved listening to the “voices of the community”. The author met with community groups active in the Newlife Centre beside Our Lady

⁵ Greentown and Bluetown research (Dr Sean Redmond)

Immaculate Church on a number of occasions, the youth clubs and youth support services in the area were engaged with on several occasions. Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of the Covid -19 crisis it was not possible to engage with the older or younger voice of the community in formal focus group settings as was originally planned⁶.

The major sporting clubs in the area Darndale FC, Darndale Boxing Club and O’Toole’s GAA club were also canvassed, and the scale and extent of the involvement of their respective organisations and how they currently impact on the area was also researched.

A relatively limited number of local people made themselves individually available for discussions and exchanges of ideas, thoughts, and options. A public notice inviting submissions or ideas was placed in the Newlife Centre that generated engagements and meetings.

The analysis of the interviews, submissions and notes generated a significant body of data that was then distilled into a number of key themes as set out later in this report.

The draft report was subsequently tested with several key contributors for reliability, validity, and accuracy. The author is extremely grateful to all interviewees and contributors who gave their time willingly, unstintingly, and helpfully.

The scope of the exercise was established by the Terms of Reference and was naturally focused on the Darndale area principally however as already stated, it quickly became apparent that it is not practically to divorce Darndale from its immediate neighbouring areas of Belcamp and Moatview.

“There is a Need to Consider Darndale in Conjunction with its Catchment Area of Belcamp and Moatview “

Overall, it is the authors opinion that resolving the issues and hurdles to progress particular to Darndale needs consideration of several other issues such as policing, drug dealing, addiction services, education, employment opportunities and life chances that cannot be tackled separately within an enclave environment such as Darndale alone. This is apparent because the wider area of Dublin 17 will be undergoing long-term incremental development in areas such as Belmayne and Belcamp and the many of the issues, concerns, problems and options associated with the Darndale area need to be addressed urgently to harness the potential upsurge in opportunities associated with these developments without the constrictions of image, reputation or past experiences .

Developments in this regard within the area will need to be reconciled and fit into current and future Dublin City Developments plans as well as the plans of other departments and agencies such as the Departments of Education, Housing Planning and Local Government and Department of Employment and Social Protection and indeed Project Ireland 2040. The terms of reference also required an examination of short-term and long-term issues and the report reflects this requirement.

⁶ Group sessions with Sphere 17 Darndale did not materialise due to a reluctance on behalf of the young people to engage. A Group session planned for Sphere 17 Priorswood had to be cancelled in March 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. Similarly a group session planned for Golden Years did not materialise.

2.3 Analysis and Reflections

An initial analysis of the area's issues and problems from a number of sources such as reports, TV documentaries, written accounts, verbal interviews, and anecdotes indicates a series of regularly recurring problems. The area in general has a long-term image and reputation problem associated with significant crime, anti-social behaviour, drug usage and drug dealing compounded by low education and high unemployment. This is a particularly acute problem because it reduces the community sense of self-worth and self-esteem. This was evidenced by an interviewee who commented that the community is beaten down and has given up asking for help. The general impression conveyed to the author was of an area that few want to visit and that no-one is really too concerned with.

A number of key themes emerged during the consultations process. The first significant theme that presented over and over again was fear of crime and intimidation; followed by gangs and drug dealing. The next issue that emerged was the early adultizing of children and as one professional working in the area put it, "the kids just grow up too early here". Mothers and parents stated that the area is a "most stressful place to live" and "I would get out if I could". Another theme that emerged was that parents who care, don't let their children out to play or socialise in the area out of fear for their well-being and safety. When the author queried respondents about what would make a difference to the area it generally resulted in a request for more policing, CCTV system, more action by DCC on anti-social behaviours, indiscriminate dumping and removal of troublesome and disruptive tenants from the area. A regular query to the author was "why will nobody do something about all of these problems. Many respondents expressed a view that nobody really cares about the area and that problem tenants are left in situ because there is nowhere else for them.

"Why will nobody do anything about this?"

The next section will explore the initial promise of new beginnings, development, and subsequent decline of the area, charting the promises of opportunity, the dimming of hope, the challenges of social deprivation, crime, and intimidation.

3.0 Darndale A Complex Story from the Beginning

3.1 The Promise of Opportunity

For many new tenants of Darndale in the early 1970's, the move to the outskirts of Dublin was an escape from some of the dilapidated tenements of Dublin city centre or from the high-rise flats of Ballymun (Darndale Belcamp Resource Centre Ltd, 2005) and with the promise of opportunities in a new area this was a decidedly attractive move. The promise of opportunity in the suburbs, lay not only the attraction of a new home, but also in the “withdrawal for environmental advantage from the throng and compromises of the city” (Dublin School of Architecture, 2010), meaning new residents were expecting a better way of life. The area was replete with lots of green open spaces, a newly designed estate with a new school, a church, and the expectations of a new and vibrant community.

The first tenants moved into Darndale in 1974 and shortly afterwards, “we had a load of young people, a young community, and for most people it was their first home. These people were enthusiastic and full of energy” (Brady, C. et al, 2005, p. 21). All of the elements of a new community began to take shape and compared to many other areas, it had good facilities, a school, a social club (originally known as Our Lady Immaculate Parochial Hall Club, 1974), a football team and a drop in centre called “The Mustard Seed”, where women from the area could meet and engage socially and creatively (Brady, C. et al, 2005).

The outcomes of this ambition has transpired somewhat differently than anticipated, with deprivation, poverty, crime, violence, drug usage and drug dealing now more commonly associated with the area than social innovation and social coherence envisaged in the early 1970's. As far back as 1991, graffiti at the entrance to Darndale announced “Welcome to Darndale – twinned with Beirut”⁷ (O'Laoire, 1991), this was at a time when the civil war in Lebanon was coming to an end and Beirut had been largely destroyed by the conflict. While this was undoubtedly an exercise in mischief and black humour, it nevertheless was indictive of some elements of the local population's opinion, image, and self-worth of the area.

“The Surrender Grant Diminished Community Leadership and Community Spirit”

It appears that the emergence of the decline of Darndale can be longitudinally traced to the so called “Surrender Grant”⁸. The book ‘Darndale, A Living History’ recounts that, “400 children left the local schools in an 18 months period” (2005, p. 32). It appears that many of the new residents took up the offer of a grant up to £10,000 in total resulting in what has been described as a domino effect that left the community scarred, damaged and bereft of many community leaders, and largely devoid of community spirit and community activists. A study by the housing agency Threshold, found that practically 100% of families in Dublin who availed of these grants were in fulltime employment and the revisualisation effects were that the departed families were replaced by lone parents and single

⁷ The Lebanon Civil War raged from 1975 to 1990 when much of its capital Beirut was destroyed by the various warring factions (Sune, 2011)

⁸ The Surrender Grant was a €5000 grant made available to Local Authority tenants wishing to buy a house in the private sector (Threshold, 1987).

unemployed males at much higher risks of poverty, thus creating a vicious cycle of deprivation (Norris, 2007). Indeed, many of the interviewees consulted by the author recounted similar experiences stating that the Surrender Grant sucked the lifeblood out of the community and helped to create a culture of dependency and a deficit of community spirit and commitment that persists today. The next element that diluted the promise and hopes of the area was a persistent and inter-generational crime problem that has endured to the present day.

3.2 The Diminution of Hope

The representation of crime in the general area of Darndale is one of high incidence, danger, murder, and violence. It is also represented that this level of violence is a recent phenomenon, however the reality is the Coolock garda district has had residual crime problems for decades. However, it also must be noted that in a large urban setting, Coolock garda district is vast stretching from Artane to Balbriggan, to Ballymun and Raheny with a large sub urban population, living in areas as socio diverse as Portrane and Swords to Darndale and Belcamp with all of the social and economic diversity entailed.

The portrayal of crime in the general area can be encapsulated in an Irish Times newspaper article (Gallagher, 2020) that painted a grim picture, when it reported that it is evident that the north Dublin suburb of Coolock was in the midst of savage gang violence. The article recounted the shooting of, a 22-year-old postman and drug dealer, who had become the fifth person to be murdered as part of a so called Coolock feud. It recounted that three other men involved in criminality in the area had been shot dead, including a young man who was murdered as he pushed his infant child in a pram⁹. However, the reality is that two murders happened in Coolock and one in Darndale, while another happened in Swords, another at a junction on the M1, another in Belfast and another possibly in Drogheda. The fact of association either through residence, acquaintanceship, or history with the area, invariably means that victims are often loosely associated with Darndale in the public subconscious and the already poor image of the area worsens accordingly.

“The Area is Blighted by Long-Term Criminality Involving Murder, Drugs Violence, and Intimidation that is Ingrained in the Community Sub-Conscious”

This is somewhat similar to the findings of a study in Glasgow by Dean and Hastings (2000) who found that an area’s reputation is rooted in long-standing beliefs about the estate and its people. They argued that “there is strong evidence that this translates into a stigma for residents that affects all areas of their lives” (p.156). The area’s reputation can have an emotional impact felt by virtually all residents, who are angry, hurt and upset by the expressions of stigma that they live with (Hastings, 2000).

⁹ There have been a number of people associated with the general area of Coolock killed in violent circumstances in 2019-2020 including Eoin Boylan; Zach Parker; Sean Little; Hamid Sanambar and Jordan Davis. Body parts identified as belonging to Keane Mulready-Woods were dumped in Moatview and Robbie Lawlor originally from the area was shot dead in Belfast

The wider area of Coolock which includes Darndale has had similar problems for many years, a 2006 study on joy-riding in the neighbouring Priorswood area remarked that, ‘Stolen cars follow the pattern of an epidemic in Darndale. Everything is quiet for weeks, and then suddenly night after night we lie awake to the screech of brakes and exploding petrol tanks of burnt-out cars ‘ (Rush, 2005, p. 6). A previous 2001 study again on joyriding reported similar concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour in the area (Farrington, 2001).

3.2.1 The Problem of Crime

Darndale and its neighbouring areas of Belcamp and Moatview are policed from Coolock Garda District, which is within the Northern Garda Division of the Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR). Crime statistics for An Garda Síochána are generated from reported or detected crime incidents, categorised at local garda station level, recorded on the PULSE¹⁰ system and generated by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Isolating the actuality of crime for a particular smaller geographical area can be quite difficult as a consequence. However, in this regard An Garda Síochána has been extremely helpful in providing a set of crime statistics specific to the area under research. The author has also extrapolated some key crime indicators from a variety of online sources such as the CSO and Statbank, in an attempt to accurately represent the actuality of crime in the area. The author has selected crime categories as utilised by the CSO and taken a sequence of five-year periods from 2003 to 2018 and also included 2019 to illustrate some interesting findings as set out in table 1 below.

Recorded Crime Offences Coolock Garda District						
Year	Murder Attempts, Threats etc	Murder	Weapons & Explosives Offences	Drugs	Robberies, Extortion	Burglary
2003	95	0	38	235	41	260
2008	143	2	108	710	30	233
2013	136	2	89	393	76	312
2018	200	1	41	254	65	222
2019	207	4	47	301	64	260

Table 1 Recorded Crime Offences by Type and Year, Coolock Garda District, Source CSO 2020

A brief examination of these figures indicate that certain crime problems in the area continue to manifest over an extended period of 15 years. The figures indicate that the problems of the area continue to persist with increases in murder and threats to murder particularly noticeable. The drug offences category is surprisingly steady over the period with relatively marginal increases in numbers of detections 235 in 2003 as against 301 in 2019. There is a noticeable spike in 2008 when 710 drug crimes were recorded. The fact that garda resources were at a peak in 2008¹¹ and detections for drug offences is activity led may possibly be an explanation for this. Robberies and extortion have increased by 26% in the period under review. Also, it appears that property crime as indicated by burglaries

¹⁰ Pulse is the Garda computer system.

¹¹ It has taken until 2020 for Garda Síochána numbers to return to pre-economic recession levels. 14,714 on 20.04.2020 as against 14,547 on 31/12/2009. In 2014 An Garda Síochána was reduced to a resource base of 12,799 (www.garda.ie).The Northern Division had 804 personnel of all ranks on 20.04.2020, and Coolock Garda Station has 97.

despite fluctuations is also relatively stable in the area. An analysis of these statistics indicates that the Coolock Garda District, within which Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview lie, has a consistent residual crime problem associated with drug usage and concomitant violence that manifests in murders and threats to life. This type of cause effect relationship is considered common by practitioners and academia alike (Europol, 2019).

An analysis of more recent crimes solely in the research area of Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview for the years 2013-2019 suggests similar patterns.

Crime incidents Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview						
Year	Murder Attempts, Threats etc	Murder	Firearms Offences	Drugs	Robberies, Extortion	Burglary
2013	3	2	14	71	3	17
2014	1	1	10	91	9	22
2015	2	0	2	69	4	15
2016	0	0	7	85	14	17
2017	4	1	2	44	8	15
2018	3	1	7	58	8	11
2019	4	4	11	114	7	13

Table 2 Crime Incidents Darndale Belcamp, Moatview Source: An Garda Síochána

A further analysis suggest that of the total amount of drug crime in Coolock Garda District in 2019 (301 offences) approximately 38% (114) occurs in the DBM area. For a relatively small area this is quite worrying and indicative of the feedback and interview outcomes, outlined by many sources to the author concerning the availability of drugs in the area.

This includes the suggestion that there is a constant stream of buyers and patrons coming into Darndale to buy drugs where the suppliers appears to be numerous and the products available and plentiful. It was recounted to the author that taxis and private cars are regularly seen arriving in the area for short periods where purchases of illegal drugs are made, and supplies delivered regularly by youths and in some instances directly from private houses. There is no doubt that many drug users are recreational users who are either oblivious or nonchalant, about the harms, violence, intimidation, and death associated with drug dealing.

The problem of recreational usage of drugs has been raised many times by many commentators, indeed the Garda Commissioner Drew Harris referred to this practice as funding for organised crime gangs. The Minister for Justice & Equality during his address on this issue spoke in Seanad Éireann on 5th December 2019 last in a similar vein, and indeed former Justice Minister Michael Mc Dowell articulated this very point as far back as 2006, when he was reported as saying drugs is helping to fund the profits of vicious gangs (Irish Times, 13 April, 2006). The societal impact of recreational drug usage and its funding of crime gangs needs to be understood and “messed” on a national basis.

“Recreational drug usage funds criminal gangs”

3.3 Youth Crime

In relation to youth offending an analysis of statistics for the Northern Garda Division indicates that in 2017, the last year for which statistics are publicly available, the Division had the second highest incidence of JLO referrals to the National Juvenile Office (table 3). Correspondence with the National Juvenile Office indicates that in 2018 the Northern Garda division had a total of 1312 referrals of which Coolock Garda District comprised 453 or 29% of the referrals. The figures for 2019, suggest that out of 1387 Northern Division referrals Coolock again had 486 or 28.5% of the Divisional total.

The figures for 2018 and 2019 also make interesting reading in relation to youth offending in the Northern Garda Division and the Coolock District for the years 2017, 2018, 2019. In the first instance there is remarkable consistency in the amount of youth offending in the Division. Secondly in relation to drug offences by under 18-year olds in the Coolock District, the trends are again remarkably stable, 34 JLO referrals for section 3¹² and 15¹³ Misuse of Drugs Acts in 2018 and 39 in 2019.

Table 3 and Table 4 are reflective of youth offending in the wider areas around and within Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview.

JLO Referrals Northern Division 2017								
Region & Divisions	Total 2017	% Change 2016	Informal Caution	Unsuitable	Formal Caution	NFA	Restorative Caution	Others
DMR	6745	+13	2275	2332	1214	202	144	578
DMR E	871	+34	337	304	139	25	2	64
DMR NC	1208	+11	474	415	161	20	53	85
DMR N	1341	+21	418	497	253	48	48	77
DMR SC	831	+9	187	329	169	18	9	119
DMR S	1042	+7	337	338	196	46	3	122
DMR W	1452	+7	522	449	296	45	29	111

Table 3 JLO Referrals Northern Division, Annual Report Section 44 Monitoring Committee 2017

According to JLO records there were 121 JLO referrals in 2017 followed by 100 in 2018 and a total of 154 in 2019 In the Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview area for various offences. This indicates that between 22% - 32% of JLO referrals in the Coolock Garda District are emanating from DBM. This is somewhat worrying for the life and career prospects of the youth of the area.

12 Section 3 Misuse of Drugs Acts (1977-2014) is personal possession.

13 Section 15 Misuse of Drugs Acts (1977-2014) is sale and supply.

JLO Statistics				
Region & Divisions	2018	Total Referrals	Section 3 Misuse of Drugs Act	Section 15 Misuse of Drugs Act
DMR Northern Division	JLO Referrals	1312	87	37
Coolock Garda District		453	26	8
DBM		100		
2019				
DMR Northern Division	JLO Referrals	1387	141	60
Coolock Garda District		486	29	10
DBM		154		

Table 4 JLO Statistics 2019 Source An Garda Síochána, National Juvenile Office 2020

Table 5 below, illustrates the volume of murders¹⁴ highlighted, that were nationally recorded in Ireland in the years 2003 – 2019 and despite much representation and speculation, the actual figures are relatively stable across the period, with occasional spikes in the years 2005-2007 and lower occurrences in the years 2004 and 2015.

Recorded Homicide Offences 2003 -2019																	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Murder	36	29	52	60	78	51	53	55	42	52	51	53	31	37	39	40	35
Manslaughter	15	15	14	12	7	14	9	8	10	8	7	6	5	5	9	7	4
Infanticide	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dangerous driving leading to death	41	70	76	77	66	48	35	49	29	30	37	46	47	49	44	33	11
Total Homicide	92	114	142	149	152	113	97	112	81	90	95	105	83	91	92	80	50

Table 5 Recorded Homicide Offences 2003-2019 adapted from CSO

In relation to DBM some context on these figures can be observed, when comparing murders with the national picture of overall homicide across the same period, see table 6 below. In 2003 for instance there were 36 murders nationally and none in the Coolock Garda District. The Irish Times reported that three Dublin teenage boys were charged with the murder of a schoolboy¹⁵, but this had occurred the previous year in 2002.

In 2008, there were 51 murders nationally and there were two gangland type killings associated with the Coolock Garda District. Again in 2013, there were 51 murders nationally, 11 of which were categorised as gangland type killings, two of which were associated with the Coolock area. In 2018, out of 40 murders, only one occurred in Coolock Garda Districts. However, in 2019 five of the ten

14 Murder is a subset of the overall category of homicide which also includes manslaughter, infanticide and dangerous driving causing death.

15 Alan Higgins was attacked and robbed in Coolock at the UCI cinema complex, on the Malahide Road, Coolock, on the night of October 12th, 2002 (Source Irish Times, March, 2003)

suspected gangland killings featured individuals with some form of connection to the wider Coolock area (ganglandireland, 2016).

Recorded Homicide Coolock Garda District																	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Murder	0	0	1	7	3	2	3	5	2	2	2	1	0	0	1	1	4

Table 6 Murders in Coolock Garda District 2003-2019, Source An Garda Síochána, 2020.

This analysis echoes the sentiments of research in other countries that highlights once an area acquires a poor reputation it becomes extraordinarily difficult to disassociate it from that reputation or image in the mind of the public (Hastings, 2000).

3.3.1 Gang Culture

This research indicates that there is a palpable sense of real concern, apprehension, and downright fear among many of the residents of the DBM area, concerning the existence of gangs of youths who display many of the classical symptoms of gang culture. It appears that this is a phenomenon that has emerged in the last five to six years. Residents spoke of the previous long-term existence of loose groups of individuals that regularly formed to engage in low level crime, citing some long-established individuals and families as prominent in this regard. Stories regarding individuals going from house to house in former times, selling meat that had been stolen from local factories was one such feature. However, these groups, which in reality were just loose arrangements, appear to have dissipated quite regularly due to imprisonment, death, emigration or just growing out of crime.

However, the current groupings are considered more dangerous, violent, and frightening with a tendency to aggressively intimidate, threaten, or engage in violence without significant fear or concern of the outcomes. This lack of concern for the consequences of violence or crime was recounted to the author by interviewees from all walks of life in the area, with anecdotes of youths having access to guns and other weapons being a regular feature of conversations. Examples of some of this intimidation expressed through social media outlets was shared with the author and range from balaclava clad males threatening unidentified individuals to videos of youths smashing windows in an unnamed housing estate at night-time. The veracity or indeed the locations concerned was difficult to verify but the content, intent and impact of the intimidation was all too evident. Many interviewees recounted the fear among the youth population of the area of being branded a “rat” for interacting with the police or reporting incidents of anti-social behaviour. Indeed, some intimidation of youths attending the “Late Night Soccer Leagues” at which An Garda Síochána engage, was also expressed.

The author observed several youths in the vicinity of the centre of Darndale, hanging about, watching passers-by, attired in distinctive popular clothing and sports footwear. There is little doubt that these individuals whose ages appear to range from 12 years upwards to the early twenties are engaging in low level drug dealing and intimidation. Indeed, the places they can be observed include the courtyard of the Village Centre, the school/church carpark and the burnt wall opposite the Darndale Park are

referred to as the “patches” and the individual groups or gangs are apparently very protective of these “patches”. This is a classical symptom of gang culture where ownership of territory or local turf is a distinguishing feature (Brotherton, 1998).

The question that immediately arises is what make youths or children in many cases become attracted to gang culture and in particular drug dealing.

2.3.1 What is Gang Culture

The issue of gang culture has occupied the minds of academics and criminological researchers for some considerable time. In the 1950’s, Albert Cohen’s theorised that gangs form a subculture to compensate for frustration that emanates from the disconnect between individuals’ goals and their ability to realize them, arguing that gangs are collections of individuals who participate in deviant acts to overcome stigma and gain status (Cohen, 1955). Interestingly, a later argument posited that involvement in the drug trade was related to a desire for respect and status (Bourgois, 1995). A 2009 UK study further argues that British society has seen an increase in gang culture and associated violence. It also noted that, “the composition and nature of gang culture has shifted: gang members are getting younger, geographical territory is transcending drug territory and violence is increasingly chaotic” (Centre for Social Justice, 2009).

Relatedly, an impressive array of other studies confirm that it is money, and the social ‘respect’ that money can buy, that is the primary motivation for young people to join gangs and not simply status (Sanchez-Jankowski, 2003).

Deciding on a definition of what constitutes a gang is a contested area as various countries and jurisdictions use difference parameters. A recent definition utilised in the UK that took cognisance of other international attempts at a definition appears appropriate, “A relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who (1) see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group, (2) engage in a range of criminal activity and violence, (3) identify with or lay claim over territory, (4) have some form of identifying structural feature, and (5) are in conflict with other similar, gangs (The Centre for Social Justice, 2009).

“A number of street gangs exist in Darndale”

There is little doubt that a number of gangs exist in the Darndale area that display many if not all of the characteristics described above, that are a cause of real concern to the community and to An Garda Síochána. They are mostly male, young, not in formal education, unemployed and engaging with the drug trade to realise their ambitions and lifestyles. Many have been involved with the Garda Diversion Programme, the criminal justice system, and the numerous youth services in the area and in the wider Dublin 17 area. Despite the multiple interventions in the lives of these individuals, the lure of a perceived exciting lifestyle and money is more attractive than developing durable careers and sustainable lifestyles. Clearly social, economic and environmental factors are shaping the development pathways of these youths yet it is individual choices that ultimately decide their everyday decisions and destinations in life (Curtis, 1998).

3.4 The Scourge of Drugs

Drugs, drug usage and drug dealing were regularly recurring themes that the author encountered when conducting community and individual interviews. The public perception is that illicit drugs are commonly available and have been commonly available for a long time within the Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview area.

Ireland's national response to the problem of illicit drugs is managed through the national drug strategy, 'Reducing harm, supporting recovery: a health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025'. The strategy sets out an overarching vision for 'a healthier and safer Ireland, where public health and safety is protected and the harms

caused to individuals, families and communities by substance misuse are reduced and every person affected by substance misuse is empowered to improve their health and wellbeing and quality of life'.

The strategy has five key goals:

- (i) to promote and protect health and well-being.
- (ii) to minimise the harms caused by the use and misuse of substances and promote rehabilitation and recovery.
- (iii) to address the harms of drug markets and reduce access to drugs for harmful use
- (iv) to support participation of individuals, families, and communities.
- (v) to develop sound and comprehensive evidence-informed policies and actions.

The United Nations World Drug Report 2019 estimates that 271 million people, or 5.5 per cent of the global population aged 15–64, had used drugs in the previous year, while 35 million people are estimated to be suffering from drug use disorders. The Report of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction 2018 (EMCDDA, 2018), states that the European drug market is estimated to be worth €24 billion euros with new products and modes of supply coming onstream at a regular pace.

The EMCDDA Report further suggests that according to available data, drug use has become more common among the adult general population aged 15-64 years in Ireland over recent years. The Report goes on to state that fewer than 2 in 10 adults reported use of any illicit drug during their lifetime in the 2002-03 period, but this figure increased to approximately 3 in 10 in 2014-15. The most recent survey, in 2014-15, confirms that cannabis remains the most commonly used illicit drug, followed by MDMA/ecstasy and cocaine. Illicit drug use is more common among males and younger age groups. This report goes on further to state that there were an incredible 763,000 seizures of cannabis products alone in Europe in 2016 not to mention 98,000 seizures of cocaine and 38,000 of heroin (EMCDDA, 2018, 21:23).



Figure 5 Europol EU Drugs Markets Report

The Annual Report of An Garda Síochána indicates that in 2017 an estimated €71m of illicit drugs were seized, followed by an estimated €31m in 2018 (An Garda Síochána, 2017; 2018). This gives an indication of the amounts of drugs available on both the European and national markets. Between 2017 and 2018 there were 6302 seizures of drugs in Ireland and it is indicative of the scale of the problem that the Garda Commissioner has indicated that Divisional Drug units will be enhanced in each Garda Division to address an unprecedented rise in the use of illegal drugs in provincial towns and villages across the country. The new units will form part of Operation Tara, the garda's new offensive against emerging criminal gangs involved in the sale and supply of illicit drugs in rural Ireland. This is a similar situation to what has been termed "crossing county lines" in the UK (National Crime Agency, 2017). A report, by the Ana Liffey Drug Project (2018) asserts that, "in 2017, there were 12,201 recorded incidents of possession of drugs for personal use, representing over 72% of all drug offences" (Ana Liffey Drug Project, 2018, p. 4). This same report further asserts that 13,033 people were brought before the courts for a variety of drug offences (ibid) indicating the extent of enforcement of the drugs laws in Ireland.

"Between 2017-2018 An Garda Síochána seized €102m of drugs"

Estimating the extent of drug usage and dependency in the Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview areas is challenging but a forthcoming report commissioned by Dublin North East Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force (DNELDATF), found that in 2018, 578 persons from the wider Dublin 17 area were recorded as being in contact with drug and alcohol services for the first time and were recorded as receiving at least one treatment. Information from the same Report suggest that the seven drug treatment centres in the wider area provided treatment and support for 124 persons in 2017. Conversations with key managers at the Beldale Clinic, The Dales, RASP, EDIT and KCCP projects suggest that many people from the immediate area are being treated for problematic drug usage.

3.4.1 Drug Related Intimidation

A further consistent topic of conversation with all interviewees was intimidation associated with drug dealing in the area. According to a Europol Report this is not unique to Ireland or indeed to DBM, as drug market-related violence and intimidation is a growing concern across the EU (Europol, 2019). According to Europol as new models of supply emerge or as criminals adapt to law enforcement activity, associated high levels of violence and exploitation can be expected. New data on drug-related homicides suggest it is a significant phenomenon in several countries, not just Ireland, and more likely to involve the use of firearms than in other types of homicide. The violence and intimidation associated with the drug markets spills over and affects families and neighbourhoods as well as the individuals directly involved (Europol, 2019). Figure 6 below depicts what a typical drug gang structure resembles hierarchically. Although recent garda investigations as outlined in the Special Criminal Court, into the Kinahan organised crime group (OCG), suggest that the more sophisticated gangs operate a cell structure on a need to know basis using encrypted communication devices, where the lower rungs do not know very much about those above them or even those operating on the same levels as themselves.

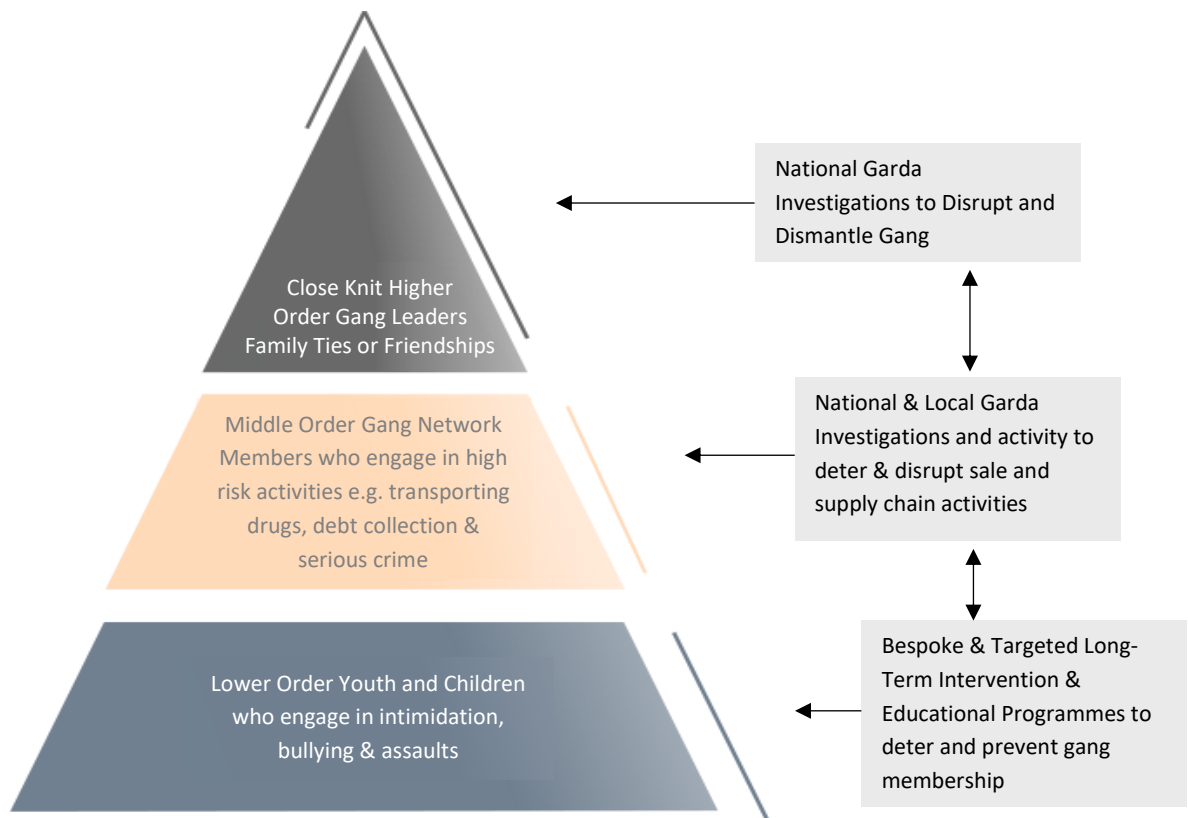


Figure 6 Typical Gang Structure adapted from Europol 2019; Murphy, 2017

Research suggests that Irish drug gangs have a three-tier structure within which the top end have the “serious players” who are often linked through family ties. This group control a middle tier comprising criminals “typically engaged in high-risk, low-reward activities, such as transporting, holding or dealing drugs, carrying guns, and conducting shootings, beatings and serious intimidation”. At the bottom of the pyramid is a large number of “highly disadvantaged young people” who often have addiction problems themselves. It is this tier which carries out the bulk of the intimidation. According to Europol, their typical activities are “bullying, assaulting, stealing, vandalising and spreading fear on behalf of the network”. These people are invariably the youths involved in low-level intimidation that scars neighbourhoods and estates and ruin the lives of many (Centre for Social Justice, 2009; Murphy, 2017, Europol, 2019).

Several interviewees spoke of the fact that young teenagers were being intimidated by slightly older teenagers over drug debts. Anecdotes concerning families being intimidated to pay off drug debts for their children were frequently raised with the author. This is a persistent problem not just in the Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview area, but in many other areas of the city. Indeed, in the NEIC¹⁶ a drug liaison officer has been appointed by the Project Implementation Board there that offers a confidential advice, support, and information service.

Drug intimidation generally involves criminal or criminals alleging that a sum of money is owed as a result of a drug debt. Individuals or other family members may be subjected to intimidation or the threat of intimidation. Intimidation can take many forms including threats, threats of physical

¹⁶ North East Inner City, Dublin 1

violence, actual physical violence, damage to property, various other forms of violence (Murphy, 2017). Families and their loved ones also become victims once subject to such intimidation. An Garda Síochána operates a Drug Related Intimidation Programme that responds to the needs of persons who use drugs and family members experiencing drug related intimidation. This programme has been established by the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau and the National Family Support Network. A Garda Inspector is nominated in every Garda Division to respond to the issue of drug related intimidation. Individuals and family members experiencing intimidation can contact a local Garda Inspector through their local Garda Station for an informal or formal meeting. There is no doubt that the level of intimidation in the area has contributed significantly to the scale of community fear that is easily discernible.

“Drug related intimidation is a real problem in the area”

3.5 Dumping Problem

The sense of despondency and dysfunction in the area is not only as a result of criminogenic factors there is also a significant problem with illegal dumping both commercial and household. The area around the Cara Park and Northern Close group housing schemes and St. Dominic’s and Tara Lawns are official halting sites, the roadsides of which, are lined with long-term residue of an illegal and unauthorised dumping operation. There is also a spill over of dumping in the open spaces adjoining



Figure 7 Illegal dumping in DBM

Belcamp and Moatview resulting in consequential environmental risks and degradation (Downey Mac Conville; Sheridan Woods, Architects and Planners, 2019). The problems are exasperated by unauthorised scrap and waste metal sites in the immediate area. The group housing scheme and official halting sites are occupied by the Travelling Community with a population of 398 inhabitants (CSO,2016). These are relatively minor housing developments when compared to the scale of the other estates in the area. However, the side of the roadway is piled two stories high with dumped materials of all varieties. The author walked the area with a DCC official and spoke to several local residents who seem unconcerned and oblivious to the health and other problems associated with the unauthorised enterprises ongoing in the area. Dublin City Council has completed a survey and report on the projected cost of the clean-up of the area. This significant report offers a number of options from a complete redevelopment of the site to a minimalist approach that favours the removal of the waste material on a phased basis and the prevention of further dumping with physical barriers and legal enforcement options. This issue degrades the entire area and has serious implications for community efforts at improving the area such as the Park Run in Darndale Park that had to cancelled

on occasions due to the presence of dumped waste in the northern part of the park. The presence of the illegally dumped material lends to an image of dysfunction, chaos, and disregard for the public space in the area that cannot be ignored any longer.

“Indiscriminate dumping of both commercial and household waste has to be stopped and a major clean up commenced urgently”

3.6 Community Fear

The demand for public safety was another feature of conversations and interviews that the author encountered from all sections of the community of Darndale. There is an undeniable fear in the community associated with persistent aforementioned public intimidation occasioned by groups or gangs of youths particularly after dark. On numerous occasions it was stated forcibly to the author that people are afraid to go out after dark, whether to engage in recreation, sport, or ordinary business. One respondent said he advised his elderly parents in Belcamp to “pull your blinds at 7pm and ignore what’s going on outside” (Report Interviewee, 2020). This public intimidation is associated with drug dealing and also with a desire on the part of certain elements of the community to make Darndale as much of a ‘no go area’ as possible. Several interviewees mentioned that these gangs had what they described as “patches” or territory where they did their drug dealing business but also displayed the classical symptoms of gang culture with bravado, disrespect, and outright hostility to strangers clearly visible. The current classical status symbols of gang affiliation such as identifiable clothing and footwear are evident in the area among a small but discernible element of the youthful population. Undoubtedly, this manifests itself among impressionable youths of all ages and genders, when lifestyle options are constrained, and the influence of social media and mass consumerism are constant daily distractions.

The feedback from a public focus group meeting was particularly worrying where many respondents spoke passionately about it being unsafe to go out at night-time, feeling threatened and unsafe. They spoke of the need for improved public lighting and the installation of high-quality vandal proof CCTV cameras that can monitor both anti-social behaviour, intimidation, and drug dealing. Stories emerged of youths as young as 15 years calling to homes of other youths as young as 12years demanding drug debts payments of as little as €30 - €50 and warning of repercussions otherwise. The pervasiveness of a culture of intimidation in the area is discernible and extremely worrying.

Certain interviewees expressed frustration and bewilderment at how it is possible for this type of behaviour to occur in the area. Conversations with members of An Garda Síochána outlined an array of positive interventions and interdictions both overt and covert that have occurred and are also ongoing in the area, to combat crime, drug dealing, intimidation and efforts to alleviate community fear which are articulated in the next section.

3.7 Responses

The problem of crime, drugs and violence is not unique to the suburbs of cities anywhere in the world and the Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview area is no exception. This report has outlined the incidence of crime in the area already and the next section will outline the State's and community response to this problem. The control of the problem of crime has traditionally been left to the police or in this case An Garda Síochána. However, criminologists have long advocated that the problem of controlling crime remains a significantly contested issue ranging from advocates of deterrence and punishment (Wilson, 1982); rehabilitation (Cullen, 1997); crime prevention (Clarke, 1996) to environmental factors such as housing, education, social conditions (Bottoms, 1997) and policing tactics and practices such as intelligence or evidence lead policing and community policing (Tilley, 2005). The Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland commented that policing must be conducted in partnership approaches, "Policing must be done with communities. To be effective in preventing crime and protecting people from harm, police must work in partnerships with other entities, including schools, community and volunteer organisations, businesses, human rights NGOs, youth groups, faith-based groups and others" (Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland, 2018, p. x). The response to the crime problems of Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview to date have been multi-faceted and incorporates many of the aforementioned elements.



Figure 8 Garda Raid DBM April 2020

3.7.1 Disrupt and Dismantle

The design of the Darndale Estate, although well intentioned, is generally considered to have been an extremely poor concept. From a policing perspective the area is also considered problematic. The lack of access and through roads makes passive patrolling and community surveillance difficult. The tendency of criminally inclined individuals, to isolate their immediate neighbouring houses and property makes police surveillance difficult. The number of boarded up or fire damaged houses is evidence of efforts to create enclaves of acceptable associations. However, from the perspective of disrupting and dismantling criminal groups and individuals in the area An Garda Síochána have been successful in targeting many individuals and groups utilising legislation, enforcement and asset targeting on a regular basis. An example of the disruption activity can be seen from a recent Irish Mirror newspaper report that described a major policing operation involving as many as 15 garda cars, vans and helicopter in a raid at a halting site in north Dublin, in the Darndale/Clarehall area (O'Hanlon, 2020). A further example occurred shortly afterwards in the Priorswood area when motorcycles used in drug dealing were seized. Table 6 below is illustrative of the policing activity in the DBM area alone in the last number of years.

Drugs Seized in Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview			
Sec 3 MDA¹⁷ – Possession	2018	2019	% Differential
Total Seizures	53	106	
Value of Seizures	€3,393	€6,463	91%+
Sec 15 MDA – Sale/Supply			
Total Seizures	9	46	
Value of Seizures	€99,870	€520,109	421%+

Table 7 Drugs Seized in Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview 2018-19, Source An Garda Síochána 2020

The fact that over €5m of drugs were seized in the Darndale catchment area alone is indicative of the volume of drugs available in the area and the levels of garda policing activity.

3.7.2 Community Policing

The response to the area’s problems also includes the community policing unit dedicated to Darndale, from Coolock Garda Station. This unit has an impressive record of achievement, community engagement and support in the area despite the ongoing negative influences of a sizeable group of individuals who dissociate themselves from policing and continually attempt to frustrate efforts at community engagement. Since April 2019, the Darndale Community Policing Unit commenced a series of operations in the area with the aim of provide a robust community policing service to the Darndale/Belcamp/Moatview areas with particular focus on anti-social behaviour, dangerous driving, and drugs activity. An Garda Síochána identified key targets involved in the drugs trade and responded by carrying out strategic drugs searches and multi-agency days of action in order to tackle the issues. The increase in drugs seizures in 2019 is reflective of this work. The Community Policing Unit has a dedicated strength of one sergeant and six Gardaí overseen by an allocated inspector. The community Gardaí are appreciated by the community and several interviewees spoke of their involvement in the Late-Night Leagues¹⁸, TAG¹⁹, attendance at the sports hall, involvement in the schools and in patrolling, checkpoints, response activity and general policing activity.

The author was impressed by the interests and commitment of the Community Policing Unit to have an impact in the area, and the desire to maintain the momentum and progress of community engagement of recent times. Undoubtedly, the economic recession of the 2008-2014 period when all Garda recruitment was halted had a major impact on the visibility of Gardaí in the area and on the ability to actively patrol and engage with the community. Interviews with the Community Policing Unit

¹⁷ Misuse of Drugs Acts 1978-2017

¹⁸ Late Night Leagues are an FAI youth soccer events run weekly in different areas of Dublin city where An Garda Síochána participate with local youth teams in a coaching, mentoring and guidance role.

¹⁹ TAG is the Teenagers and Garda Programme run by An Garda Síochána to break down barriers between Gardaí and youths.

identified the problems of the area as the aforementioned groups and gangs of disaffected youths engaging in low level drug dealing, intimidation of ordinary community members and indeed service provider staff, anti-social behaviour involving racing through the area on motor bikes and quads. The unit are committed to targeting their engagement on the schools in the area to generate a more positive understanding of the role of An Garda Síochána in the area to counteract the negative influence of those elements who seek to undermine the community.

At a strategic level, the local area District Superintendent outlined a further ambitious community policing initiative for the area. The approach is loosely based on the community policing customer-oriented approach to policing that was introduced into the Dublin North Central Division and which won a European best practice certificate awarded by the European Institute for Public Administration (EIPA) for customer-oriented policing in 2015 (Leahy, 2020).

The new initiative will see dedicated Gardaí being allocated to particular areas, streets and roads within the Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview areas where they will assume personal responsibility for the community problems, issues and resolutions from crime, public order, anti-social behaviour to community engagement and interactions. This will generate familiarity and confidence among the community and create an environment where partnership working, and collaboration can prosper.

“High-Visibility and Sustained Community Policing Must Become the Norm for the Area”

3.7.3 Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour and quality of life issues featured regularly in conversations with many of the groups and individuals that the author interviewed. Stories of regular joyriding through the roads and open spaces of Darndale, car chases by the Gardaí, and burned out cars were continually raised. The evidence was visible in the tyre tracks across the Spine Site and other open spaces. Motorcycle tracks through Darndale Park and the sight of youths speeding around on motorcycles and quads lends to widespread disquiet and apprehension about the anti-social behaviour of numbers of youths in the area. Similarly the sight of graffiti, partial burned rubbish or dumped rubbish bags diminishes the area and can lead to what has been called a “slide to ashes” where a series or sequence of events such as litter, graffiti, minor criminal damage minor fires and low level crime lead to larger crimes and criminality and must be nipped in the bud (Knights, 1998).

In this country the Criminal Justice Act 2006 provides for action to be initiated against individuals who engage in anti-social behaviour and related legislation provides for actions for anti-social behaviour by children. These provisions allow Gardaí to deal with anti-social behaviour through a civil process using behaviour warnings and orders. Failure to comply with a behaviour order becomes a criminal matter.

3.8 Youth Diversion from Crime

The response to the crime problems of the area also involves the efforts of highly committed youth services in the direct area and are a significant deterrence tool in the fight against the attractions of

drugs and criminality. The efforts of drugs rehabilitation services are another response and combined with the opportunities afforded by career, education and job agencies are all undoubtedly helping certain individuals, yet there appears to be no shortage of recruits being attracted to the easy money and glamorous lifestyle promised by the second level drug barons who profit from the misery and dysfunction associated with problematic drug usage in the area.

Responses also include the Garda Youth Diversion project such as the Woodale Youth Justice Project, a Garda Youth Diversion Project, funded through the Irish Youth Justice Service covering the Darndale and Priorswood area. It is managed by Sphere 17 and has approximately 20 clients at any one time who come from the local area. Within close proximity is the KEEP Youth Diversion Project (Kilmore Empowering Every Person), although based in Kilmore it accepts youths referred to it who may on occasions choose KEEP over Woodale Project or who JLO's considered more suited to this project. A smaller number are referred to the Kilbarrack Project (KCCP) if necessary and the EDIT project also has clients from the area.

Overall, in the DMR Northern Division there are seven GYDPs. Conversations with the area JLO's suggest that there were 154 referrals from the DBM area alone in 2019 for offences ranging from drug use (Section 3 Misuse Drugs Acts); Section 15 (Misuse Drugs Acts), theft from shop and assault. The majority of clients come from family settings that are described as chaotic, lacking in parental guidance, riddled with drug and alcohol problems where in some case the sale or supply of drugs is "considered a part-time job" (Interviewee, February 2020).

The JLO officers interviewed described a tough and difficult environment where some parents are indifferent to their children's indiscretions or criminal offences and who view the deferral programme as something to be endured rather than proactively and positively engaged with. Other commentators stated that some youths and their families referred to the Juvenile Diversion Programme as a soft option regarding offending where they get numerous chances before finally being called to account. Again, other commentators stated that some youths are just beyond help and rehabilitation when they initially come into contact with the youth justice system.

3.9 Analysis and Reflections

The issue of crime and criminality in the area, occasioned by drugs is of such concern that it has been raised in Dáil Éireann, where the then leader of the opposition, Michael Martin stated that, "the scale and severity of drug debt intimidation is clear and is much highlighted in the report [Europol, 2019], with the intimidation of communities, of families and of individuals, including children, as a result of this activity. It is something that, collectively in this House, we have to be extremely concerned about" (House of the Oireachtas, 2019). In response the then Taoiseach Mr Leo Varadkar, indicated that An Garda Síochána through the Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau (GNDOCB), "had seized controlled substances with an estimated street value of €167 million in recent years, seized cash believed to be the proceeds of crime to a value of €10 million, and seized 108 firearms and 3,000 rounds of ammunition. In 2019 alone, the GNDOCB has been responsible for seizing controlled substances to the value of €20 million, cash believed to be the proceeds of crime of €2.4 million and 17 firearms", (House of the Oireachtas, 2019).

The results of the state's efforts to control the sale and supply of drugs is evident. The work of the drug treatment services in supporting and rehabilitating those unfortunate to be problematic drug users is enormous. The efforts of the youth services in attempting to divert young people away from drugs and crime is unstinting in the immediate area of Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview and also in the wider Dublin 17 environment, yet the problem persists.

Contrary to many commentaries on the DBM area, there is an appetite for enhanced community policing in the area not just from An Garda Síochána but also from other parties who have a role to play in partnership policing such as DCC and local community groups. The fact that the area is a maze of alleyways, with no through roads and restricted access renders the passive crime prevention potential of through traffic such as busses with CCTV cameras on board impossible in the area. The need for enhancements to the CCTV systems already in the area was emphasised to the author on many occasions. The potential to locate a Garda Síochána community policing hub to ensure continuity of policing presence also featured regularly. Indeed, conversations with DBVC management welcomed the possibility of housing such a unit within its proposed phase 2 expansion plans.

The scale and scope of services both State, NGO and voluntary in the area is truly impressive with an array of organisations providing services from pre-cradle to grave. However, there is a sense of many organisations delivering everything they can and as often as they can, yet a perception persists that perhaps a more coordinated, specific, and collaborative approach might yield better results. There is enormous work being done on a daily basis by the various youth initiatives within the area and the youth population has every opportunity to divert from crime and engage in worthwhile and attractive options towards life and career development and indeed many choose this pathway.

Upon reflection the author is of the opinion that there is scope to align and coordinate youth service somewhat more strategically and this will be returned to later in the Report.

“There is a Need to Better Align and Deliver More Targeted Interventions”

4.0 Service Delivery and Structures

A profusion of service organisations both state and non-state exist in the DBM area and indeed within its wider catchment and service delivery area. The author has attempted to quantify these services and arrange them by service areas, see Appendix 5 for more details. These range from state services such as HSE and Tulsa, DEASP, Education, An Garda Síochána, Dublin City Council, DNELDTF, CDYSB, to local providers such as drug treatment centres, youth services, Darndale Belcamp Village Centre, Newlife Centre, community employment schemes, creches, counselling services, after-school programmes, older persons services, sports, vocational training and community support. This chapter collates and maps these services into service categories in order to assess what the area has and what the area needs for better social and community development and progression.

4.1 Services within Darndale/Belcamp/Moatview

There are a multitude of services both within the immediate area of DBM and close by. Indeed, within the wider Dublin 17 area the author was impressed with the scale and availability of these services. There is a perception that the area is neglected and devoid of services and supports, however an analysis of the service provision and structures within the area indicates that this is a questionable presumption and does not appear to be the case. This sentiment is akin to the poor reputation of an area syndrome that was mentioned earlier when once an area acquires a certain reputation it becomes difficult to shift public opinion thereafter (Hastings, 2000).

“The Area has a Profusion of Services both State and Voluntary”

4.2 Youth Services

The catchment area of Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview has a significant number of youth services²⁰ available to the young people of the area. These services offer a range of activities, programmes, and initiatives to all youth in the area. Access to these programmes is voluntary and also by referral from schools, social workers, and An Garda Síochána mainly.

4.2.1 City of Dublin Youth Services Board

The City of Dublin Youth Services Board (CDYSB) is a committee of the City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDETb). The role of CDYSB is to support the provision, coordination, administration and assessment of youth services in their functional area and provide such information as may be required by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs; the Department of Health and the Department of Education and Skills regarding the administration of grant aid and support. The services provided by CDYSB include:

²⁰ An analysis of KWYP Services Map indicates that there are 12 Youth and Community Projects within 7 kms of Kilmore and Kilmore is approximately 2.5 kms from Darndale Belcamp Village Centre. (Googlemaps.com)

- Administering grant aid to 70 projects in Dublin City on behalf of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs
- Administering grant aid to 28 interim drugs task force projects on behalf of the drugs programme unit of the Department of Health
- Administering grant aid to two projects in Dublin City on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills

Ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of management structures at local level and monitor activities, expenditure, and general governance of projects

- Assisting youth projects/services and voluntary youth clubs/groups to develop and deliver services and supports to young people
- Roll-out of the National Quality Standards for Volunteer-Led Youth Groups (NQSVMG)
- Developing and disseminating resource packs, guidelines, and templates for youth work practice (City of Dublin Youth Service Board, 2017).

CDYSB administer significant funding to the various youth services in the Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview areas and also to the DNELDTF. In 2019, CDYSB completed the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) Area Profile Needs Assessment and Services Requirements (APNASR) process for Dublin City. The Service Requirement includes the geographic boundaries, target groups and priority needs of young people aged 10-24 years to be addressed by projects funded under the new targeted youth funding scheme “UBU Your Place Your Space” to be rolled out in 2020 (City of Dublin Youth Service Board, 2019).

4.2.2 Sphere 17

The Sphere 17 Regional Youth Service (RYS) operates in line with the Service Level Agreement as issued by the CDYSB on behalf of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. It operates in Darndale, from an impressive, welcoming, and large building beside the Village Centre. It provides a high-quality youth services to young people between the ages of 10 – 24, in the immediate area and also in wider Dublin 17 and Kilbarrack areas. It has three other youth centres located in Bonnybrook, Priorswood and in the St Benedict’s Resource Centre in Kilbarrack. The service is typically provided 6-days a week and opens until 10pm in at least one of the areas/centres from Monday to Friday.



Figure 9 Sphere 17 Regional Youth Service

Sphere 17’s philosophy is grounded in the belief that all young people can achieve greatness and their mission is to support young people to be the best they can. It provided an impressive array of youth services in 2019 including 26,798 contact hours; 17,616 sessions and 1238 young people availed of the service. The author met and interviewed several members of management and staff and was impressed with their energy, dedication, and vision. Sphere 17 also operate the Woodale Youth Justice

Project, a Garda Youth Diversion Project²¹ (GYDP) funded through the Irish Youth Justice Service covering the Darndale and Priorswood area.

4.2.3 Other Youth Services in the Catchment Area of DBM

Within a relatively short distance of DBM there is a wide variety of other youth services that both offer places and opportunities to the youth population of DBM also. These include:

- KCCP – Kilbarrack Coastal Community Programme, offers a youth programme “Youth Matters” which is a programme for young people aged 9-21 years of age and is committed to providing young people with a range of stimulating and varied activities presenting a drug free model of socialization. Age appropriate games and informal life skills teaching are an integral part of the programme.
- KWYP - Kilmore West Youth Project welcomes all young people from the Dublin 5, 9 and 17 areas including the Darndale catchment area. It provides programmes and activities to those aged 10-24 years based on their needs and interests. KWYP also manage the KEEP GYDP and offers a range of opportunities for young people to participate in. These services include drop-ins, educational and issue-based programmes, one-to-one support, residential and summer programmes. It also attempts to identify individuals’ personal preferences in sports, sport clubs and education or employment opportunities. It operated the “Work to Learn Programme”, which was an incentivised youth employment programme successfully in recent years.

The KWYP shared the detail of a project of work they completed regarding the number of services available within 7km of their base, see appendix 9. An analysis of this work indicates the extent of services within reasonable proximity to DBM as set out in table 8 below.

²¹ See also reference to Woodale Youth Justice Project at section 3.8.

Clubs & sporting Activities	
Activity	Number of facilities
Soccer	20
GAA	14
Basketball	7
MMA	16
Gym	12
Athletics, Yoga & Gymnastics	10
Dance & Music	11
Park runs	10
Scout Dens	10
Pitch & Putt, Rugby Golf	5
Archery & Skate Parks	4
Badminton & tennis	10
Table Tennis	2
Swimming	5
Hockey	1
Coder Dojo	5
Miscellaneous, Kayaking, Rock-climbing, Snooker, Bowling, Hiking, Cycling etc.	12
TOTAL	154

Table 8 Clubs and Sporting Activities in General Area; Source KWYP, 2020.

Contrary to certain local and popular opinion there is an extraordinary range of sports clubs and activities within relatively easy reach. There does however appear to be a certain lack of interest and motivation on behalf of some sections of the local community to engage with these activities. The community willingness to participate in these activities must be awakened and energised to generate value, health, and wellbeing benefits for the community as a whole.

“Community interest and motivation must be re-established”

4.3 Education Services

Once again there is considerable variety and availability of educational and training opportunities in the immediate area of DBM such as:

- Our Lady Immaculate Primary School (Junior)
- Our Lady Immaculate Primary School (Senior)
- After School / Homework Clubs
- Discovery Training Centre (DBVC)
- Coláiste Dhulaigh Secondary School
- Coláiste Dhulaigh College of Further Education
- CDETB Adult Education Service
- Communiversity²² (DCC Library Coolock).



Figure 10 Coláiste Dhulaigh College of Further Education

4.3.1 Primary Secondary and Further Education

When these are coupled with the other educational centers close by such as St David’s, The Donahies Community School, St Mary’s Holy Faith, Killester and Chanel College in the wider catchment area, the range of educational choices is certainly attractive. Conversations with the educational providers, managers and teachers in primary, secondary, further educational and adult levels, all of whom have considerable experience of teaching and managing in the area, some for up to 40 years, offers a most interesting, complex and somewhat disturbing educational landscape.

It appears that educational attainment is gradually improving and many children in the area complete their Junior Certificate. One parent when interviewed commented that “if only I could get them to Junior Cert”. This, unfortunately in modern Ireland, is a relatively low ceiling for expectations.

Age at Which Education Ceased							
	Under 15	15	16	17	18	19	20 and over
Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview	476 (23%)	313 (15%)	368 (18%)	286 (14%)	315 (15%)	87 (5%)	208 (10%)
Republic of Ireland	K184 (9%)	K125 (6%)	K226 (11%)	K201 (10%)	K359 (17%)	K122 (6%)	K875 (41%)

²² Communiversity is a Maynooth University Initiative operating in Coolock Public Library (Marder, I. 2020).

Table 9 Age at Which Education Ceased

Table 9 above indicates the worrying percentage of school children aged under 15 years (23%) who are no longer in education as against the national average of 9%. When the overall area of Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview is viewed in comparison to the national average, these figures give cause for widespread apprehension for the future of the area and its socio-economic prospects.

The conversations and interviews suggest that an absence of parental authority is a major problem in the area among a section of the most deprived elements of the community. Some children suffer from a lack of positive parenting and/or parental control and the school setting is the principle source of values, control, and guidance. The author was informed that there is a perceptible disrespect among some children for boundaries, foul and abusive language is commonplace, and a lack of routine is evident, also it appears that some children are allowed to roam the estates and easily become prey to those who would influence them into criminality and drug usage.

Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview has an excellent primary school "Our Lady Immaculate", situated in the center of the area, containing both a junior and senior primary school, where many of the above problems and issues first manifest. The school operates an EBD (Emotional, Behavior, Disorder) class to manage and develop the behaviours and social interactions that occur in school settings. The challenge for teachers and managers is to attract and retain staff who have an ambition to work within disadvantaged areas. Suggestions made to the author include rent allowances or special increments for teaching in disadvantaged areas and more focus in teacher training education on managing disadvantaged students.

An interesting approach identified to the author was the concept of "ACE" (Adverse Childhood Experiences) informed practice. An increasing body of academic literature suggests potential for meaningful impacts should schools and educational settings adopt this approach (Bellis, 2018). "ACE's include suffering childhood abuse or neglect as well as environmental stressors such as living in a household affected by substance use or domestic violence" (INTO, 2020). ACE's impact children's neurobiological/brain development impacting their ability to emotionally self-regulate, develop healthy relationships and engage in positive social interactions. ACE's give rise to "substantive increases in the risk of adopting anti-social and health-harming behaviors, accelerated development of chronic disease and pre-mature death" often presenting within environments that are poor, with high levels of unemployment, discrimination, community violence, poor housing and low social and economic mobility. ACE's can also tend to be longitudinal and intergenerational (INTO, 2020).

The Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO) currently offer an online educational programme on ACE's²³ for teachers. Consideration should be given to providing this course on a pilot basis within

23 Understanding and Supporting Pupils with Adverse Childhood Experiences. This online course seeks to enable teachers to understand adverse childhood experiences, how they may manifest in a learning environment and how best they can be accommodated to support the child's learning needs. Case studies of children suffering trauma as a result of parental alcohol abuse, the care system, domestic violence, parental incarceration and of children suffering from homelessness are explored as part of the course. School wellbeing policies will be appraised as well as the use of the SSE process to promote a trauma informed approach to teaching and learning. Finally, the course explores how to manage/support your own relationship and interaction with behaviour associated with adverse childhood experiences and how to better support your own wellbeing.

The course comprises of 5 modules as follows:

Module 1: Theory related to adverse childhood experiences

Module 2: How ACEs may present

both primary schools and indeed to other adults working with young people in the area, to enhance their understanding of ACE's and to providing supports to them that would enable the adoption of an ACE informed approach to practice.

The requirement for sustained investment in education is vividly illustrated by Table 10 which indicates that only 39% of the population of DBM progressed beyond lower secondary or Junior Certificate level. However, this is an improvement on a 2003 Health Survey which indicated that only 11% of people in Darndale-Belcamp area has completed Leaving Certificate excluding children still in school (O'Driscoll, 2003).

Highest Level of Education Attained Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview					
Highest Level of Education Completed	No Formal Education or Primary Education Only	Lower Secondary (Junior Certificate)	Upper Secondary (Leaving Certificate)	Technical and Vocational Level	Third Level (Degree/Diploma)
Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview	907 (29%)	996 (32%)	717 (23%)	196 (6%)	315 (10%)
Republic of Ireland	386,498 (13%)	449,766 (15%)	573,643 (20%)	453,850 (16%)	1,034,627 (36%)

Table 10 Highest Level of Education Attained DBM, CSO 2016

Adding complexity to the situation is the relatively low numbers of pupils in Coláiste Dhulaigh which is traditionally the local secondary school for the catchment area, but it seems a large percentage of children are sent to other schools in the wider area leaving Coláiste Dhulaigh to cope with a sizeable number of students with significant educational and social challenges than would normally be expected in one educational setting.

2019 was the 50th anniversary of the opening of Coláiste Dhulaigh and in that period the school has experienced a gradual decline in its numbers, from a high of almost 1000 in the 1980's to 170 pupils today. This is somewhat of a surprise and a worry as Coláiste Dhulaigh is the only secondary school in Dublin 17 postal district. It appears that many students avail of other opportunities in the neighboring schools such as Chanel College, St. David's or the Donahies. Management and staff stressed that the image of Coláiste Dhulaigh is improving, but residual and historical issues impact on its reputation and numbers. Alongside Coláiste Dhulaigh is the Coláiste Dhulaigh College of Further Education (CDCFE) that offers an extensive variety of post primary Leaving Certificate Courses (PLCs) at QQI levels 5 and 6 in a range of disciplines from Art and Design, Science and Computing, Media Studies to Business and Tourism among an extensive list of options including part-time and work based learning

Module 3: Supporting the needs of pupils with ACES

Module 4: Case Studies and School Policies

Module 5: Knowing and caring for self to better care for other

Conversations with management and staff at these colleges indicated a certain frustration and disappointment that more of the educational opportunities available were not been taken up by the communities of Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview. The comment by one senior staff member that *“it’s not for the want of opportunities and by 16 years of age it’s too late”*, resonated with the author. Suggestions that were made to the author from experienced educational practitioners include developing area and student specific courses, including pre-apprenticeship courses, that attract and retain the interest of students rather than the generic subject choices within the national Leaving Certificate Curriculum. Examples offered included the FAI supported soccer and educational course that was previously offered within Coláiste Dhulaigh²⁴. Further such examples are available in the UK along the lines of Stephen Elliot academies in the UK and Cork City partnership with Mahon Community School, where schools provide intensive football coaching in tandem with regular schoolwork and progress towards educational qualifications (O’Riordáin, 2020).

“Develop bespoke educational programmes that attract the interest of students”

4.3.2 Adult Education Provision in the Coolock/Darndale area

The City of Dublin ETB Adult Education Service, also provides a variety of part time learning opportunities for anyone wishing to return to education including adult literacy, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), community education, adult education guidance, Back to Education Initiative (BTEI) and basic education programmes in the workplace free of charge. The adult education service works in partnership with voluntary and community organisations as well as statutory bodies such as Dublin City Council, HSE and the DEASP. It offers tuition in conjunction with Home School Community Liaison (HSCL), Community and Resource Centres around the city and voluntary and statutory bodies that provide for groups of adults. The Adult Education Service Area 1 offers tuition in a range of community settings in the Coolock, Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview and Priorswood area. See Appendix 2 for a sample of the range of courses and locations.

The courses are part time and include a range of accredited and non-accredited courses at QQI Levels 2, 3 and 4. During the calendar year 2019 the Adult Education Service offered a total of 186 different part time courses in the Coolock/Darndale area and 1,323 adults participated on the courses offered. In 2019, several new initiatives in adult education were started and are scheduled to continue throughout 2020 such as:

- Family Learning: Classes taking place in St. Francis Junior School, St Francis Senior School, OLI Darndale, St Joseph’s, and Aoibhneas Women’s Refuge
- Greencastle Hub Initiative: QQI Level 3 Personal Development, Driver Theory Classes
- Department of Justice Families: Welcome classes taking place in St Francis School for newly arrived adults.

²⁴ Coláiste Dhulaigh CFE, also provides innovative courses such as a boat building programme that seeks to stimulate interest and leverage career opportunities for students associated with the area’s closeness to the eastern seaboard.

It is envisaged that these services will expand in the DBM area by delivering courses in the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre thus emphasizing the value of the DBVC and its vital community, entrepreneurial and social footprint in the area.

4.3.3 Discovery Training Centre

The Discovery Community Training Centre (CTC) is a CDETB funded community operated training facility, located in the Darndale Belcamp area of North County Dublin, and providing vocationally focused training and educational courses to youths aged 16 to 21 years who have left mainstream education early. Learners attending the center are given the opportunity to receive the equivalent of state education exams using a variety of QQI certified courses at National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) Levels 3 and 4 in areas such as catering, woodworking, hair and beauty, health and fitness, computers and literacy. Discovery CTC comprises a spacious and well-equipped complex of rooms, workshops and training facilities and can accommodate 70 learners with enrolment of learners taking place on a continuous intake basis.

Highlighting the importance of this resource to the community of Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview, and recognizing the high rate of unemployment in the area and the high level of early school leaving which can make young people more vulnerable to engaging in anti-social behavior and substance misuse with an associated consequence of long term unemployment and lifelong social welfare dependency.

The author understands that there is potential to increase the age limit for learner participation beyond the current 21 years of age with the prospect that specific purpose programmes could be developed for other groups additional to the current target profile of learners, to meet the needs of other disadvantaged groups. It is further possible that customised training could be developed in conjunction with local employers in the nearby industrial estates, hotels, and shopping centers to provide training in skills for specific service areas so as to further assist the progression of learners into employment and/or further education.

4.3.4 Kilmore Youthreach

The CDETB also enables Kilmore Youthreach training center to offer free education, training, and work programmes for early school leavers aged 15-20 and the center is scheduled to be relocated to the general area late in 2020. It supports young people to identify what they would like to do in adult life and allows them to gain an educational certificate to assist their pathways. It operates on a full-time basis all year round and students are paid a training allowance for participation. The individual needs of each student are assessed, and a learner plan is developed based on what the center can offer. Courses are varied and are learner centered. They include communications, computer courses, work experience, health related fitness, personal and interpersonal development, sports, math's, art, teamwork, and cookery

4.4 Drug Treatment Services

Service provision within the Darndale catchment area also includes a strong presence of drug treatment centres and facilities scattered across a number of locations. These offer a variety of services including methadone maintenance programme, counselling, rehabilitation, and addiction support. The author has met and interviewed a significant number of staff, management, clients, and

volunteers in these services and is hugely impressed by the dedication and desire to improve the lives of individuals and families afflicted by addiction.

4.4.1 Dublin North East Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force

The Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview area comes within the Dublin North East Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force area (DNELDATF) which is the one of largest local drug and alcohol task forces in the State. Its area of operations stretch from Fairview to Northern Cross, Coolock, Howth, Darndale, Priorswood, Edenmore and Kilbarrack, consequently it is integral to reviewing the drug treatment services in the area. It plays a key role in assessing the extent and nature of the drug problem and coordinating action and funding at local level (Dublin North East Local Area Drugs Task Force, 2020). There are 16 services funded either through DNELDATF or HSE Dublin North City & County Addiction Team or in some cases jointly funded with bodies such as the CDYSB (Murtagh, 2019). Drug and Alcohol Task Forces comprise representatives from a range of relevant agencies, such as the HSE, An Garda Síochána, the Probation and Welfare Service, Education and Training Boards, Local Authorities, Youth Services, as well as elected public representatives and voluntary and community sector representatives. The author was impressed with the cooperation and generosity of the DNELDTF in sharing information and research already conducted in the area.

4.4.2 Beldale View Treatment Centre

Within the Darndale area, the Beldale Treatment Centre is the longest established clinic locally. The 'clinic' is located in a former coal yard, somewhat out of the public view, down a long laneway but accessible via shortcuts from the Darndale Housing Estate. This was unfavourably commented upon by many people, who expressed a view that it is kept out of sight to minimise the extent of addiction in the area. Clinic staff confirm that the Health Board originally had great difficulty in finding any premises for the treatment of heroin addicts at the time, as there was strong resistance to the opening of any such facilities.

The new 'clinics' were established in response to the epidemic of heroin injecting which afflicted the most socially disadvantaged parts of Dublin from the 1980s. The new Drugs/AIDS service was also responding to local community action against the spread of drug misuse, and some of the original Darndale activists are still providing advice to the staff in the clinic.

The treatment centre provides medical, nursing and counselling care, as well as an on-site methadone dispensing service. Some clients are also scripted out from the clinic to local community pharmacies for their convenience. Many clients are in the very vulnerable, damaged, and problematic category, and are unsuitable for management in the general practice setting. General Assistants (GAs) are responsible for the day to day running of the clinic, which is managed in a firm but non-judgemental way, with a view to the retention and eventual stabilisation of clients.

The clinic also works closely with the Dales Project, and the Dublin North East Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (DNELDATF). Some clinic clients also attend the Dales for additional counselling and support of various kinds, and there is open communication with the consent of the client. A number of attendees have achieved recovery from addiction, via residential or other pathways.

The clinic treats approximately 170 clients currently, with the vast majority from the local area. Most have already attended for many years and are now in middle age. Some cases now include several generations of the same family. There are not many new applications for methadone treatment in the

local area, as younger addicts are reported to be misusing cannabis, cocaine, alcohol, and tablets, rather than heroin.

Data from the DNELADTF²⁵ indicate that 62% of the participants in the Methadone Maintenance Treatment programme in the DNELDATF area were over 40 years of age compared to 49% in the State at the end of 2017. In 2013 the comparative figures were 38% in DNELDATF and 31% in the State (Dublin North East Local Area Drugs Task Force, 2020, p. 24). Staff at the clinic testify that drug addiction in the area is pervasive, persistent, and inter-generational, and that it is interwoven with entrenched economic, social, and familial problems.

“Addiction problems in the area do not seem to be reducing”

4.4.3 The Dales Centre

The Dales is a drug and alcohol support and treatment centre located in the heart of Darndale who are committed to 'reducing the harm to individuals and the community by supporting people through each stage of addiction'. They provide services to individuals and families suffering from problems associated with drug or alcohol use. The Dales works from a harm reduction philosophy and an 'Open Door' policy where people are free to walk in to meet staff and talk. The author spent a very useful afternoon with a therapy group and discussed their experiences of drug and alcohol addiction and the pressures of living in an area where drugs are commonly available. One individual spoke of the peer pressure applied by drug dealers who text or phone every morning offering particular substances and in his own words “just like the supermarket special offers” (interviewee in the Dales, Feb. 2020). The Dales Centre works closely with other services such as Probation, local treatment services, mental health services, GP’s, schools, youth services, TUSLA and other drug projects in the DNELDTF area. As part of their commitment to treatment and harm reduction, the Dales also offers a comprehensive referral service to other services, such as Soilse, RASP, Cuan Mhuire in Athy and Limerick, Cuan Dara in Ballyfermot, Merchants Quay Residential, Beaumont Hospital. The centre also provides both individual one to one work and group work with a range of programmes, that are psychoeducational and therapeutic. The Dales Centre also has a dedicated suite for AA and NA meetings that takes place on a weekly basis.

4.4.4 RASP

The RASP provide services for individuals from Dublin 17 and the surrounding areas that are engaged in relevant treatment for addiction and are actively seeking support and want to embrace lifestyle change. Its service’s include Methadone Stabilisation programme, CE Funded Methadone Stabilisation Programme, a new Cannabis and CE funded Poly-Drug use Programme for 18-24-year-old, an Aftercare Programme, and a Pilot Progression Routes Service Programme (RASP Strategic Plan, 2019-2021). It treats approximately 150 clients on an ongoing basis many of whom represents on an inter-generational basis where drug usage within family settings has become normalised. Conversations with management indicate that the relapse rate is worrying, and that clients, women and families

²⁵ Dublin North East Local Area Drugs Task Force Review and Strategic Plan 2020-2022.

need long-term and continuous support to maintain a semblance of stability. The author understands that this valuable service will cease at the end of 2020 due to funding constraints.

4.4.5 KCCP

The Kilbarrack Coast Community Programme (KCCP) developed and evolved in response to the use and supply of heroin in the area in 1990's. Local community activists lobbied and successfully started a drug clinic and community-based aftercare project. Originally called Kilbarrack After Care Community Programme its name was changed in 2001. Since then it has expanded to provide a wide range of services to the local community and currently employs 43 people. In addition to the three structured programmes KCCP also offers free confidential counselling to all the community and a vibrant youth programme. The KCCP provide family support and counselling services to 147 clients in the area.

4.4.6 EDIT

Edenmore Drug Intervention Team (EDIT) is a specific community drug and alcohol project providing a wide range of services to adults and young people regarding their own, or a family member's drug and alcohol use. It is a non-payment service located in the wider Raheny area approximately 2.5km from Darndale. It provides proactive, frontline case management approach to adults and young people. EDIT also has the capacity, knowledge, and experience to reach out to other areas with 1:1 and family support services using a philosophy that individuals and their families need to be collectively engaged with for progress regarding problem drug usage and addiction.

4.5 Family Support Services

A striking feature of the Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview area is the volume and range of family support services that are located both within the immediate area and also within close proximity in the wider catchment area. These services comprise both statutory and voluntary services ranging from family support, child protection, creches, older persons services, training, and social entrepreneurial services.

The Darndale / Belcamp Village Centre provides accommodation for a variety of these services including a HSE Primary Care Unit, GP's, Public Health Nurses, and a range of other services such as Mental Health and Suicide Support Service.

4.5.1 Tusla

Tusla the National Child and Family Agency provide a comprehensive social care and family support service in the Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview catchment area that are integral to the social care of the area's community. These services include:

1. Partnership, Prevention and Family Support Service (PPFS)
2. Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Service
3. Children in Alternative Care Service/Fostering

The Partnership, Prevention and Family Support Service (PPFS) is provided through a five- tier support service in the form of:

- i) Commissioned early years community services within the area, through a number of early years' service providers, to support child development and school readiness

- ii) Commissioned Family Support services designed to support families in respect of parenting programmes, behaviour management, cyber safety, and therapeutic support programmes
- iii) Child and Family Support Network, which is a monthly forum for services working with children to meet and share information and support interagency working. This ensures there is no wrong door for families. In practical terms, this means that if a family presents to one service within the network and that service is not equipped to meet their needs, that network member can and should effectively re-direct the family to another network member(s) most appropriate to their needs.
- iv) Meitheal – This is a Tusla led national practice model which enhances interagency working among services and children and families to ensure there is a strong effective team around the child approach and one plan identified with child/family that has attainable outcomes.

Tusla also provide Child Protection Services in compliance with Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2017 and using the “Signs of Safety”²⁶ framework, Tusla work with families around identifying harm causing behaviours and developing wraparound supportive networks within their community to keep children safe from harm.

Like many state services Tusla has resourcing and capacity challenges and with the area’s growing population, deprivation level and societal challenges changing over time, there is always a need to develop more therapeutic and community supports that focus on creative early intervention. In developing the Commissioning Plan for the area, the need to develop more strengths-based responses to children and families that attract engagement and work towards creating a positive attainable outcome was identified. The pull towards criminality is hugely attractive for young people when it brings with it the enhanced reputation, money, cool clothing, and a sense of belonging and power.

By engaging from similar perspectives, collaborative interagency engagement offers more effective and timely responses to those most in need, and thus can strengthen and reduce duplication/long waiting lists for both Tusla and other commissioned services.

4.5.2 Turas-Springboard

Another significant family support service in the area is the Turas/Springboard service operated by the Daughters of Charity Child and Family Service (DoCCFS). It is a not for profit public service, funded largely by Tusla, that provide a range of therapeutic supportive services to children and families based in the greater Dublin region up to the age of 18 years and also their parents if necessary. The Turas/Springboard service delivery has three main aims:

- To support children and families in developing coping skills and resilience
- To help families to develop social supports within their family and in the local community
- To support the development of attachment and positive relationships

The Daughters of Charity Child and Family Service in DBM provides a vital family and child support service that is well attended and discretely located in the heart of the community. On a visit to the

²⁶ The SOS Framework is the Signs of Safety, developed in Western Australia in the 1990’s which highlighted risk assessment and case planning as central features,(<https://www.whatworks-csc.org.uk>).

centre that author observed the welcoming atmosphere, the professionalism of staff, the scale of activity and the youthful age profile of many of the clientele.

4.5.3 HSE Services

The HSE also has a significant presence in the Darndale, Moatview and Belcamp area. located in the Village Centre including a HSE Primary Care Unit, that has GP's, Public Health Nurses, and a range of other services such as Mental Health and Suicide Support Service.

The HSE provides a broad range of services for older people in the community, including in-patient acute services, step down and convalescent care, day services, rehabilitation, community services, home care and home helps. The District Care unit (DCU) is a multi - disciplinary care team set up to deliver short term coordinated rehabilitation for clients located in the Coolock District Care Unit, Northside Enterprise Centre, Bunratty Drive, Dublin 17.

Mental Health Services are delivered in the community as far as possible and most people are treated by their GP initially unless more specialised support is required such as local counselling/psychotherapy which is available at the Northside Counselling Service, Coolock but other options are available across North Dublin if required.

4.5.4 Northside Partnership

The Northside Partnership (NSP) is a significant service provider in the area. Based in Bunratty Drive, Coolock, approximately 2.5 kms or five minutes from the centre of Darndale. It is one of 49 Local Development Companies (LDCs) working across Ireland with local communities, the state, employers, trade unions and elected representatives. It is a not for profit organisation, established in 1991, it is limited by guarantee with charitable status. The company was originally established as a non-profit organisation to address long term unemployment in communities experiencing intergenerational unemployment in the North East area of Dublin. In the interim, its primary remit has expanded in response to many of the social, economic, and cultural inequalities that are evident in the area. It has developed and implemented several significant programmes, including the Local Employment Service (LES), Tús Community Work Placement Programme, the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and a significant area-based childhood programme called Preparing for Life (PFL). It also enables access to a range of Health Service Executive (HSE) activities including Healthy Food Made Easy and Smoking Cessation (Northside Partnership, 2019). NSP is an innovative organisation that embraces the concept of "Advantaged Thinking"²⁷ and works with communities to identify strengths, talents and interests and it creates, or finds opportunities, for individuals to develop their strengths and build their capabilities (Northside Partnership, 2019).

It has recently engaged in research on the concept of "placed based leadership" which in the author's opinion appears to be the type of programme needed to support local community leadership development that is quite evidently required in the area.

²⁷ Advantaged Thinking (AT) is a practice approach which was first developed by Colin Falconer in 2011, when part of the UK youth charity, The Foyer Federation. It represents a shift in the way we think about and respond to people experiencing disadvantage. It challenges us to move away from a deficit, disadvantaged or problem-focused lens and recognise that all people have a vital contribution to make to the social, cultural and economic life of our communities and society (Northside Partnership Strategy Statement, 2019-2023)

4.5.5 Preparing for Life Programme

One of NSP important programmes is the “Preparing for Life” programme which is a vital early intervention program for families in Dublin 5 and 17, created to support parents in getting their children ready for school.

The outcomes of participation in PFL was reviewed by UCD in 2016, who concluded that “ *Based on the weight of evidence it is clear that PFL improved the lives of the participating children, and ultimately achieved its aim of getting children ready for school*” (UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, 2016, p. xx).

The programme provides antenatal care and education classes in local community settings. It also works with maternity hospitals and the HSE. It is available to anyone expecting a child, in the Dublin 5 and Dublin 17 - Belcamp, Darndale, Moatview, Bonnybrook, Glin Road and Kilmore West area. It commenced in 2008 and strives to improve parents’ knowledge and skills to help children develop positively. It also provides parenting courses for parents and supports the important early years of child progression and development. It is based in the DBVC building in the centre of Darndale and is managed through the Northside Partnership structures.

Since inception it has incrementally expanded its prevention and early intervention work with children and families under the Area Based Childhood Programme (ABC), funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and formerly by Atlantic Philanthropies. In 2018, its ABC programme was aligned with Tusla and now operates under a service level agreement as part of the Tusla Parenting, Prevention and Family Support Programme.

Everyone the author interviewed or spoke to, from a state service provision perspective, educational provision, local councillors, or community workers commented favourably on the invaluable work and outcomes of this programme and stated the need to expand and further develop it. Conversations with many people combined with analysis suggest that this programme needs to be developed further to cater for school going children in the 5-12 age bracket who become vulnerable and impressionable once they are outside of school hours and need the support provided by a second phase of Preparing for Life. Suggestions in this regard are outlined later in the Report.

“The Preparing for Life Programme is Integral to the Future Development of Children in the Area and Should be Further Developed and Expanded”

4.6 Employment Support Services

The support services in the area also includes employment services. The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection outlined to the author the scale and scope of their service delivery in the DBM and wider Coolock area. The DEASP maintain an Intreo office at Civic Centre, Bunratty Road, Coolock and service an area that includes Dublin 17, Coolock, Donnycarney and Artane areas of Dublin 5 and parts of Dublin 9. The services available are comprehensive and designed to support people entering or re-entering the jobs market. They include income support payments; employment support services; community welfare service; among a range of individual and family support services. The education profile of the Intreo area that includes DBM, suggest that 42% of Intreo clients fall into the lower educational category of Junior Certificate, with 29% Leaving Certificate and 29% at Third Level (DEASP, Jan, 2020). The occupations segmentation suggest that clerical sales (22%), personal and protective service (14%) plant and crafts predominate (19%); with Professional, Associate Professional or Management (14%); and 18% not listed (See Appendix 10).

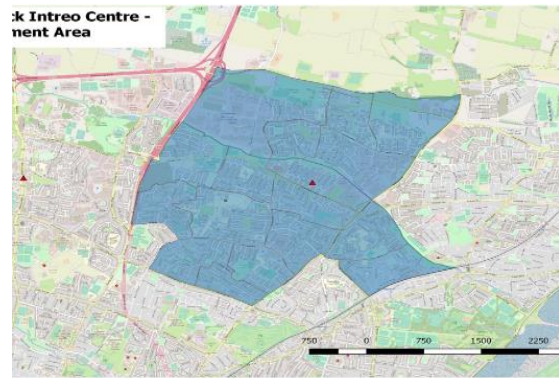


Figure 11 DEASP Administrative Area North Dublin

Consultations with the DEASP suggest that the range of support provided within the Coolock Local Intreo Centre Office catchment area (DBM included) (Figure 12) indicates that the majority of clients fall into the working age categories of UA-S3 (41%) and OPFP (23%) categories. This indicates a strong desire for employment.

The unemployment statistics from the 2016 census however indicate a single more challenging view of DBM alone with an unemployment rate of 36% and with 32% at Junior Certificate as the highest level of education (CSO,2016). The DEASP Probability of Exit (PEX) from unemployment indicator suggests that clients from the overall area have a 39% zero-low probability of exiting unemployment only and a 6% high probability with as can be expected the majority of jobseekers falling into the medium category (56%) (DEASP, 2020).

Overall while there are many supports and initiatives ongoing in the wider area and indeed within DBM, the immediate future does not look overly promising for employment prospects in the area, particularly when one considers that 13% of the under 25's in the wider area are unemployed. Employment and education opportunities must be prioritised or else it can be anticipated that many of the area's current social and economic problems will continue and indeed worsen creating a continuing cycle of deprivation and dependency on state and local services.

“Unemployment and Education Must be Prioritised in the Area”

4.7 Community Services

The area also has a significant support service for lone parents, older persons, and childcare, including Doras Buí, Golden Years and Northside Home Care Services.

4.7.1 Doras Buí

Doras Buí is a community resource centre for one parent families located in Coolock. It is a non-profit charitable organisation founded in 1986 as part of the EU Second Programme to Combat Poverty. Formerly known as P.A.R.C (the Parents Alone Resource Centre). Since 1990, its activities are supported and funded through a combination of grants from government departments and statutory bodies, charitable foundations, and donations from individuals. It was the first locally-based resource centre for lone parents and their children in Ireland and has developed from a modest base in two maisonettes provided by Dublin City Council, to a purpose built centre which opened in 1992 by the then President of Ireland, Mary Robinson who subsequently became its patron. In 1998, the centre developed a full-time early years creche which provides childcare places. It is also implementing the High/Scope Early Years Curriculum, an approach to early learning, developed in the USA specifically for children living in situations of poverty and disadvantage. Doras Buí supports lone parents in pursuing life choices, overcoming discrimination and isolation and becoming socially and economically independent by jointly identifying needs and addressing problems. In particular it advocates the following:

- The needs and issues of lone parent families to policymakers and local statutory agencies
- The development, co-ordination and integration of services and facilities for lone parent families & children, irrespective of status
- Collaboration with local community and statutory partners in the development, co-ordination and integrating of services and facilities for lone parent families
- Rights-based approaches to the provision of services to lone parent families
- Collaboration with local community and statutory partners to improve health and well-being of the community as a whole
- The provision an inclusive high quality, affordable childcare to all families

Overall, it appears that Doras Buí is providing a much-needed support service in the DBM area and in the wider Dublin 17 area.

4.7.2 Older Person Services

The area is reasonably well served with services and facilities for the older person.

4.7.3 Northside Home Care Services

Northside Home Care Services (NHCS) is one of the service providers for older persons in the area. NHCS has provided exemplary care services to frail and vulnerable older people living in the wider parts of North East Dublin for more than 55 years. Over that time the staff and carers at NHCS have developed relationships with the people they care for that go beyond just providing a service. As well as the housekeeping, meal preparation and family relief provided as part of the Home Care provision,

the friendship, companionship, and conversation that are generated also significantly contribute to the well-being of the local community.

The Home Care Service is funded by the HSE, with the Meals On Wheels services availing of client contributions and donations. Referrals come from health professionals, families, neighbours, and self-referrals. All such referrals are assessed by NHCS staff to determine need and levels of care required. In some circumstances NHCS also help families in crisis or those with special needs. The organisation provides a vital and needed service in the area and like most charities and NGO's, struggle to maintain services within the current budgetary allocations (Northside Home Care Services, 2020).

4.7.4 Golden Years

The older people in the area are also supported, well cared for and treated through the Golden Years Senior Centre, that is based in a well-maintained facility in the centre of Darndale that presents as a very friendly and positive environment. This centre offers a range of day care and community-based services for the Dublin 17, 13 and 5 areas. It enables older persons to socialise and engage in exercise programmes, provides meals, alternative therapies, and home hospital visits. The service currently manages an impressive 1,277 members throughout the year. Table 11 quantifies the range and volume of services delivered through the Golden Years organisation.

Golden Years	
Members Registered as of Dec 2019	1,277
Care Calls (phone) in 2019	7,509
Attendance to Social Club (Day-care) in 2019	6,292
Outreach Visits (to homes) in 2019	2,459
Number of Events in 2019	258

Table 11 Golden Years Services (Courtesy of DBVC, 2020)

While the Golden Years premises is well maintained, management consider that the service levels could be comprehensively enhanced by the provision of a new purpose-built facility either in a standalone setting or incorporated into the proposed Phase 2 of Darndale Belcamp Village Centre. Similar sentiments were expressed to the author concerning the facilities and accommodation associated with the area's creches and childcare facilities.

4.8 Dublin City Council

Dublin City Council provides a comprehensive range of services within the area. Dublin City is divided into five council administrative areas to coordinate the delivery of services within the city (see figure 12.) The research area of DBM lies within the North Central Area that also includes Kilbarrack, Raheny, Donaghmede, Coolock, Clontarf and Fairview. There are six locally elected councillors representing the area, almost all of whom engaged with the author in relation to this research.

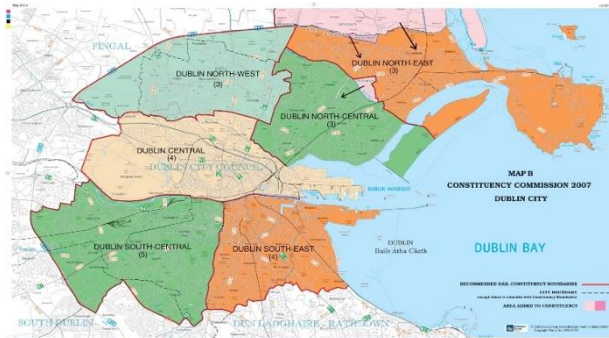


Figure 12 DCC Administrative Area

Dublin City Council maintains a significant presence in the wider area with a headquarters at Bunnary Road Coolock and a Housing Department Office at Darndale Village Centre.

The North Central Area Committee meets very month, apart from August, to discuss issues of interest and relevance to people who live in the area including matter of community safety and community services and delivery.

4.8.1 Community Safety Services

Community safety issues featured strongly in all conversations and interviews conducted by the author. Public discussions on community safety issues in the wider area of Dublin 17 are generally discussed through the area Joint Policing Committee while matters of particular local concern are also discussed through the Darndale Belcamp, Moatview Community Safety Forum.

4.8.2. Joint Policing Committee

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 (section 36) provides for the establishment of a Joint Policing Committees (JPCs) in each Local Authority administrative area and as part of the local government structures. In 2006, JPCs were established, initially on a pilot basis, in a number of Local Authorities including Dublin City Council. Thereafter, all Local Authorities have set up Joint Policing Committees in their administrative areas and given the scale and size of Dublin City, five sub-committees have also been established to correspond to the five operational areas of the City Council. Local elected councillors, Dublin City Council employees, members of the public and the press are generally in attendance. JPC Meetings are usually held quarterly where reports are provided by DCC on local council issues, An Garda Síochána on crime and public order issues and other invited specialists or experts in areas of interest to the committee and community. The agenda usually follows the following format below:

AGENDA: North Central Area JPC - 20th January 2020 11.30am
Venue: Conference Room - Northside Civic Centre
Minutes of Previous meeting
Garda Reports in respect of Coolock; Raheny/Clontarf and Santry.
Items of Special Interest e.g. Divisional Policing Model
Additional Reports: e.g. Animal Welfare Report
Any Other Business and Further Items:
Date of Next meeting Monday 20 th April 2020

Table 12 Agenda North Central Area JPC

A full copy of the 20th January 2020 meeting agenda is attached at Appendix 7 (Dublin City Council, 2020).

4.8.3 Darndale Belcamp Community Safety Forum

Dublin City Council also facilitate the Darndale Belcamp Moatview Safety Forum that generally meets every two months in the Darndale/Belcamp Village Centre. These meetings are generally well attended by the local community, public representatives, local agencies, HSE, Coolock Gardai and Dublin City Council North Central staff. In 2019 there were four safety forum meetings where a variety of matters are discussed and actions allocated, a copy of the Community Safety Forum minutes and agenda is attached at Appendix 8.

4.8.4 Community and Social Development Services

Dublin City Council maintains an office centre and a range of services and supports in the Darndale catchment area that facilitates the functioning of the local community. The management structure for the area is depicted in figure 13 below. The area has a dedicated manger together with a number of subordinate units each tasked with the provision and delivery of differing social and community services. These services range from Housing Management Office that provides housing advice, housing allocations and transfers, maintenance, and estate management services. DCC also provide a public domain service that includes waste disposal, an open space service and Darndale Park maintenance service. It also operates a community and social development service that is aimed at improving the quality of life for the communities of the area. DCC first created this service as far back as 1973 and it has evolved over the last 40 years to encompass social inclusion, integration, and multi-culturalism. It plays a pivotal role in the Darndale catchment area, and helps to develop, support, and sustain community and voluntary activity. The author witnessed the efforts of this service in securing accommodation for the Glin Road Boxing Club and its sterling work in the refurbishment of Darndale Park. It was also highly instrumental in fostering community events such as the community open days in the Park and significant community events such as “The Celtic Legends” and Soap Stars events. It was also heavily involved in the Stardust Memorial event in Coolock Park earlier this year.

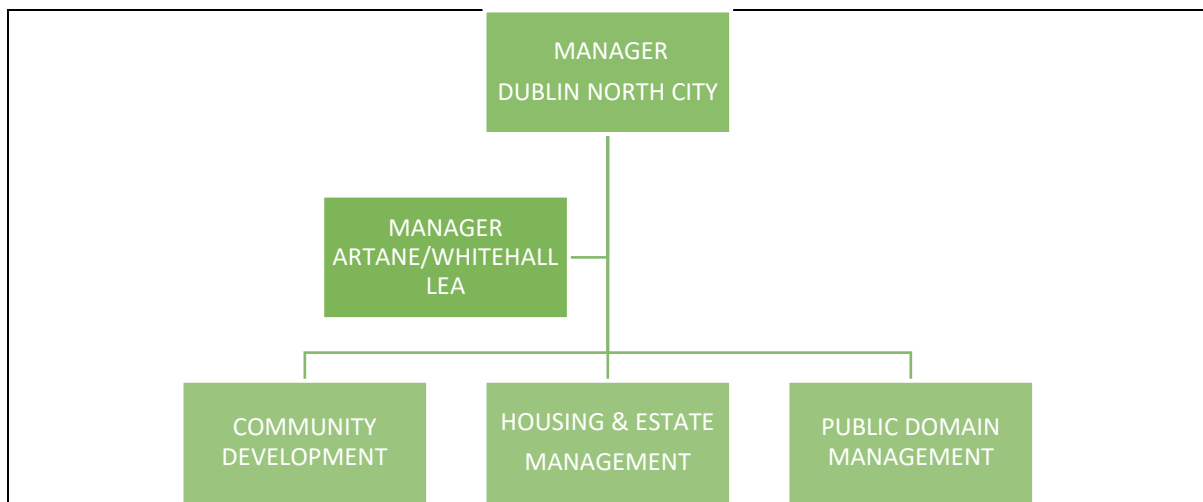


Figure 13 DCC Area Management Structure 2020

4.8.5 Rent Arrears

An issue that regularly surfaced in interviews and conversations was the presence of certain individuals and families that were engaging in anti-social behaviours from a variety of perspectives including, drug dealing from family homes, intimidation of neighbours, indiscriminate dumping of household rubbish to non-payment of rents or household charges. Many local people and indeed local officials and officers in several organisations expressed bewilderment at the lack of official action in this regard. It appears that a number of restrictions associated with both the Housing Planning (Miscellaneous) Provision Act 1997 and the Housing Acts hindered progress in this regard for a number of years. However Local Authorities have specific powers to commence the repossession process in respect of anyone who is engaging in anti-social behaviour. This includes being involved in drug-dealing or in any behaviour that might cause danger, injury, damage, or fear to people living in the area including violence, threats, intimidation, or harassment can be a reason for repossession.

The legal basis for repossession was formerly Section 62 of the Housing Act 1966. However, in 2012, the Supreme Court held that this section was not compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights because it did not allow for an independent hearing of the merits of the proposed repossession.

The Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 replaced Section 62 with new procedures, which involve an independent assessment of the merits of the proposed repossession. These procedures are set out in Part 2 of the Act, which came into effect in April 2015. The new procedures apply where local authorities wish to repossess a property for a variety of reasons including where:

- there has been a serious or repeated breach of a condition of the tenancy agreement, for example, anti-social behaviour or non-payment of rent
- the dwelling has been abandoned by the tenant and is occupied by a squatter
- the tenant has died, and the dwelling is occupied by someone who is not entitled to succeed to the tenancy

Under the revised procedures a local authority may issue a tenancy warning if there is an alleged breach of the tenancy conditions, such as non-payment of rent or anti-social behaviour. A tenancy warning may not be necessary in the case of very serious breaches, but if the local authority applies

to repossess the dwelling without first issuing a tenancy warning, the application for a possession order must state the reasons why no such warning was issued.

The author understands that there are substantial rent arrears in the area that have accumulated for a considerable time to the amount of €3,042,993²⁸. However recent efforts in this regard have resulted in DCC issuing warning notices to some individuals resulting in the back payment of substantial arrears almost immediately.

This is an issue that must be addressed regularly and consistently, bearing in mind the inherent human rights and ability to pay of all involved, but the message that DCC will not tolerate rent arrears combined with anti-social behaviour and non-conformance with normal social behaviour by disruptive tenants must be clearly signalled .

4.8.6 Local Area Planning

Dublin City Council are actively engaged in developing the area closely adjacent to the DBM catchment area. Ambitious plans are being put forward for developments in the draft “Belmayne Town Centre and Belcamp Lane Masterplan” (Dublin City Council, 2019). The plan envisages an increase in population of 20-25,000 with a need for circa 5,500 housing units and with infrastructure front loaded. It envisages a District Centre on the Malahide Road - R173 junction that will include a new link road and a network of interconnected streets. It proposes a mixed neighbourhood and a social infrastructure that meets local needs. The proposal also includes plans for a Library, a Primary Care Unit, and a Garda Station²⁹. In the overall context of social development in the DBM area and indeed in North Dublin a new purpose-built Garda Station is considerably attractive both from a policing visibility perspective but also from an operational effectiveness perspective. This type of social and physical infrastructural forward planning and thinking offers considerable opportunity to avoid unexpected outcomes of poor planning that emerged in the past. This development has the potential to create employment opportunities both short-term and long term for residents of the wider catchment area. Other potential developments such as house construction on the “Spine Site” and in lands to the south of Darndale estate should include a community employment clause to foster employment and apprenticeship opportunities to graduates of the “Discovery Training Unit” in DBM. Other proposed developments such as Irish Water’s plans for a waste-water treatment facility in nearby Clonshaugh should also be considered in this vein.

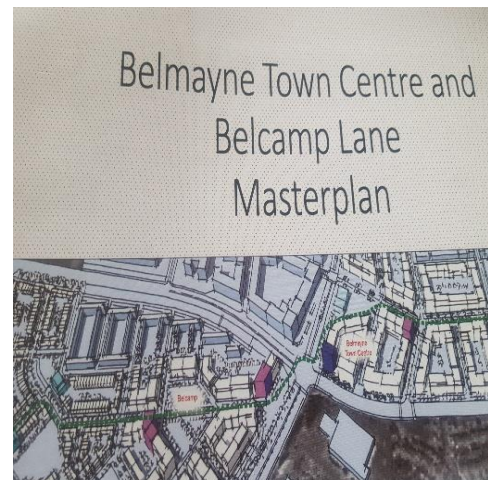


Figure 14 DCC Draft Masterplan Belayne - Belcamp Lane

28 The week rent debit is €84,933 equating to an annual Local Authority rent income of approximately €4,416,542.

29 The author understands that An Garda Sand HQ level strong support this proposal. Indeed there is consideration that the proposed Garda Station could even include the Regional Command Centre for the entire DMR.

4.9 Analysis and Reflections

This Report has quantified and mapped the services currently being delivered in the DBM catchment area into six (6) broad categories as follows:

- Youth Services
- Education Services
- Drug Treatment Services
- Family Support Services
- Employment Services
- Dublin City Council Services

There is little doubt considering the scale of the problems and challenges facing the area, that all of these services are required and indeed in the majority of cases require their funding to be restored to pre-economic recession levels. Indeed, one major service provider stated that they had suffered a 40% reduction in budget in 2008 but only 3% had been restored, despite the sterling performance of the agency in the area.

It appears upon analysis that family support services from “Preparing for Life” to Tusla services are integral to holding together the fabric of a large cohort of families, particularly single parent, and drug problem families. The role of drug treatment services are vital to rehabilitating and offering maintenance, support, and opportunities to individuals and in some cases, families suffering addiction problems. There is a requirement and scope for these services to actively promote their capabilities and messages³⁰ in real time particularly when there are significant outrages in the area.

The role of the varied youth services in the area is vital in maintaining social control, role modelling and support to a sizeable cohort of young people in the area and deflecting many from possible gang membership and criminality. Reflecting on the many comments and suggestions made to the author about the youth services there seems to be a general acceptance that children need interventions earlier than 12 year of age and that the services need to be more available at weekends. There is also potential for greater coordination, collaboration, and specialisation between the services, allowing scope for a more tailored and individual approach for some clients. This will be further expanded in Section 6 of the Report. Another very important point made constantly to the author, was the availability of services and facilities for those who break the law and the deficit of facilities and places of recreation for the youth who are not in trouble. However, in conjunction with the KWYP the author has articulated a comprehensive range of facilities, sports clubs, and activities available for all within the wider area.

There are sizeable educational facilities at both primary, secondary, further, and adult educational and training opportunities available within the area. The challenge is to ensure that those individuals most

³⁰ The author is aware of a Northside Partnership led initiative currently under development to speedily circulate important drug treatment and support messages within the area.

in need of educational opportunities recognise the value of education for life and career opportunities and this can only be inculcated into dysfunctional individuals and families through the work of early family supports and early educational experiences.

Both DCC and DEASP offer significant services in the area that supports, maintains, and ensures a level of cohesion that would otherwise explode into wider problems of social dysfunction.

A constant complaint also made to the author was the continual loss of dedicated and respected personnel particularly in relation to the rotation of staff in both An Garda Síochána, DCC and TUSLA caused by transfers, movement of staff and rotations. This is a matter that should be borne in mind when transfers associated with promotions are being considered.

5.0 The Area's Assets

The area of Darndale including Moatview and Belcamp is quite small and is located in a quadrangular shaped geographical setting between the Priorswood road, the R107 and the R139. It fronts onto the Link road directly opposite the Malahide road Industrial Estate and the Priorswood road. The area is physically characterised by an immense amount of open green grassland space almost unique in an urban setting. This space known as the “Spine” is under-developed and underused from an amenity, environmental, business or leisure perspective. It is a source of concern to residents due to the prevalence of joyriding; motorcycle displays of youthful bravado combined with downright vandalism and anti-social behaviours. This has been a problem for a number of years that surfaces intermittently and peaks at certain times (Farrington, 2001). However, the area also has an amount of assets that offer significant potential for development that can assist the community in creating new opportunities and attract assets both physical and economic. The current assets offer a significant basis for development in the area and should be assisted and supported in every practical way.

5.1 The Darndale Belcamp Village Centre

Darndale has a planned village centre which contains a variety of public and private services including schools, the Catholic Church Our Lady Immaculate, a newsagents, off licence, pharmacy, take-away restaurant, a number of statutory service, community and voluntary service providers e.g. healthcare, childcare, housing management, training, family support. It does not have any major shops or retail units and there are no pubs or social clubs.



Figure 15 Darndale Belcamp Village Centre, 2020

The main building is the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre known locally as the Bell Building. This building houses a unique combination of integrated community services operating in and around the multipurpose building and provides accommodation, facilities, and services for the area. The Village Centre is managed and maintained by a limited company, the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre CLG which, in addition to looking after the physical facilities at the Village Centre, is also involved in delivering direct services such as older person care and environmental improvements within Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview and in the wider catchment area.

An analysis of the DBVC (Clg) Annual Reports indicates that in 2018, it delivered an impressive series of community services including, 1,884 hours spent on environmental improvements; 6,857 calls to members; 2,204 outreach calls, 222 events, 203 handy helpers jobs completed, and 314 personal monitored alarms installed. Again in 2019, DBVC maintained this consistent rate of service with 5,106 hours of community pride or environmental service actions. Indeed, throughout 2019, there were 390 people either in employment or training within the centre.

Since its establishment, DBVC CLG has supported and facilitated the employment, training and development of numerous local people living in Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview and adjoining areas through organisations renting or leasing space from DBVC CLG (e.g. Jigsaw Childcare Centre, Discovery Community Training Centre) and through directly employing people. The active engagement of this number of people each day in employment, training, education, entrepreneurship and personal development is an achievement that must be recognised within an area which has been traditionally defined as one of the most disadvantaged in Ireland (CSO, 2016; Darndale Belcamp Village Centre CLG Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021).

Within the village centre is the impressive Darndale Belcamp Integrated Childcare Services (known locally as the Jigsaw Centre); one of largest community childcare centres in Ireland with over 200 children and their parents availing of the service every day. The service is operating since 2001 and provides quality childcare for children age 3 months to 12 years, and their parents, from the local and surrounding areas, together with up to date reports on each child’s progress and development. This provides opportunities to identify any difficulties an individual child may be experiencing so that concerns can be addressed as early as possible. The centre opens from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday to accommodate working parents and parents in training. The centre employs 50 core staff and 28 people through Community Employment. A board of management drawn from people with a wide range of skills as well as people from the local area oversee the direction of the centre.

The childcare service is designed to give the children who attend, every chance to get a good start in life. It provides high quality, safe, affordable, and inclusive childcare aimed at promoting the physical, emotional, social, and educational wellbeing of all children.

The village centre also has a HSE Primary Care Unit which includes a doctors’ surgery, baby nurse and community welfare supports to the local community.

The courtyard area of the centre also contains the Golden Years older persons day-care centre which provides for individuals from the locality and not just Darndale. Within the centre there is a variety of offices and meeting rooms where local activities are coordinated and managed.

The Board and management of DBVC have ambitions and plans to further enhance their services in the coming years through a major expansion involving building a new substantial structure on the vacant land across the road from the current Village Centre which, when fully established, is estimated to increase both user participation numbers and financial income for DBVC CLG, by between 25% and 40% (see Appendix 11). It is the author’s understanding that DCC, the owners of the site in question, are favourably disposed towards this 2.5 acre site becoming a dual aspect development which would include Phase 2 of the Village Centre and the construction of some social housing on part of the site (Darndale Belcamp Village Centre Clg, 2018). At this point in time three key usages for the proposed Phase 2 development have been identified in the DBVC Phase 2 Business Plan. The three key potential usages which will probably constitute most of the activities and services to take place within the Phase 2 development relate to:



Figure 16 Proposed Site of DBVC Phase 2

1. Childcare and Early Years Development
2. Services for Older People
3. Lifelong/Adult Education

This would be a significant socio-economic investment in the area that would most likely have a multiplier effect in employment, services, and community enhancement and should be actively supported and enabled. It would also enhance the reputation and standing of the DBVC as a source of entrepreneurial and business enterprise within the area.

5.2 The New Life Centre

The New Life Centre is another service in the DBM area that has operated since 1999 serving the needs of the community. It is a centre of community activity all day long.

The Centre supports the community through the provision of a broad range of vital community support services including a crèche, after-school programme for 5-12 year olds, educational grinds, junior youth club and senior youth club, special needs group, sports club, adult activities, therapies and courses, active age groups and ladies club, drop-in and counselling services.

In addition, it works with other agencies in the community such as Sphere 17, Northside Partnership, school completion officers and local primary and secondary schools. Since 2014, it also works in partnership with the St. Vincent de Paul and Crosscare to operate the New Life Centre Foodbank. The New Life Centre is substantially funded and supported by the HSE, the Catholic Church and voluntary donations.

The centre provides a broad range of services to meet the needs of the disadvantaged in the area. The author attended several events and met with many community groups and individuals within the centre offering him an opportunity to get real insights into everyday life and experiences of people resident and working in the locality. The Newlife Centre is a vital asset in the area that should be further developed and supported in the important work it does every day positively reinforcing community cohesion, stability, and support.



Figure 17 Our Lady's Church of the Immaculate Darndale

5.3 Darndale Park

Darndale has a large 13.1 hectares (34 acres) of green space, called Darndale Park which has significant development potential. The park is of real value to the community and has been renovated by Dublin City Council in the last few years, principally through the efforts of some local community activists and the encouragement and funding of DCC and the DCC Dublin North Area Community Development Officer. At the time of renovation in 2015, it was unkempt, overgrown and in poor condition. It was mostly neglected and used for grazing horses by some members of community and suffered badly from litter and dumping problems.



Figure 18 Darndale Park

Today the Park contains a full sized soccer pitch laid by DCC at a cost of approximately €30,000 used by Darndale FC teams, an AstroTurf pitch, a children's playground, a walking or running track, some outdoor gym equipment and a large pond stocked with fish. It is considered somewhat underused by the community which is disappointing on account of its huge potential. Indeed, with some innovative planning and advertisement it could be used by many others including people from inside and outside of the immediate community.

The park also has an impressive and well-equipped children's playground, but unfortunately it again remains quiet and underused most of the time, despite of the high proportion of young population under 15 years old living in the community. There is around 30 % of a young population under 15 years old, which is in comparison higher than Dublin City's 15 % and the national average of 20 %. As the population of Darndale is also exposed to problems like various substance abuse; from alcohol to misuse of drug it is therefore imperative that the Park is a safe and healthy venue, well maintained and welcoming to the community. Encouraging children at early age to spend their time playing in the park could prevent and ameliorate some of the problems in the community. It is well known and proven that quality public realm promotes health and wellbeing and should be accessible to all its residents

5.3.1 Darndale Park Run

The Darndale Park Run is a free weekly 5km event for runners of all standards, which takes place most Saturdays and offers an opportunity for all the local community, male, female, young or old, to come together on a regular basis to enjoy a beautiful park and local event. It is organised by Parkrun and supported by DCC through the active involvement of the local DCC Area Community Development Officer and a team of volunteers. It is now in its third year and going from strength to strength.

5.4 Sporting Organisations

There is an underlying perception that Darndale and its catchment area has limited facilities, together with limited opportunities for its residents. The reality is that within its geographical confines, a number of sporting organisations ranging from soccer, boxing, fishing to art and dance clubs exist and thrive. Also, within a 2.5 km radius of Darndale there are a plethora of sporting and recreational activities open for membership with significant facilities and activities on going.

In reality there are no shortage of opportunities for the area's population both young and old to engage in recreational and sporting activities all year round.

The author obtained a most useful and informative directory of sporting and recreational facilities courtesy of Kilmore West Youth Project (KWYP) who had mapped all of the clubs and facilities in the area. Appendix 9 gives a full overview of all sporting and recreational facilities, clubs, and activities available within 7 kms of KWYP located on Kilmore Road Coolock. As can be seen from figure 20, there are a number of these facilities either in Darndale or very close to it.



Figure 19 Sporting Clubs and Venues in DBM Area

5.4.1 Darndale FC Junior and Senior Clubs

Darndale has two soccer teams, Darndale FC founded in 1976 is a junior soccer club based in Darndale Park. The club has an impressive pitch, a well laid out dressing rooms and equipment storage facilities adjacent to the park with showers and changing facilities. It fields a number of schoolboy and girls' teams competing in the NDSL football league. The club have had recent success at underage level e.g. Under 16's B league winners 2015, Under 11's Haughey Cup winners 2015, Under 16's ITA Farrell Cup winners 2015. Also, within close proximity there are a number of other soccer clubs actively participating in FAI supported leagues at all ages and levels.



Figure 20 Darndale FC pitch

5.4.2 Darndale Boxing Club

Research for this report indicates that another significant asset in the area is Darndale Boxing Club, which has a long and proud tradition having been formed in 1975 shortly after the first residents moved into the estate. The club has been a pillar for sport, recreation, and youth development in the community over the last five decades and a bulwark against malevolent influences on young people. The club has produced numerous champion boxers and continues to train ambitious boxers as young as 10-years-of-age who can be observed training in the Darndale Sports Hall or jogging along the Priorswood Road in all weather conditions on several nights of the week. Amongst other achievements, Darndale Boxing Club has been awarded the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA) Best Boxing Club Award several times over the past 40 years. One of the club's most memorable highlights was when club member Joe Lawlor represented Ireland in the 1988 Seoul Olympics. This organisation deserves every support possible at local and national level to maintain and develop its vital role among the youth of the area.



Figure 21 Darndale Boxing Club

5.4.3 Darndale Belcamp Community Sports Hall

The Darndale Belcamp Community & Recreation Centre is a key piece of community infrastructure provided, maintained, and well managed by Dublin City Council. It is an extremely impressive, safe, and positive environment for many aspects of community life. It accommodates 3,500-4000 users per month and hosts football, basketball, and boxing enthusiasts all year round. Its facilities include meeting and conference rooms, leisure facilities, an extremely large sports hall, multi-purpose space, summer projects, drop-in clinics, and office space for rent. It is used by the Late-Night Leagues (LNL), schools, Sphere 17 Youth Project, and is home to Darndale Boxing Club. It is staffed by fully trained personnel who display professionalism, interest, and commitment, many of whom are both from and resident in the area and take pride in what the Sport and Recreation Centre has to offer to the community. It is a major asset in the area.

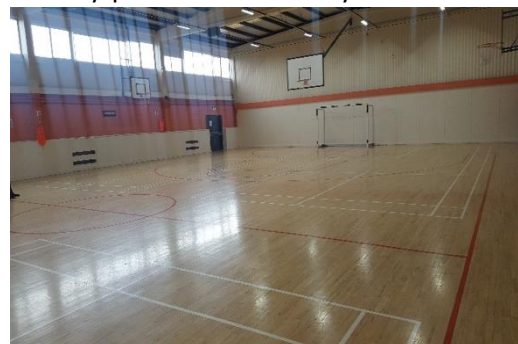


Figure 22 Darndale Belcamp Community Sports Hall

5.4.4 O'Toole's GAA Club

The O'Toole's G.A.A. club is located within sight of Darndale estate. It is a club with a proud history and a most impressive clubhouse and sporting setup. The club is one of the oldest in Dublin and was formed in 1901 from the Gaelic League branch at Seville Place. In the 1918 to 1931 period, O'Toole's won ten Dublin Senior Football titles and its players figured prominently on Dublin senior football sides in five successive All-Ireland finals (1920-1924). O'Toole's GAA club is one of the few Dublin clubs who

have won the county senior championships in both codes, having also won the hurling championships in 2002, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1990, and 1984.

In conversations with the author, the club outlined an impressive array of interactions with the local community from a sporting perspective and also from a social and recreational dimension. The Club also outlined its involvement with Our Lady Immaculate NS where it conducts coaching and skills sessions on a weekly basis through its school development programme. It was outlined to the author the scale and energy expended on underage programmes where it is hoped young people from the area will graduate to the club's competitive teams at all grades.

The club outlined its long association with the DBM area and its interactions with the local population where it gratefully acknowledged a number of individuals and players who have contributed to the ongoing efforts of the club. However, it also articulated a sense of disappointment and frustration that many children and young people who take up GAA sports from the area fail to pursue their interests. The principal reason appears to be a lack of parental interest and a lack of parental support for the children and young people involved. This is a regularly recurring sentiment that was expressed to the author in many different settings concerning community involvement and community commitment.

5.4.5 Darndale Angling Club

Darndale Park is home to an angling pond which was originally constructed in 1999 under the then Urban Regeneration Fund. Over time it became disused and neglected with the presence of invasive weeds, rubbish, and debris a common sight. However, in 2015 through the efforts of local anglers, DCC, the Inland Fisheries and funding from the Heritage Council the pond was rejuvenated and given a new lease of life. Indeed the angling correspondent for the Irish Times commented during a visit that the success of the rejuvenated pond which is home to large numbers of carp and rudd, several of which "splashed and rose to fly-life and appeared to be enjoying their new surroundings" and hoped that the success of the project would lead to further works at public angling amenities elsewhere in Dublin, (Evans D, 2015). Interviews with DCC Bio-Diversity section indicates that renovation work is ongoing in relation to the ponds in Belcamp Park that will be a further asset to the area once complete.

5.5 Analysis and Reflections

As this Report articulated earlier it is necessary to consider DBM in conjunction with the wider Dublin 17 area and consequently it is difficult to analyse its assets without recourse to mentioning the availability of an enormous volume of facilities within a few kilometres of the centre of Darndale. Appendix 9 illustrates this through the lens of Kilmore West Youth Project (KWYP) map of these services.

DBM itself has some significant assets within the area such as DBVC, Darndale Park and Pond, its soccer teams and boxing club. There is an apparent sense of frustration at the minimalistic participation rates in some of the clubs and this is certainly evident in relation to the use of Darndale Park. The author visited it on a number of occasions and basically saw an underused facility. This is a similar finding to

the Dublin Institute of Technology³¹ Report that described an empty children's' playground within the park (Blanchfield, 2015). This sentiment was also re-echoed in relation to community engagement, participation, and volunteerism by and large, although there are some exceptions among a small cohort of individuals who seem to try and keep everything ticking over.

The next chapter will analyse and synthesise these assets through the lens of what the author describes as the hurdles to progress and suggests objectives and actions that can stimulate progress within the area.

31 Now Technological University Dublin (TUD).

6.0 Pathways to Progress

6.1 Recap and Reflection

So far, this report has outlined the history, development, initial hopes and promise of the area. It has also explored its problems of reputation and image, the influence of crime, deprivation, drugs, gang culture and community fear. It has explored the State's response through the lens of policing, service delivery, local structures, drugs treatment services and sport. The Report has also undertaken a considerable analysis and overview of the services delivery structures and capabilities within the area and articulated and mapped the scale and scope of these services. The Report has also identified and explored the area's assets.

The author is conscious that Darndale and its catchment area has suffered significantly over the course of the past 46 years and he has heard much commentary and many opinions during the past five months as he met and consulted widely on the problems and issues affecting people's lives. Several times he heard people say that Darndale should be knocked down, as has happened with other problem estates both nationally and internationally. Other suggestions offered included renaming the entire area as a fresh start, however the sentiment that "there is no quick fix for Darndale" was very poignant and that solutions to Darndale's problems require a long view, imagination but most of all practicality, durability and resilience. This section will now articulate a series of steps that can become a "Pathway to Progress" for the renewal of the area and the re-awakening of community spirit that once existed in the area.

6.2 Overcoming the Hurdles

The analysis of research material, interview records, previous reports and media sources suggest that the problems of Darndale and its immediate catchment area can be categorised into the following four major themes. The author considers these themes to be the hurdles that must be overcome for progress to happen. Each of the constituent hurdles and their inherent elements will have to be actioned in order to generate an enduring pathway to progress within the area.

There are many elements within these identified hurdles that are already in progress or have been considered before but the overwhelming sentiment that the author experienced in the area was the community's cry for help.

The immediate crime and drugs issue must be brought under control. The "islands of activity" evident in the work of youth and social services must be coordinated for effectiveness.

The investment in family support via the Preparing for Life Programme must happen. A significant investment in a "wrap around youth service" to combat the growth of gang culture should be initiated. The State and City Council presence in the area should be strengthened and become much more visible. Educational attainment levels must be addressed through innovative local curriculum revision and development and local employment opportunities must be enhanced through local enterprise, local entrepreneurship, and investment.

Most of these issues will not be new to either residents of the area, service providers; An Garda Síochána; DCC or public representatives. Many initiatives, projects and ideas have been started within the last three decades. Some have been successful, such as the Preparing for Life Programme, Darndale Boxing Club or Darndale Belcamp Village Centre. The State and DCC, despite the many criticisms, has invested resources and money into the area on an annual basis, also significant philanthropic contributions have also been made to the area , yet its problems persist, are growing and now are at crisis point. Therefore, a coordinated, practical, durable, and longer-term approach is needed to fix the acute social problems, engage the current generation of youth, and address the long-term issues of crime, deprivation, under achievement and stigma associated with the area. Consequently, the author considers that these problems need to be articulated through the lens of physical, psychological, social and support hurdles that have to be overcome for progress to flourish. Figure 23 illustrates these hurdles in a framework for ease of understanding.

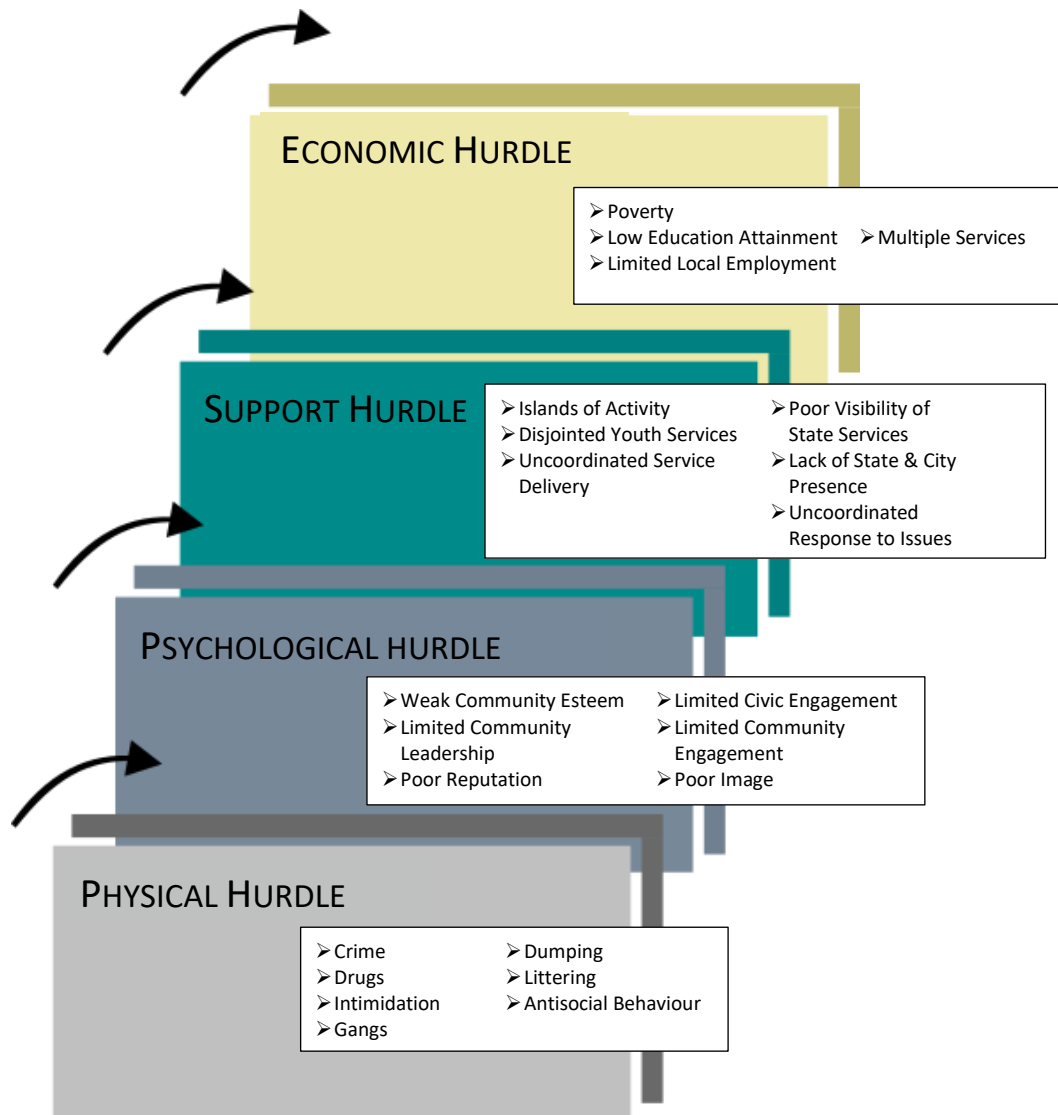


Figure 23 DBM Hurdle Framework

6.3. The Physical Hurdle

The physical hurdle to be overcome involves tackling crime, drugs, anti-social behaviour, gangs, intimidation, dumping and littering. These are the physical hurdles that are holding back the community, creating community fear, and destroying efforts at developing a positive image of the area.

The research for this Report indicates that the majority of the community of Darndale and its catchment area is made up of decent, hardworking, committed people who feel let down by the “system”, neglected and largely ignored. The overwhelming sentiment expressed to the author by the community was fear and intimidation. This community wants to feel safe and be safe.

The threat of violence and even death is real and constant, and this must be tackled effectively. One comment made to the author was that following the 2019 shooting of an individual outside of the primary school, was that *“the magnitude of a shooting outside of a kid’s school did not resonate enough nationally”* (Interviewee, June 2020). Despite the many successes of An Garda Síochána³² in the area, the problem of crime, drugs, drug dealing, and intimidation remains constant. The local Community Policing Unit is slowly having an impact in rebuilding community trust and engagement. It has been hindered until recently by the resource constraints of the 2009-2014 Garda recruitment moratorium, and the resultant time lag in replenishing resources levels in every locality. This resulted in a reduced presence in the area and a policing vacuum that has undoubtedly been filled by criminal and gang elements. However, taking cognisance of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland’s recommendations that policing cannot be the preserve of An Garda Síochána alone, it is now opportune for a dedicated area response. This should include a number of key elements and be a long-term approach to the problems of the area as set out below.

6.3.1 Tackle Crime, Drugs and Gang Culture

The full capability of An Garda Síochána, nationally, divisionally, and locally is required to tackle the scourge of crime, drugs and drug dealing in the area. This will require a long-term and adequately funded programme of investigations, profiling, surveillance, assets seizure and consistent targeted operations that should make the area inhospitable for criminals and criminal activities. The exact nature of operations is a matter for An Garda Síochána, but the issue of funding and resources is a matter for the Department of Justice and Equality.

6.3.2 Develop a Dedicated Crime Prevention Strategy for Area

The area needs a dedicated “Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategy³³” developed in conjunction with the local community and local services. An Garda Síochána National Crime Prevention Strategy 2017 states that *“Crime prevention will be effective through partnership and collaboration with community and State Agency stakeholders and successful strategies must include elements and groups within society other than the Gardaí alone”* (An Garda Síochána, 2017, p. 3). This crime prevention strategy should identify the places, people, and things vulnerable to crime and create a series of actions to mitigate the potential for these crimes. This will be essential for the patrolling and surveillance of the “patches” where drug dealing occurs and the interception of individuals coming to

³² Garda Operation in Belcamp/Clarehall 22.04.2020; Garda Operation in Priorswood where motor-cycles and drugs were seized 21/05/2020.

³³ An Garda Síochána has a National Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategy.

the area to purchase drugs. In this fashion community feeling of safety can be created and nurtured with long-term commitment and effort.

6.3.3 Establish a Community Policing Hub in Darndale

A dedicated “community policing hub” in the area of the Village Centre should also be developed, that will ensure a permanent policing presence in the area. The local community policing unit current headed by an Inspector from Coolock garda station and comprising one sergeant and six Gardaí need to be strengthened. The CCTV and public surveillance systems in the area need to be updated and expanded. Greater use of passive community crime prevention opportunities should be explored through local groups such as security companies, Dublin Bus, Taxi companies and residents’ associations, again contributing to the feelings of safety in the area. The ambition has to be an area where all residents can walk about without fear or apprehension.

6.3.4 Address Dumping and Litter Problems

This is an issue that requires a joined-up policing approach, there is a requirement for collaborative action involving DCC, An Garda Síochána and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. A major clean-up of the area and swift action with the proposals around the illegal dumping in Cara Park and St Dominick’s needs to be commenced urgently. This long-term dumping problem is intolerable to the local community and engenders a sense of dysfunction and impotency by the City Council not to mention the environmental and health risks for all. All the dumped residue in the area should be removed and any further infringements of the litter acts should be dealt with by swift enforcement and prosecution if necessary.

6.4 The Psychological Hurdle

This is possibly the greatest hurdle that the area is facing. There is an apparent deficit of social responsibility evident in certain sections of the community. Many years of neglect, isolation and the effects of crime and poverty have left the local community somewhat dispirited and dependent on the State and NGO services for leadership, guidance, and support. There is also now an apparent psychological dependency on external agencies and professionals for direction and leadership. However, an interviewee remarked that the beginnings of a psychological shift in community attitudes can be seen, ordinary decent people are fed up of the crime and drugs; the opportunity now exists to change the psychological perception of the area and grasp the opportunity to involve the committed residents of the area in altering the image and reputation of the area.

6.4.1 Make the Area Safe for All Residents

The residents in the area need to be able to live, work, take recreation and engage in community activities and community leadership without fear, intimidation, or apprehension. DCC should take the lead in establishing and supporting a resident’s association for Darndale and Belcamp which in conjunction with the existing Moatview resident’s association should become members of a DBM Community Representative Forum. The community should be able to take local leadership roles without any fear whatsoever of intimidation or threat whatsoever.

6.4.2 Encourage and Engage the Youth

Sporting activity seems to be the common denominator that pertains to the youth of the area. This report has referred earlier to the volume of sporting clubs and centres in the wider area (KWYP, 2019).

An analysis of the KWYP work suggests that there are 20 soccer teams and 14 GAA teams within a short radius. Soccer appears to be the most widely played sport in the DBM catchment area, with a number of junior teams³⁴ competing in various leagues. The FAI maintain a coaching and mentoring Centre of Excellence at Oscar Traynor Road through which highly talented youths can progress. The significant success of the FAI sponsored and Garda Síochána supported Late Night Leagues are a reasonable indicator of what can be achieved when community activities are targeted appropriately and consistently at the youth population of the area. There are several examples of young talent making progress from the area to League of Ireland or indeed UK professional teams. There was a previous FAI -Schools programme where youths of the area attended a secondary school programme in partnership with the Oscar Traynor Road Centre of Excellence. It is the author's understanding that the local FAI Community Development service are keen to recommence that programme. A regular sentiment expressed in this and unfortunately many other cases, was that some richly talented local footballers get little family support to further their chances and consequently schools, education and sports collaborations are required to fill the gaps.

Similarly, Darndale Boxing Club does extraordinary youth work and their expertise, energy and ambition should be further supported and funded. The O'Toole's GAA club has fantastic facilities and is heavily involved at Primary School level in the area. The Club have invested heavily on many occasions in attracting young talent across the Malahide Road to play Gaelic games, consequently support and attention to their efforts must be matched with funding and investment to allow the club to harness the rich sporting potential of the youth of the area. Options for resourcing all the clubs of the area must be explored through Community Employment Schemes or DEASP back to work schemes or indeed special grants through the Department of Community and Rural Affairs.

6.4.3 Develop a Community Representative Forum

The community should have a greater say in community issues, community safety and matters of local concern. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation see community involvement as key to area regeneration and progress (1998). As stated earlier in this Report there are two main representative fora that cover the area, the Dublin North Central Area JPC and the Darndale Belcamp Moatview Safety Forum. Both of these bodies have representation from elected City Councillors and a variety of agencies including DCC and An Garda Síochána, however there appears to be a lacuna where the voice of the local community can be heard. The current DBM Safety Forum should be reconstituted as the DBM Community Representative Forum with community safety one of the priority agenda items and regular input from AGS, Youth Services, DCC and local residents on community safety issues e.g. drugs, crime, anti-social behaviour, dumping and joy-riding. It should incorporate the now largely dormant Belcamp Estate Steering Committee (BESC). Actions and decision should be recorded and actioned. Progress should be reviewed at the local JPC where interventions and remedial attention can be provided by the relevant stakeholders. This will enable a communication process between the community and DCC and other relevant stakeholders associated with the area e.g. DCC, Service Providers, Youth Service and An Garda Síochána. This forum will also provide a platform where stakeholders issues and concerns can be discussed in safety and in confidence. DCC should take the lead on the establishment of this forum and appoint a secretariat to support it. It should be based in the DBVC and have

³⁴ Darndale FC; Moatview FC; St. Columba's.

representation from the local community, resident's associations, clubs, and services. It should be headed by an independent chairperson and meet on a monthly basis as required.

6.4.4 Involve Local Community

Everything that occurs in the area affects the local residents and they should be central to all initiatives that emerge from this Report. The hurdles to progress and the cycles of despair need to be broken at two levels. At the local level actions need to be focused on what matters locally, i.e. street lighting, disused housing, dumping, and littering, visible local policing, estate maintenance and local safety.

At the wider area level DCC, An Garda Síochána, statutory and youth services need to have long views of their objectives and ambitions for the area to ensure durability, incremental and sustainable improvements. Local communities also have to respond to the initiatives and learn to trust and work with the professionals who operate at levels out of their immediate sight. Through involvement, engagement and collaboration, trust can be built and nurtured for positive advantage at all levels. Statutory agencies need to ensure that the community voices are heard and heeded.

6.4.5 Develop Community Leadership

Most research on urban regeneration or problem estate renewal stress the requirement and the importance of community leadership and recognises that community leadership skills and capacity must be developed and enhanced (Purdue, 2000). The Joseph Rowntree Foundation reiterate this when they recommend that community leadership needs to be strengthened for regeneration efforts to be successful (JRF, 2000). The purpose of community leadership is to generate social change in local conditions, practices or culture (Hickman, 2009) and to raise the community to higher levels of motivation (Evans S. D., 2012) .

In this regard the existing Northside Partnership offers a number of leadership programmes to build individual and collective leadership skills that assists in managing some of the complex social challenges prevalent in the area through an existing youth based leadership programme (Youth Community Leaders)³⁵ and a proposed "Place Based Leadership Programme (PBL)³⁶". Both programmes are extremely attractive and although the PBL appears to be currently oriented at those in local leadership, it can also incorporate local people willing to engage in community leadership activities. These programmes appears to be really necessary and eminently suitable programmes for the area and should be supported to implementation stage and funded for a number of years as soon as possible.

6.4.6 Reawaken Local Community Spirit

The general feeling among many interviewed by the author is that community spirit and community initiative is dormant in the DBM area. However, the author has met many community workers and volunteers in sports clubs, drug treatment centres and community work who display that unquenchable spirit of volunteerism that is so characteristic of Irish society. This small but vibrant group must be supported and assisted with professional guidance and resources. The utilisation of the CES workers in security around the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre and also in clean up and

35 YCL participants are awarded the Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Action. Accredited by NUI Galway, this is equivalent to Level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework and is worth 15 ECTS (European credit transfer system) credits.

36 Paced Based Leadership facilitates a way forward, opening up peoples' minds to different perspectives and possibilities; to learn from themselves and others, enable them to develop a higher level of self-awareness, to be better equipped to work with others and provides the safe-space and collaborative tool-set to work together to address the real world challenges they face (Worral, 2020).

maintenance is commendable. However, the area needs a community project that will be long-term, useful, and beneficial to the entire area otherwise the community apathy, which is currently apparent, will undoubtedly if left to continue, undermine all efforts to redevelop and repurpose the area.

The work done in renovating Darndale Park and Pond is illustrative of what can be achieved with collaborative efforts, the rejuvenation of Darndale FC and the success of the boxing club and sports hall are indicative of the potential of collaborative effort. A potential opportunity exists to further exploit this progress by having DCC engage in a bio-diversity project(s) in the Park. This large park (34 acres) approx. has ample space for innovative usage and enlargement of the city's bio-diversity footprint. DCC has a dedicated Bio-diversity office at its Wood Quay HQ Offices, a Bio Diversity Action Plan 2015-2020, the Heritage Council of Ireland offers advice, support and training opportunities through its internship programme, it appears plausible that this is an opportunity to consider a sizeable bio-diversity project within the area. The former Minister for the Environment, Climate Action and Communications, local TD Mr Richard Bruton, said in an interview with the author that it was certainly worth examining the bio-diversity idea in more detail.

6.5 The Support Hurdle

There are a plethora of social and support services in the DBM catchment area contributing to the health, education, and support of the community. As already alluded to in this Report many of the area's problems and indeed individual problems transcend a particular cause and fall between policing, family support and youth services. Some of these issues come within the ambit of Tusla and are processed via the "Meitheal Model", Partnership, Prevention and Family Support Service (PPFS); Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Service or Children in Alternative Care Service/Fostering family support services.

However, the issues of gangs and intimidation featured strongly in all interviews with individuals and community groups, with community fear of guns, shootings, and violence regularly recounted. Gangs and gang intimidation do not fit neatly into any one organisations' methodology or approach and will need to be addressed in multi-agency and collaborative fashion. Gangs are territorial and adversarial with lots of clever individuals who can make money, intimidate, gain status, and acquire respect among their peers. The gangs in DBM display most of these characteristics. Disrupting and neutralising these local gangs will need policing activity, social activity, community activity, education and commitment by the support services and youth services to break the attractiveness of gang membership. The implementation of a concentrated multi-level and multi-agency approach will be required. The following sections offer suggestions on what can be included in this approach.

6.5.1 Develop a Bespoke Youth Wrap Around Service

As articulated earlier in this Report, there is a most impressive array of youth services in the area all delivering a variety of services and programmes to individuals and groups. All of these services are working extremely energetically to meet the needs of the area, however there is a sense of "islands of activity" with each service doing its own thing and no clear strategic overview of outcomes apparent. The author was advised that the area needs to progress to the next stage of a "wrap around youth service", that identifies the development needs of individuals including those youths who have not been in conflict with the law, the social care services or educational services. Many of the elements

of this approach is already in existence in the area but it lacks a coherent vision and a set of specific targets rather than general objectives. This service should be developed on a number of levels as follows:

- Level 1 - The current youth services largely provides support, counselling, activities in a general format to a sizeable cohort of youths and this should continue
- Level 2 - It appears that within the Level 1 cohort there are certain youths that require a more in-depth “wrap around” service that should include 1:1³⁷ regular counselling, guidance, and education and career awareness. This needs to be developed further.
- Level 3 - Identify suitable candidates for a more bespoke and integrated programme that would involve consistent extraction from their current environment and placement into an educational or training environment where they are no longer exposed to the people, places and things that negatively influence them. The author held conversations with certain educational providers and understands that an appetite exists to explore options in this regard subject to funding, resourcing, and availability.

This approach will need government departments such as Department of Education and Skills and Department of Children and Youth Affairs to collaborate and make an approach such as this work.

This initiative will require an experienced overall project manager to coordinate collaboration across all the youth services in the area. The CDYSB looks well placed to assume an overall guidance role in this regard.

The author also understands that an initiative emanating from “The Greentown Programme” is being considered by the Department of Justice and Equality and Department of Children and Youth Affairs for a number of areas in the country. This is a pilot programme designed to disrupt organised crime and prevent children being drawn into criminal gangs. It is expected to be launched later in 2020 by Government and the An Garda Síochána with a budget of €3 million. The three-year programme plan to build on a number of research projects carried out by the University of Limerick (UL) which examined how criminal networks operate in disadvantaged communities and how adult criminals and their antecedents groom children for a life of crime (Connolly, 2019).

According to tendering documents, the pilot programmes will be rolled out in two communities which will remain anonymous for the moment. The programme will target between 25 and 30 children and families each year in each of the two communities and will operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. However, the primary goal is not to break up the gangs but “reduce the risk and attractiveness of children to organised crime and/or gangs”. The programme will begin with an assessment of the gang activity in the area by the Garda Analysis Service and the University of Limerick (Gallagher, 2020). This is the type of long-term initiative that the Darndale catchment area needs urgently.

In conjunction with the above initiatives, there is considerable merit in developing a Restorative Practice Programme within the DBM catchment area to change the cultural experience of children engaging with authority. Restorative practices is a social science that studies how to build social capital and achieve social discipline through participatory learning and decision making. The use of restorative practices helps to: reduce crime, violence and bullying, improve human behaviour, strengthen civil

³⁷ The EDIT Project offers this type of service that could be expanded to include a dedicated DBM catchment approach and potentially thereafter expanded across Dublin 17.

society, provide effective leadership, restore relationships and repair harm (Wachtel, 2020). There is a growing movement within Ireland towards Restorative Practice that can be harnessed within the area for improvements.

6.5.2 Strengthen DCC Footprint in Area

Dublin City Council had the courage and foresight to commission this report in response to the deteriorating situation in late 2019. Amid the many demands and priorities facing the City Council across Dublin, it must however prioritise a speedy response to many of the DBM estates long standing problems. The remodelling work that started as far back as 1988 and continued intermittently since brought some resolution to some of the identified early estate design problems, however DCC needs to strengthen its footprint in the area.

Strong leadership and strategic thinking at city and government level are generally needed to drive estate regeneration, examples of this can be seen in the NEIC and Ballymun (Dublin) and in cities in the UK like the Chapeltown estate in Leeds and Hulme estate in Manchester (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 1998). As described earlier DCC has a presence in the area but this needs to be supplemented by a visible Estate Improvement Office that should incorporate the current housing, estate maintenance sections, waste disposal, together with the office of the DBM Representative Forum, a supporting secretariat, a dedicated DBM Community Development Officer supporting the North Dublin Development Officer.

6.5.3 Improve the Physical Environment

The physical environment of Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview is bleak and unappealing and has been described as mean and dispiriting (O'Laoire, 1991). There are acres and acres of open grassland spaces that could be either developed along the lines that DBVC are proposing or alternatively landscaped into child friendly play and community spaces that would encourage community integration and use. In this fashion, passive crime prevention through community presence and the generation of community spirit and pride could be accomplished. Dublin City Council Parks and Landscape Services should commence an immediate analysis of options in this regard.

6.5.4 Remove Unsuitable Tenants

The amazement and bewilderment of the local community at the behaviour and attitude of some tenants within the area is quite difficult to fully describe. Many of these troublesome tenants are engaged in drug dealing and long term criminal activity. They appear to flaunt the law and regulations concerning rubbish disposal, payment of rents and normal social behaviour yet there is little, or no action being taken. While taking cognisance of everyone's basic human rights it is well past time that Housing (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 2014 were actively utilised by DCC to remove what is in reality a significant source of much of the area's problems.

6.6 The Economic Hurdle

The economic hurdle is a major challenge that has endured for quite some time defying national employment upturn trends. The CSO (2016) estimate that there was a 36% unemployment rate in the DBM area as opposed to the then 13% national average. In 2020, pre Covid-19, there was a national

unemployment rate of 4.8% (CSO, 2020). This is a stark indicator of how far the area is behind the national employment curve. Another indicator is the fact that despite the area being in the suburbs of the capital city and with no immediate access to rail or Luas transport, approximately 48% of resident state that they do not own a car. The same situation emerges when one analyses computer ownership with 52% not having access. Combining these findings with school completion ages of 23% finishing school at under 15 years of age, the scale of the economic hurdle become apparent.

Academic research indicates that economic interventions in disadvantaged areas principally range from efforts to address unemployment to tackling educational disadvantage. Unemployment can be addressed innovatively through, for example, local labour clauses when refurbishment and or new build is undertaken, providing apprenticeships, or providing premises and or funding for small business and social economy projects. There are possibilities now in the area for this with the DCC examining possibilities for building on some part of the “Spine Site”, DBVC proposing to expand the Village Centre, the draft plans for Belmayne-Belcamp area and Irish Water’s Project for Clonsaugh.

Employment interventions can also take advantage of existing job initiative schemes, e.g. utilising training schemes such as the Discovery Centre³⁸ to develop staff for local crèches, nearby hotels, sales assistants, and construction workers.

Educational disadvantage, for example, can be approached by involving schools in projects such as the previously mentioned schools-sports partnerships, the boatbuilding project with Coláiste Dhulaigh College of Further Education, supporting the established homework clubs in the area, and actively promoting back-to-education schemes for adults (McGregor and McConnachie, 1995).

The further support of social entrepreneurship initiatives involving the Northside Partnership, the DBVC, the Elsa Security Company³⁹ need to be incorporated into local employment efforts. Every effort should be made to avail of the supports of DEASP to involve local businesses in the wider area and establish new community initiatives. The proposed DBM Representative Forum should develop an employment and entrepreneurial capacity designed to identify, attract, and sustain employment opportunities for the area.

³⁸ The Discovery Centre is the FETAC accredited Training Unit within the DBVC.

³⁹ The Elsa Security Company originally developed from a social entrepreneurship initiative in the DBM area.

7.0 Action Plan

The previous section has highlighted a number of hurdles that must be overcome and indicated the principal areas of concern generated by this research. It has also pointed a pathway towards progress. It is considered that an action plan for the area will assist this process. The action plan needs to take a long view of the area and be sufficiently strategic to stand the test of time and turbulence in order to achieve its objectives.

Address the Physical Hurdle:

OBJECTIVE 1 CONTROL CRIME EFFECTIVELY

NARRATIVE:	<p>The prevalence of crime, drugs, violence, and intimidation in the area has to be addressed and controlled for the long-term safety and viability of community. It is acknowledged that An Garda Síochána has invested significantly in the area by establishing a sectoral Community Policing Unit and the resourcing of the Divisional Drugs Unit.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the area's long-standing image and reputation has worsened on account of the visible manifestations of drug usage, drug dealing, intimidation, and gang culture.</p>
ACTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The activities of the organised crime groups in the area have to be disrupted and dismantled using all available national and local Garda Síochána resources➤ An area specific Crime Prevention Strategy should be developed and implemented utilising an inclusive and multi-agency approach➤ The local Community Policing Unit should be strengthened and fully resourced with cars, vans, e-bikes and other equipment as required➤ A Community Policing Hub⁴⁰ should be developed in the area providing consistent policing presence and community reassurance➤ Ensure full assessment and coordination of early releases from the Irish Prison Service to avoid recidivism in area
OWNERSHIP:	An Garda Síochána; Department of Justice & Equality
TIMEFRAME:	2020-2021
EXPECTED OUTCOMES:	The elimination of organised and serious crime from the area

⁴⁰ An Garda Síochána are supportive of the need for a community policing hub in the area and consider a mobile police station as offering a more flexible solution, thereby maximising visibility and reducing the need to locate personnel in fixed positions. However, the majority of residents, community groups and agencies consulted favour a permanent fixed community policing hub. This recommendation requires further consideration at Commissioner level within An Garda Síochána and the Department of Justice.

OBJECTIVE 2: DISMANTLE AND DILUTE GANG CULTURE

Narrative:	The emergence of gangs of youths who sell and supply drugs in the area, intimidate and cause community fear has become a feature of the Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview areas. These gangs have to be neutralised and dismantled before they become further entrenched. This will require an inter-agency and collaborative approach, together with experienced management and appropriate funding
Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Ensure constant patrolling and surveillance of the area both physical and technological➤ Consider a bespoke dedicated project for the hardest to reach youth offenders and their families.➤ Implement a Restorative Practice approach in all schools in the areas to undermine gang culture and underpin alternative approaches➤ Conduct an area wide survey to establish extent of drug related debt and drug related intimidation➤ Establish a confidential drug related intimidation local support network to advise the community on available support options
Ownership:	An Garda Síochána, CDYSB, Department of Justice & Equality, Department of Children and Youth Affairs
Timeframe:	2020-2025
Expected Outcomes:	An area free of drug related intimidation

Address the Psychological Hurdle

OBJECTIVE 3: ENHANCE COMMUNITY ESTEEM

Narrative:	Enhancing local community esteem is absolutely vital to resolving the area's problems in the long-term. This can only be achieved by enhancing and developing local structures that ensure good governance, trust and community participation. The foundations of a good governance model for the DBM area exists but it needs strengthening and refinement. It also needs the involvement of the local community in decision making and actions.
Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Develop a Community Representative Forum with significant community participation and involvement➤ Strengthen DCC presence in the area and highlight the range of services provided➤ Assist Northside Partnership to develop the 'Place Based Leadership' programme to enable community leadership capacity➤ Improve the physical environment of the area e.g. planting, landscaping and bio-diversity projects➤ Remove all dumped material from Belcamp and initiate a permanent major clean-up of the DBM area.➤ Enforce tenancy agreements and relocate tenants engaging in anti-social behaviour or drug sale and supply
Ownership:	DCC
Timeframe:	2020-2021
Expected Outcomes:	A participating community living in a clean, safe and healthy local environment

The Support Hurdle

OBJECTIVE 4: DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF COLLABORATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

Narrative:	The responses to the social challenges of supporting the multiple strands of the community of DBM requires coordination, collaboration, and innovation. The youth services of the area will have a significant role in disrupting the gang culture taking root in the area. The social and families' services will continue to have a vital role in maintaining family cohesion. The drug treatment centres will be required to continue and add to their services to treat the areas drug problems.
Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Develop a wraparound youth service that offers significant counter attractions to gang culture for youths of the area, that can operate on multiple levels commensurate with individuals' identified needs➤ Appoint an overall area service manager to coordinate collaborative youth service delivery➤ Ensure regular night-time youth and weekend youth activities are available➤ Expand the 'Preparing for Life' programme to assist families with school-going children➤ Explore opportunities under the Dublin Regional Action Plan 2020, to support education and training providers to increase provision of programmes for upskilling and reskilling of the unemployed within the region➤ Explore opportunities to create a custom built one stop shop drug treatment service for the area➤ Develop a drugs awareness course for primary and second level schools⁴¹ in the area➤ Explore opportunities to further develop drug outreach services for those hardest to reach adults and young people➤ Develop a drug awareness and messaging service via social media platforms to reach all youth groups in the area
Ownership:	All agencies operating in the area, Government Departments
Timeframe:	2020-2025
Expected Outcomes:	A collaborative service structure that meets the needs of the community in the DBM area

⁴¹ DNELDTF Education and Training Section are in a position to provide a programme in this regard.

Address the Economic Hurdle

OBJECTIVE 5: ENHANCE EDUCATION UPTAKE AND COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Narrative:	Overcoming the economic hurdle will require long-term and sustained effort on behalf of the State, DCC, local entrepreneurship and the community itself. The unemployment rate within the DBM area is significantly outside of national parameters. This is one of the common factors found in all research on problem estates (Threadwell Shine, 2006). This report has articulated the range and scope of the educational services available to the community. Innovatively harnessing the combined attributes of the employment services and educational providers offers opportunities for improvements in this regard.
Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Develop Phase 2 of Darndale Belcamp Village Centre as soon as practicable➤ Include community employment contracts within all tender documents for proposed construction developments in the area➤ Support the ongoing community efforts of the Newlife Centre in the area➤ Message and advertise to all residents of DBM information and availability of adult and secondary educational programmes➤ Develop bespoke second level educational programmes that attract the interest of second level students➤ Enhance curriculum in the Discovery Training Centre to include bespoke programmes for hard to reach groups and rehabilitating problem drug users➤ Incentivise selected second level student to avail of bespoke educational or pre-apprenticeship programmes to improve school drop-out rate➤ Engage the DEASP in identifying employment opportunities and innovative back to work schemes to improve the area's unemployment rate➤ Pilot the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Programme in the area
Ownership:	Darndale Belcamp Village Centre (clg); Northside Partnership, Department of Education and Skills; Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
Timeframe:	2020-2025
Expected Outcomes:	Enhanced local workforce participation and social entrepreneurial skills

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Appendices

Appendix 1 CSO Monthly Employment Statistics February 2020

www.CSO.ie accessed 21/04/2020.

Monthly Unemployment February 2020

	Seasonally adjusted number of persons unemployed	Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate (%)
February 2019	119,900	5.0
January 2020	119,700	4.8
February 2020	120,100	4.8
		Percentage Points
Change in month	400	0.0
Change in year	200	- 0.2

Monthly unemployment rate of 4.8% February 2020

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2020 was 4.8%, remaining unchanged from January 2020 and down from 5.0% in February 2019. The seasonally adjusted number of persons unemployed was 120,100 in February 2020, compared to 119,700 in January 2020. When compared to February 2019, there was an annual increase of 200 in the seasonally adjusted number of persons unemployed.

Summary points for February

- In February 2020 the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0% for males, remaining unchanged from January 2020, and down from 5.3% in February 2019.
- The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for females was 4.6% in February 2020, remaining unchanged from January 2020, and up from 4.5% in February 2019.
- The seasonally adjusted number of males unemployed in February 2020 was 66,700 remaining unchanged from January 2020. In February 2020 the seasonally adjusted number of females unemployed was 53,400 compared to 52,900 in January 2020.
- The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for persons aged 15-24 years (youth unemployment rate) was 11.4% in February 2020 down from 11.5% in January 2020.

Appendix 2 Educational Courses & Centres in Darndale, Belcamp, Moatview Area
(CDET,2020)

• Coláiste Dhulaigh CFE	• Coláiste Dhulaigh PP
• St Francis Junior School, Priorswood	• St Francis Senior School, Priorswood
• Greencastle Hub	• Aoibhneas Women’s Refuge, Coolock
• Darndale Belcamp Village Centre (Bel Centre)	• RASP
• St Michael’s House	• Artane/Coolock Family Resource Centre
• Doras Bui	• New Life Centre
• Priorswood Men’s Shed	• Bonnybrook Parish Centre
• Mornington Centre	• St Joseph’s School, Bonnybrook
• Mercy College, Coolock	• Chanel College, Coolock
• Scoil Ide, Kilmore	• Scoil Fhursa, Kilmore

Range of Courses:

Daytime and nighttime tuition is offered in a number of settings and the type of courses on offer include, but are not limited, to the following:

• Read and Write courses	• Family Literacy	• Spelling
• Numeracy	• Math’s	• Intensive literacy (8 hours per week)
• English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	• Pre-College course (QQI Level 4) – progression pathways programmes	• Computes/IT
• Personal Development	• Driver Theory	• Health Literacy
• History	• Lifecycles	• Study Support for Dyslexia
• Flower Arranging	• Art	• Arts/Crafts
• Yoga	• Stress Management	• Relaxation
• Mindfulness	• Drama	• Sewing/Crafts
• Pottery	• Cookery	• Music
• Horticulture	• Creative writing	

Appendix 3 Drug Treatment Services within DNELDTFA

	Service	Service Type
1	Kilbarrack Coast Community Prog	Frontline Community Add Team and CE Scheme
2	Edenmore Youth & Family Support	Frontline Community Add Team (Adults & Young People)
3	Donnycarney Youth Project	Frontline Community Add Team (Over 18s only)
4	Darndale/Belcamp Prevention Projects	Frontline including Programmes, Drop-In, Counselling
5	TravAct	Linked to HSE Primary Healthcare Team
6	Prevention Education	Task Force
7	Dublin NE LDATF Admin Projects	Task Force
8	Bonnybrook Parent Support Group	Parent Support Group
9	Donnycarney Youth Project/Family Support	Family Support
10	Labour Market Inclusion Prog	Education (Labour Inclusion Programme)
11	Northsides Partnership Childcare Places	Play and Childcare
12	RASP Progression Routes	Stabilisation, Cannabis Add Supp YP, Aftercare, Smart-Fit
13	Northside Counselling	Counselling
14	Baldoyle Family Support Service	Education & Prevention in Schools

Appendix 4 Notice of Meetings in Newlife Centre

DARNDALE SOCIO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN

DR JACK NOLAN, RETIRED GARDA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, IS CONDUCTING A STUDY OF DARNDALE ON BEHALF OF DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE STUDY INCLUDE:

- Population
 - Age profile
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Income levels
 - Crime statistics
-
- A profile of the current level of services including a mapping of existing statutory, community and voluntary groups, structures and programmes operating in the Darndale area.
 - A review of previous and existing statutory and non-statutory plans and reports for Darndale.
 - Carry out a public engagement process with all the key stakeholders working and living in the area to garner the opinions of local people, community groups and statutory service providers as to the issues in the area and ideas to address these issues.
 - To review best practice in the area of socio-economic and community development on a national and international level to identify successful actions from other areas which may be applicable to Darndale.

DR NOLAN WOULD BE KEEN TO MEET ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO MAKE AN OBSERVATION OR OFFER AN OPINION.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS TO JACKNOLANAC@GMAIL.COM ARE ALSO VERY WELCOME.

HE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE NEWLIFE CENTRE, DARNDALE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

- WEDNESDAY 29th JANUARY 2PM- 3PM
- THURSDAY 30th JANUARY 12.30- 1.30PM
- WEDNESDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2 – 3PM
- WEDNESDAY 12th FEBRUARY 10-11.30AM

Appendix 5 Services in Catchment Area of Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview

Darndale Belcamp Village Centre	Doras Buí	DCC
The Dales	Kare Services	DEASP
New Life Centre	Golden Years	Tusla
Darndale Belcamp Sports Hall	Jigsaw Creche	HSE
Darndale FC	Our Lady Immaculate NS	An Garda Síochána
Darndale Park	Our Lady Immaculate Church	Coláiste Dhulaigh SC
Darndale Pond & Angling Club	Elsa Security	Coláiste Dhulaigh CFE
O'Toole's GAA Club	Northside Partnership	Library
The Donahies SC	Glin Road Sport Centre	Sphere 17
TravAct	KWYC	KEEP GYDP
Woodale GYDP	Beldale Methadone Clinic	RASP
EDIT	KCCP	Turas/Springboard
Preparing for Life Programme	JPC	Darndale Belcamp Community Forum
Discovery Training Centre	St Francis Moatview FC	Moatview Resident Assoc
Glin Centre Jobs Club	Glin Centre Boxing Club	PACT
Northside Shopping Centre	Clarehall Shopping Centre	Coolock Darndale Adult Literacy Service (CDETb)
Bonnybrook Community Enterprise Centre	Community Employment Scheme	Art Club DBVC
Women's Clubs NLC	Society of St Vincent de Paul	

Appendix 6 Public Consultation and Community Engagement Details

<p>Statutory Agencies</p>	<p>An Garda Síochána Dublin City Council Department of Employment & Social Protection Department of Justice TUSLA Turas/Springboard Coláiste Dhulaigh College of Further Education Coláiste Dhulaigh Secondary School Marino College of Further Education Our Lady Immaculate Primary School Marino College of Education City Dublin Educational Training Board City Dublin Youth Services Board</p>
<p>Elected Public Representatives and Councillors</p>	<p>Allison Gilliland, Labour Larry O'Toole, SF Rachael Batten, FF John Lyons, Independent Richard Bruton TD, FG Sean Haughey FF, c/o John Paul Mahon FF Cian O'Callaghan TD, Soc Democrats Tommy Broughan, Retired TD Denise Mitchell TD, SF Aodhán O Riordáin TD, Labour</p>
<p>Non-Statutory Agencies</p>	<p>Beldale View Treatment Centre The Dales Drug Treatment Centre Dublin North East Local Drugs Task Force (DNELDTF) Kilbarrack Community Coastal Project (KCCP) EDIT RASP Sphere 17 Woodale Garda Youth Diversion Programme Kilmore West Youth Project Golden Years Darndale New Life Centre Northside Partnership Preparing for Life Northside Home Care Services Doras Buí</p>
<p>Sporting Organisations</p>	<p>O'Tooles' GAA Club Darndale FC Darndale BC Darndale Fishing & Angling Club FAI</p>

	Darndale Belcamp Sports Hall (DCC) Glin Rd Boxing Club Darndale Park Run
Organisations	Darndale Parish Council
Business	Darndale Belcamp Village Centre Elsa Security
Individuals	Darndale Belcamp Village Centre Focus Group Newlife Centre Womens Groups x 2 The Dales Drug Treatment Therapy Group Private Citizens Researchers and authors of previous reports Local Electoral Area Constituency Workers Academics and Researchers

Appendix 7 Agenda JPC Meeting 20th January 2020

DMR North - Coolock Area JPC Sub Committee - Garda Report



Garda Síochána Act 2005 – Joint Policing Guidelines 15.9

The following is compiled by way of general information, for the period under review, as per regulation 17.6, in accordance with the headings specified in that regulation, (1) Commission of Crime and (2) Crime Prevention matters.

Garda Station / (Sub)District	Coolock sub-district	Period	01/10/19 – 31/12/19
Superintendent	Gerard Donnelly	Date of JPC Meeting	20/01/20

Reports Of	2018	2019	Change	Detection Rate 2018	Detection Rate 2019	Comments
Murder	0	1		0	0	Ongoing investigation into murder of Eoin Boylan.
Assault Causing Harm	19	14	-26%	0	0	
Assault Minor	37	52	+40.5%	11%	4%	Increase in figures on reported assaults
Aggravated Burglary	1	3	+200%	0	0	Related to drugs debts
Burglary	61	61	N/A	5%	5%	
Criminal Damage	92	110	+19.5%	12%	8%	Criminal Damage increase
Discharge of Firearm	0	0		0	0	
Robbery from Person	8	7	-12.5%	0	29%	Mobile phones and cash
Robbery from Establishments	5	7	+40%	40%	43%	Mostly shops and cash register contents.
Theft from the Person	4	2	-50%	25%	0	Mobile phones, purses while shopping
Theft from MPV	42	54	+28.5%	2%	4%	Increase/large percentage of vehicles are left unlocked overnight.
Theft from Shop	110	102	-7%	71%	36%	Decrease in figures year on year
Theft (Other)	38	40	+5%	8%	10%	Drive offs from petrol stations account of for large percentage
UT of Vehicle	34	41	+20.5%	9%	7%	
Fraud Economic Crime	27	21	-22%	19%	0	Debit card tapping/online scamming
Public Order Incidents	35	29	-17%	80%	97%	Significant decrease – increased beats
Domestic Incidents	102	128	+25%	17%	15%	Low percentage of domestic court orders

DMR North - Coolock Area JPC Sub Committee - Garda Report

Garda Patrol Activity	2018	2019	Change	Detections 2018	Detections 2019	Comments
Possession of Firearm	2	3	+50%	50%	66%	Relates to firearms/ammunition seized
Possession of Drugs for Sale or Supply	17	15	-12%	65%	0	Detection rate is not a true return on 2018/2019 as drugs are awaiting analysis/cannot be detected until certified as drugs.
Possession of Drugs for Personal Use	34	61	+79%	86%	48%	
Possession of Offensive Weapon	6	5	-16%	83%	40%	
Searches under Drugs Act	166	474	+186%			Specialised Units policing drug hot spots
Vehicle Seizures Sec 41	93	119	+28%			

Crime Prevention Matters and Other Information	Cumulative Figures from 23rd of April 2019 (commencement of Darndale Policing Unit) to Sunday the 31st of December 2019).				
	Total Patrols Completed by Darndale Operation in first 37 Weeks	Total Checkpoints Completed by Darndale Operation in first 37 Weeks	Total Searches MDA 77 Completed by Darndale Operation in first 37 Weeks	Total Prisoners Arrested by Darndale Operation in first 37 Weeks	Section 41 RTA / Recovered UT by Darndale Operation in first 37 Weeks
	2187	247	1012	217	235
Total Street Value of Controlled Drugs Seized during this period (first 37 weeks of Operation) is €554, 296^{***}					
It should be noted that in any reference to statistics, those statistics are provisional, operational, liable to change and some possibly re-classified with the introduction of Central Statistics Office reports.					

Crime Prevention
Matters and Other
Information



Local Gardaí combined with FAI to run a very successful Late Night Soccer League over 5-weeks in Darndale Community Centre.



Garda Mounted Unit on patrol in Coolock prior to Christmas.

The Criminal Assets Bureau;

Members from the Darndale Policing Unit attended CAB offices in order to hand over luxury items seized during a search - cash to the sum of €10,000 and other designer clothing value approx. €10,000 believed to be the proceeds of crime were recovered at this location.

It should be noted that in any reference to statistics, those statistics are provisional, operational, liable to change and some possibly re-classified with the introduction of Central Statistics Office reports.

Appendix 8 Minutes of Darndale/Belcamp/Moatview Forum

The Chairperson and Members

North Central Joint Policing Committee

Darndale/Belcamp/Moatview Forum meets every two months in the Darndale/Belcamp Village Centre. There are good attendances at the Forum from local community, public representatives, local agencies, HSE, Coolock Gardai and Dublin City Council North Central staff. There have been 4 safety forums to date for 2019, 28th January, 25th March, 27th May, and 30th September.

The following items are typical of the Agenda items considered by the forum at the above 2 meetings.

Development Local Housing Sites

- Buttercup Park, Spine site, Belcamp Site B
- Waste Management/Environment
- Graffiti, clean ups, illegal dumping

Garda Matters

- Recent crimes and Garda actions including key statistics, crime report.

DCC Community Section Update

- Community & Social Development team update, including events and projects.

Darndale Park Renewal Project

- Physical improvements, usage, issues re horses, dumping and quad bikes.

Dublin North East Drugs Task Force

- Update

Recent Actions and Topics:

Housing Sites:

- Buttercup Park - all houses have now been allocated, remedial works on the walls are finished, however, this has resulted in moving the problem to adjoining houses, Contractor looking at changing the design of the railings.
- Belcamp Sites B - consists of 4 X 1 Bed, 4 X 2 Bed, 4 X 3 Bed.
- Spine Site - Summer 2020 when Design Team will look at same.

Waste Management and Environment

- Graffiti is ongoing, all threatening graffiti is removed straight away. 400 m of Graffiti has been removed from the greater Darndale area. The walls along Darndale Spine Site have been painted.

Illegal Dumping: Illegal dumping continues to be an ongoing issue in Darndale. There is an ongoing problem with burning of domestic waste in the Darndale/Belcamp area. An amount of illegal

dumping has been removed from the wall along the Spine site and from the two reinstated roundabouts at Tulip and Primrose estates.

The issue of the illegal dumping was again raised at the last Forum and an update requested.

Simon Brock from Waste Management came to the last Forum and gave a very informative talk on Halloween Bonfires. He stressed the need for DCC to receive information regarding bonfire material, what type of material and where it is, this information can be given anonymously through Customer Services.

Darndale Park

There have been positive developments in Darndale Park with increased usage. The Football Academy is proving very successful with up to 150 kids enrolled in it. The 'Park Run' in the Park continues to be a huge success with participants coming from all over Dublin, it recently celebrated its 2nd Year Park Run. Sphere 17 and the Irish Fisheries undertook clearing out the pond in Darndale Park and as a result 'The Darndale Angling Club' is now in operation.

The use of the park for matches, training, park run etc. has attributed to a decrease in anti-social activity around the park when these activities are being held.

The introduction of the Gateway staff has also helped reduce the incidents of dumping.

While all of the above is very positive there are still some issues with horses.

Dublin North East Drugs Task Force Update

The Forum is kept updated of all training courses available and all drug awareness programmes which the Task Force deliver to schools.

Anti-Social Behaviour Darndale

Inspector Brian Clune and his Unit have been very proactive in tackling joyriding, burning out of cars and anti-social behaviour in Darndale. There have been 112 patrols, with 14 positive searches of misuse of drugs act and €70,000 high end goods seized.

Connell McGlynn, Darndale Area Housing Manager works very closely with Inspector Clune and his Unit re tenancy warnings to DCC tenants engaging in anti-social behaviour.

The next safer forum meeting is scheduled for 25th November, 2019.

October, 2019.

Deirdre Murphy,

Administrative Officer

Appendix 9 Sporting Facilities within 7km of Kilmore West Youth Club

Services Map

Outlining available amenities & services within a 7km radius of

If you want to find out more about us: www.kilmorewestyouthproject.com

Kilmore West Youth Project CLG
 @West_CLG
 K.W.Y.P.CLG

Charity No. CHY20204827

Youth & Community Projects (Light Pink)

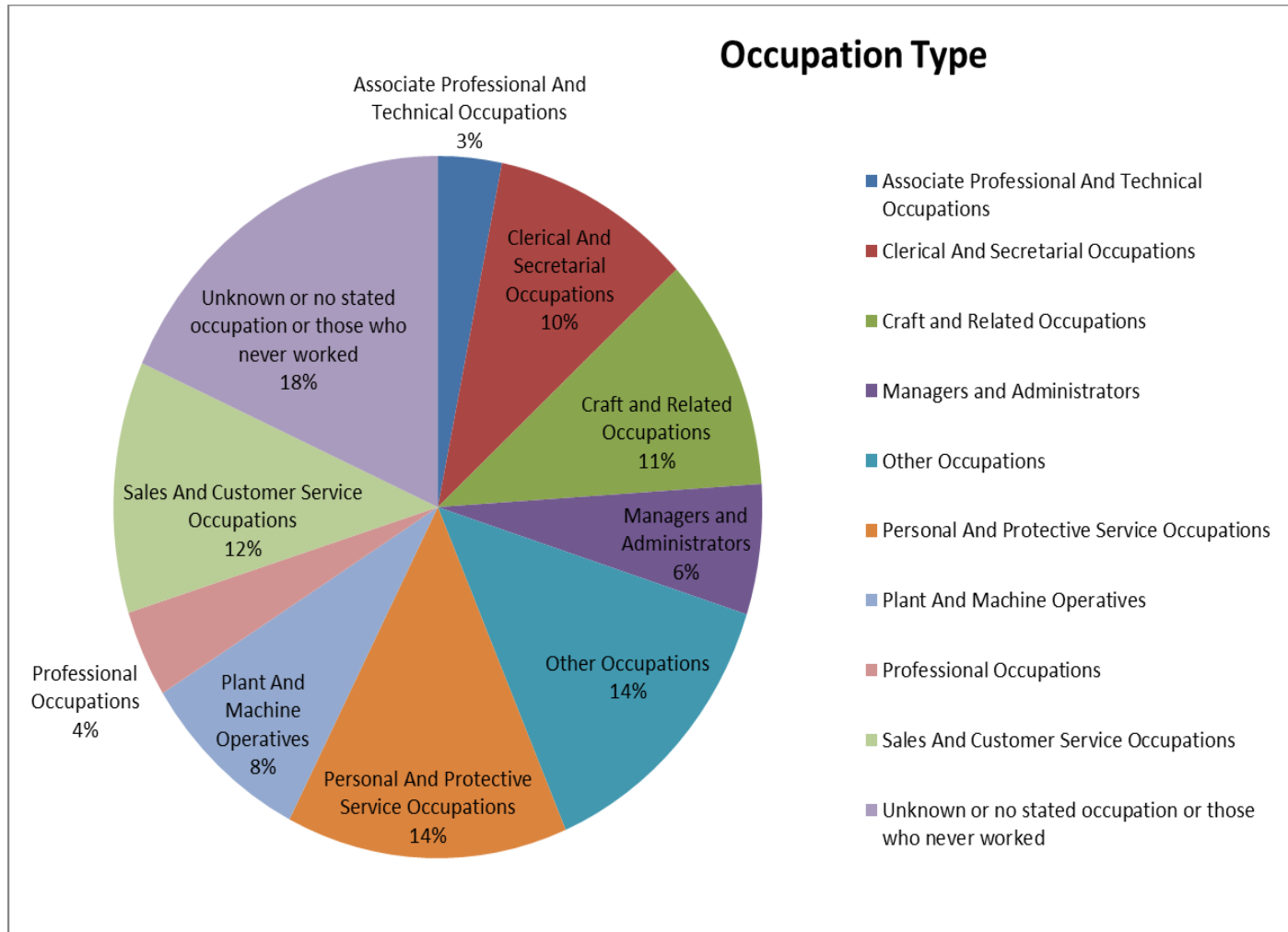
- Kilmore West Youth Project (60)
- Sphere 17 (64)
- St. Monica's (63)
- Kilbarrack Youth Project (61)
- Artane Cookook Family Resource (64)
- Donnycarry Youth Project (68)
- Artane Beaumont Recreation (64)
- Poppintree Youth Project (61)
- Ballymun Regional Youth Service (69)
- Santry Resource Centre (60)
- Kilmore West Recreation Centre (68)
- Aisling Project (65)

Park Runs (Pink)

- Fr. Collins Park (67)
- St. Anne's Park Run (64)
- Fairview Park Run (64)
- Dandale Park Run (64)

<p>Key Services A-Z</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glin Centre (4) Dales Centre (8) TravAet (2) Aster Family Support (2) EDIT Project (2) Intero Centre Coolock (2) Northside Partnership (5) Glin Jobs Club (4) Mulling Centre (6) Kara Social Service (2) Probation Service Donaghmede (6) St. Michael's House (1) Northside Counselling (4) Wellwoman Centre (N) Donnycarry drugs project (2) RASP (2) Pace Priorswood House (2) Baldyole Family Resource (2) Coastal Community Prog (2) Child & Adolescent Therapy (1) Doras Bul (1) Bonnybrook Early Education (1) Intro Kilbarrack (4) Listen Project (1) Dandale Belcamp village (2) 	<p>Football (Red)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kilmore Celtic (1) St. Brendan's (2) Dublin Indoor Football (3) Artane Beaumont (4) St. Malachy's (5) Grange Woodbine (6) St. Kevin's Boys (7) St. Paul's Artane (8) St. Vincent's FC (9) Home Farm FC (10) Marino (11) Ballymun United (12) Raheny United (13) Kilmount Boys (14) Kilbarrack United (15) Tolka Rovers (16) Shelbourne FC (17) Stella Maris FC (18) Beldere FC (19) Vianny FC (20) 	<p>GAA (Green)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parnell's GAA (21) O'Toole's GAA (22) Whitehall Colmcille (23) Rosmini Gaels (24) St. Vincent's GAA (25) Craobh Chiarain (26) St. Monica's (27) Setanta GAA (28) Clontarf GAA (29) CLG Rath Eanna (30) Naomh Barraog (31) CLG Na Fianna (32) Scoil Ui Chonail (33) Na Dubh Ghail GAA (34) 	<p>MMA + Disciplines (Purple)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tang Soo Doo (35) Celtic Taekwondo Santry (36) Larkhill Karate Club (37) Mugendo Kickboxing Club (38) St. Paul's Karate (39) SVJ Karate Club (40) Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (41) Trinity Boys Boxing (42) Bay City Boxing (43) Baldyole Boxing (44) Darndale Boxing (45) Dublin Thaiboxing (46) Kyushoshin Jujitsu Renmei (47) Irish Karate Kyushinkishai (48) Dublin Kendo Koukai (49) Muyukan Kendo Club (50) 	<p>Tennis Badminton (Light Blue)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clontarf Lawn (51) Clontarf Parish Tennis Club (52) Tennis Ireland (53) Glasnevin Lawn Tennis (54) Rockfield Tennis Court (55) St. Anne's Tennis Courts (56) Ellen Field Tennis Courts (57) Charlesville Lawn Tennis (58) Baldyole Badminton (59) Fairplay Badminton (60) 	<p>Athletics, Yoga & Gymnastics (Pink)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raheny Shamrocks (61) Clontarf Harriers (62) Arabian Gymnastics (70) Eccle's Gymnastics (71) Perfect Balance Yoga (72) Jumpzone Santry (73) Grange Gymnastics (74) Yoga Studio 72 (75) The Yoga Lounge (76) Hot Yoga Dublin (77) 	<p>Dance & Music (Yellow)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artane School of Music (78) Lil Stars Dance (79) Olympus Dance (80) Clontarf School of music (81) Streets Ahead Dance (82) Dilly Bary Stage School (83) Zumba w/dance & Health (84) Zumba Glasnevin (85) Sean Gilligan Performing Arts (86) School of Irish Dance (87) Song & Dance schools (88) 	<p>Gyms (16+) (Grey)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muscle and Mind (89) Glin Gym (90) Morton Stadium (91) Ballymun Gym (92) Parnell's Gym (93) Trinity Gym (94) Ben Dunne (95) Energy Fitness (96) Strength & Performance (97) Westwood (98) Bodyworks (99) Sportslink (AA) 	<p>Basketball Courts & Clubs (Orange)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tolka Rover (AB) St. Vincent's (AC) Killester Basketball (AD) Fairview Court (AE) KUBS Basketball (AF) Basketball Semi-Court (AG) Basketball Court (AH) 	<p>Pitch & Put & Rugby (White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Anne's Pitch & Put (AI) Edermore Pitch & Put (AJ) Clontarf Golf Club (AK) Clontarf Rugby (AL) St. Patrick's Rugby (AM) 	<p>Scout Clubs (Light Red)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Santry Scouts (AV) Beaumont Scouts (AW) 160th Ardlea Scouts (AX) Priorswood Scouts (AY) Raheny Scouts (AZ) The Scout Centre (BB) Whitehall Scout Den (BC) 177th Scout Hall (BD) Dublin Fairview (BE) Edermore Scouts (BF) 	<p>Table Tennis & Hockey (Light Blue)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOQP Table Tennis (BX) IWA Table Tennis (BY) Clontarf Hockey Club (BZ) 	
										<p>Coder Dojo (Brown)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raheny Dojo (AN) Greenlanes Coder (AO) DCU Dojo (AP) Ballymun Dojo (AQ) Coder Dojo Artane (AR) 	<p>Skate Park & Archery (Light Orange)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fairview Skate Park (AS) Clongriffin Skate (AT) Blackheath Archers (AU) Archery golf (AV) 	<p>Additional Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kayaking - Howth/ Inner City Diving - Aquatic Centre Pier Jumping - Howth/ Sandycove 40ft Cricket - Malahide Castle Rock Climbing - Awesome Walls/ Trinity Sports Snooker/Pool - Fairview/Leisure Plex Hiking - Howth/Bry Bowling - Leisure Plex/ ALSAA Sports Centre Sailing - Howth/ Poolbeg/ Clontarf Cycling - Along the coast of Fairview/Clontarf/ Howth Snorkeling - Footpool/ Scuba Howth Foot golf - Deerpark Howth

Appendix 10 Department of Education and Social Protection Occupation Types in Coolock Intreo Office



Appendix 11 Darndale Belcamp Village Centre CLG – Development of Phase 2 Business Plan

