



Report on the Social, Community, Equality and Integration SPC

held on Wednesday, February 12th 2025 @ 3.00pm

Hybrid Meeting – Council Chamber and Via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance: Cllr. E. Murphy (Chair), Cllr. N. Whelan, Cllr. K. Keane, Cllr. A. Edge, Cllr. A. Hayes, Emily Smartt (PPN), Daire Hennessy (PPN), Noel Gavin (South Dublin Chamber).

Officials Present: Elaine Leech (Director HSCD), Edel Clancy (SEO HSCD), Paul McAlerney (Senior Community Officer), Nicoletta Coppola (Integration Support Coordinator), Thos McDermott (Local Sports Co-Ordinator), Joe Lumumba (AO Community Development), Maria Nugent (AO Community Administration), Fionnuala Keane (AO HSCD), Andrea Molloy (Area Community Officer), Mary Connell (AO HSCD), Sean Barron (SO HSCD).

Apologies: None

The Chair, Cllr. Murphy opened the meeting at 3pm.

Agenda Item 7 (moved to start of meeting) : Comhairle na nÓg

Saoirse, Chairperson and Kenny, Comhairle Member presented on the work of Comhairle na nÓG. They thanked the Committee for the opportunity. Included in their presentation was an explanation of what Comhairle na nÓg is, what they work on, how they are formed and membership of the steering committee. They outlined how they ensure young people's voices are heard by working with Decision makers and National Organisations. The Comhairle topic in 2024 was Mental Health and Youth Spaces and they outlined their workplan in 2024 and progress to date in 2025. The Committee was invited to follow Comhairle on their social media channels.

A discussion followed. Comhairle was thanked for attending and commended for their work. As well as their liaison with the Elected Members

on the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee, they were encouraged to link in with other elected members to publicise their work and to “tag” them on their events. The focus on mental health and youth spaces was acknowledged to be positive. It was suggested that an article on Comhairle na nÓg be included on the next edition of the Chief Executive Report. This was agreed.

Agenda Item 1: Minutes of Social, Community, Equality, and Integration SPC Meeting held on 10th of December 2024

The minutes of the Social, Community, Equality, and Integration SPC Meeting held on 10th of December 2024 were proposed by Cllr. E. Murphy, seconded by Cllr N. Whelan and agreed.

Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising

There was no feedback received on the proposed work programme for the Social, Community, Equality, and Integration SPC during the 4-week consultation period. E. Leech presented the proposed work programme. There is option to add to this during 2025. It was acknowledged there is a large body of work involved which will have a positive impact.

Agenda Item 3: Sports Bursary Update

T. McDermott delivered the presentation on this bursary to support emerging sports persons in the County across the seven Local Electoral Areas

A draft application form for this emerging talent bursary scheme and terms and conditions were reviewed by the Committee.

A general discussion followed. It was agreed that the South Dublin County Council logo be included on the application form. It was confirmed that the scheme will be notified to the relevant Governing bodies, local clubs and through the Council’s social media channels. The allocation of the bursary will be reviewed by a committee who will critically evaluate the applications. It was acknowledged that applicants may not know which Local Electoral Area in which they reside, and that the evaluation committee will include them in the relevant area. The closing date for receipt of applications will remain open until the bursary has been exhausted. The eligibility criteria and terms and conditions will be included with the application form. Concerns were raised on the wording that “applicants must be born or domiciled in South Dublin County Council Administrative area” as general view was that this was too broad a criterion. E. Leech confirmed that the wording will be reviewed to ensure the formula of words did not inadvertently exclude individuals with a connection to the area. She confirmed that a reference from a local club affiliated with a Governing body was acceptable. It was stated €9,250 is the maximum amount an individual

can receive. Wording around this information to be reviewed. It was requested that a table be included in the form around community connection given that successful applicants will be brand Ambassadors for the County. The intention of the bursary is to support young people who are not yet at elite status but are winning titles at national level to continue to progress. Funding for the bursary is approved for one year only.

Application form will be amended based on the comments and circulated to the Committee. Progress will be reviewed at SPC meeting in 2nd Quarter of 2025.

Agenda Item 4: Community Grants 2025

J. Lumumba delivered the presentation. Applications for Community Grants opened in February this year to allow a bigger window for groups to apply. Information on the number and value of community grants, summer projects, community events and festivals community applications approved in 2024 was presented. The Community Development team are committed to the objectives set for 2025.

it is envisaged that the number of grant applications approved will increase across all Community Grants in 2025. It was acknowledged that this was incredibly positive, and the Committee look forward to positive updates at future meetings

The Report was noted.

Agenda Item 5: Sláintecare Programme Update

M. Nugent delivered the presentation. There are two Sláintecare Healthy Communities in SDCC, in Tallaght and in Clondalkin. A Health Inequality Research report was carried out and final report is due in 2nd quarter of 2025. A promotional video was included in the presentation around energy use in the home. Over 40 families enlisted in this Energy Use in the Home Initiative with energy audits underway for each family. Households who fully completed the audit report a saving of in excess of 12% in their energy bills. Ten additional families were recruited at recent Health fairs. An application form has been submitted to the Department of Health to continue to support period poverty initiatives. Seed funding of €75k for 2024/2025 awarded to Sláintecare Healthy Communities Tallaght has been used to develop Jobstown Adventure Playground which launched on 16th December 2024 and for the construction of changing place facility underway at St. Aengus Community Centre. It is anticipated that a new Healthy Community area will be located in the South Dublin administrative area and once confirmed, the committee will be updated.

The Report was noted.

Agenda Item 6: National Older People Council Conference

J. Lumumba delivered the presentation. The Convention will be held in South Dublin on the 8th and 9th of May 2025 in the Maldrón Hotel, Tallaght. The theme is "The Wisdom of Years- A Lifetime of Perspective." There will be representation and delegates from 31 countries. A general discussion followed the presentation. It is estimated that there will be up to 200 delegates including senior political figures, members from the Older People Council, age friendly ambassadors and members from Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons in attendance. It was acknowledged that while this was a great undertaking it is a great opportunity to showcase the County and to interact with a large cohort of people. There will be excursions for participants to show capital projects including Brady's Field best age friendly development in Ireland, historical visits to areas of interest including Rathfarnham Castle, Pearse Brothers Museum, Lucan House. Activities will be held in Tallaght Stadium. It was agreed that it would be positive if local Councillors went on these excursions.

The Report was noted.

Agenda Item 8 – St. Patrick's Day Festival 2025

Joe Lumumba delivered the presentation. With the support of the members, funding was secured to hold the parade. It is the first time the festival will be held in Tallaght since the Covid pandemic. Local stakeholders have been incorporated into the programme including An Garda Síochána and Dublin Fire Brigade. Forty groups are registered to participate. The closing date to register is Monday 17th February. It was proposed that local Olympian Jack Woolley be requested to act as Grand Marshall. It was acknowledged that it is positive that the Festival will be held again and that much work is required to ensure this is a successful event. It was commended that there was provision for neurodiverse children and that accessibility was a priority. Query raised as to how groups can apply to participate. Information was circulated on the Council's social media channels and J. Lumumba will circulate this information to the Committee. The question was asked as to the maximum number of groups and whether late entrants would be accepted. J. Lumumba confirmed that they will endeavour to facilitate maximum number of groups possible, but that Health and Safety was the priority. There are a number of events taking place on St. Patrick's Day including a match at Tallaght Stadium, mass in the Priory and it was acknowledged that this will have to be considered in the scheduling of the parade. Invitation will issue to the Elected Members to attend and there will be a grandstand with seats for delegates.

It was agreed that Jack Woolley will be approached to request if he can attend. If his scheduling will not allow it, the Committee will be contacted by email to agree a substitute Grand Marshall.

The Report was noted.

Agenda Item 9: Any Other Business

There was no other business, and the meeting concluded at 16:30.

The next meeting of this Strategic Policy Committee will be held on 14th May 2025 at 3pm.