




Voice of Community
Dr Sinéad McNally CDI
RESPOND! JUBILEE30 CONFERENCE 2012

September 21st 2012


Introduction

- ▶ CDI is one of the three Prevention and Early Intervention Programmes (PEIP) in Ireland
- ▶ Jointly funded by the Department of Children and Families (DCYA) and Atlantic Philanthropies (AP).
- ▶ CDI, Youngballymun and Preparing for Life were set up to test *“innovative ways of delivering services and early interventions for children and young people, including the wider family and community settings.”* (DCYA, 2011)



Aims of Presentation:

1. To introduce the work of the Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) in the Community
2. To highlight a way to empower the community through engagement in research, specifically the 'How are our Families?' study
3. To highlight key findings from this research in the community



CDI

- ▶ CDI is based in Tallaght West
- ▶ Began with the establishment of a consortium with 23 people in 2004; First piece of work was a needs analysis entitled “How Are Our Kids?” (HAOK, 2004)
- ▶ A number of priorities were agreed based on this research –led to the set up & incorporation of CDI (2007)
- ▶ Following this a number of programmes were designed and delivered between 2007-2011

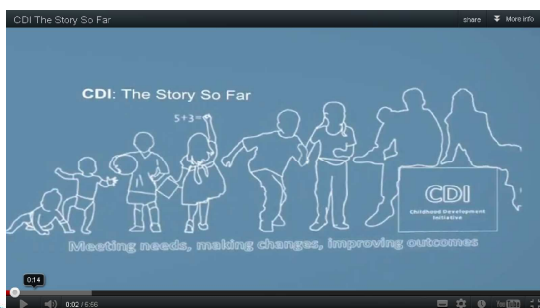
CDI Programmes & Services

Community Safety Initiative		Doodle Den		Early Years ECCE
Healthy Schools Programme		Mate Tricks		Restorative Practice
Speech & Language Therapy		Safe and Healthy Place Initiative.		Quality Enhancement Programme

Empowerment Through Engagement

- ▶ The ‘How are our Families?’ study
- ▶ By Dr Tara Murphy (CDI) and Dr Suzanne Guerin (UCD)
- ▶ Key Aims:
 - To update our understanding of the lives of families in Tallaght West
 - Establish patterns and trends in terms of areas of resilience and need;
 - Inform CDI’s strategic aims for Phase 2

Video Clip: CDI



HAOF: Methodology

	Household Survey	Youth Survey
Design	Anonymous surveys	
Sample	141 families with 313 children	208 young people
Method	Door-to-door survey	School & out-of-school settings
Ethics	UCD Human Research Ethics Committee	
Survey period	June – September 2010	October – November 2010

HAOF: Methodology

- ▶ Community field workers were trained to collect information using a structured survey
- ▶ Questions taken from a range of existing questionnaires
- ▶ Examined
 - education and employment
 - financial issues
 - health and well-being
 - child behaviour
 - sense of community and safety

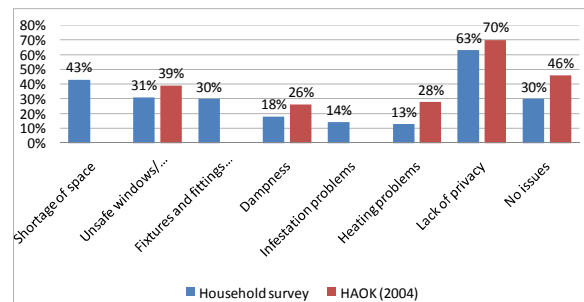
HAOF: Some Key Findings

- ▶ For over half of families (57%, n=80) the family was headed by a couple and just over 40% (n=57) were single parents
 - ▶ Similar findings from Youth Survey, HAOK (2004) & CSO (2006)
- ▶ Two thirds of families (67% n=95) are renting from the local authority compared to 65% (HAOK, '04) and 7% nationally (CSO, '06)
- ▶ 60% have lived in the area for 10 years or more (67% in HAOK)

HAOF: Participants

- ▶ Participants in the household survey were between 19 and 73 years old, with an average age of 33 years.
- ▶ The majority of the young people who participated in the study were aged 12-13 years (65%, n=135) with the average age being 13 years
- ▶ Sampled from across five estates in Tallaght West with the largest group living in Jobstown, followed by Brookfield, Fettercairn, Killinarden and McWilliam

Issues with Accommodation



Note: During the summer of 2010, the local authority began restoring/replacing damaged windows in its housing.

HAOF: Family Life

Household survey

- Nearly 90% (n=124) reported really enjoying being a parent "all or most of the time";
- 81% (n=114) believe their child had a happy future ahead of them (all or most of the time).

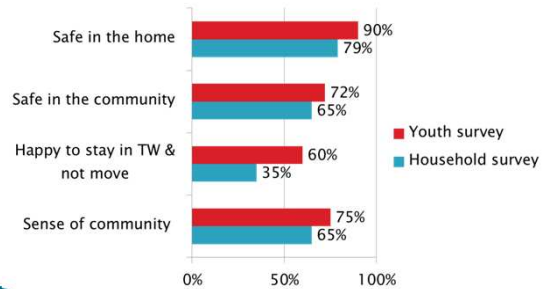


Small hands, huge possibilities. (Brookview Est.)

Youth survey

- Overall, participants reported having a more positive relationship with their primary caregivers compared to participants in KIDSCREEN;
- 68% (n=142) felt that their parents 'very' or 'extremely' understood them compared to 58% in KIDSCREEN;
- Majority of participants (78%, n=163) reported feeling 'very' or 'extremely' happy at home which is greater than that reported in KIDSCREEN (70%).

Sense of Community & Safety



Employment & Finance

- 43% (n=60) of adults reported that state benefits are the household's only source of income (33% did not respond) (similar to HAOK: 41%)
- 46% of respondents indicated that they were 'getting by' financially. However, 33% reported have financial worries 'almost all of the time' within the previous six months
- The most frequently reported item/ commodity that adult participants reported could not afford was a family holiday (62%) followed by a private vehicle (32%)
- 71% (n=148) of young people reported 'very often' or 'always' having enough money to do the same things as their friends', compared to 69% nationally

Conclusions

- Findings show evidence of resilience, coping and support among families in Tallaght West;
- At the same time, the findings also highlight the struggles that some families have;
- Evidence that parents are working to protect young people from significant stressors;
- Supporting the development and wellbeing of children and families in Tallaght West requires;
 - understanding the challenges the community faces;
 - recognising the resources that are clearly evident within the community; and
 - identifying the gaps between resources and challenges as areas for future development.

HAOF: Disseminating Findings

- ▶ How are our Kids (HAOK, 2004) highlighted key areas for improvement – led to changes in the community
- ▶ HAOF presented to the Oireachtas committee on Health and Children 5th July 2012
- ▶ Also presented to the Children's Services Committee

Thank you.

