

# Annual Report 2019

# Building community resilience to drug & alcohol misuse in Finglas and Cabra Communities

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# Introduction

**This is the 2019 annual report of Finglas Cabra Drug and Alcohol Task Force.**

The Task Force along with 11 others was founded in 1997 on foot of the Government report “Measures to Reduce the Demand for Drugs” (1996). Since then the Task Force has acted as a focal point for an interagency response to drugs and alcohol in the Finglas and Cabra areas involving the local statutory bodies, community representatives including residents and those with lived experience of problem drug and alcohol use, elected Councillors and TDs, and locally based voluntary sector providers.

As well as providing an overview of Task Force activity in 2019, the report contains a brief profile of the community drug problem in the Task Force area, and the drugs trends noticed in 2019. The report sets out the various project work of the Task Force and work related to the priorities of the National Drug Strategy and Task Force Strategic plan.

## Profile of the community drug problem in Finglas Cabra

As its name suggests the Task Force is comprised of two distinct places i.e. Finglas and Cabra. Although each of these places have much in common, they are also unique in terms of their demographics, socio-economic history, and social capital. These social and economic characteristics play a significant role in how problem drug use, the drug economy, and poverty interact to influence the nature and extent of the drug problem in each of these places.

### Socioeconomic deprivation

The combined population of the 18 Electoral Divisions (EDs) in the Task Force area is 55,518 (CSO, 2016), 32,213 in Finglas and 23,305 in Cabra. In 2016 one of these EDs (Finglas South A) was classified as very disadvantaged relative to national averages making it one of the poorest places in Ireland. 6 electoral divisions are rated disadvantaged and 7 are marginally below the national average for relative deprivation (Pobal HP deprivation Index, 2016).

**Table 1.0. Relative Deprivation Scores in Finglas Cabra LDATF Area (2011-2016)**

Division	Score 2011	Score 2016	Change <sup>1</sup>	Description
011 Ballygall A	-3.8	-4.3	-0.5	Marginally below average
012 Ballygall B	-8.4	-4.8	+3.7	
014 Ballygall D	-2.8	-1.0	+1.7	
020 Ballymun F	-2.0	0.1	+2.1	
Finglas South B	-9.6	-9.9	-0.3	
Finglas North C	-5.1	-2.5	+2.6	
Finglas North A	-17.7	-16.6	+1.1	Disadvantaged
Finglas North B	-16.0	-14.4	+1.6	
Finglas South A	-17.4	-14.5	+2.9	
Finglas South D	-17.3	-16.4	+0.9	
Finglas South C	-20.3	-20.3	0	Very disadvantaged
Cabra West A	-12.65	-12.65	0	Disadvantaged
Cabra West B	-14.89	-12.72	+2.17	Disadvantaged
Cabra West C	-8.68	-6.25	+2.43	Marginally below average
Cabra West D	-0.62	-0.23	+0.39	Marginally below average
Cabra East A	7.33	9.62	+2.29	Marginally below average
Cabra East B	7.33	9.62	+2.29	Marginally below average
Cabra East C	0.76	4.92	-4.16	Marginally below average

Source: Pabel Deprivation Indices  
(<https://maps.pobal.ie/WebApps/DeprivationIndices/index.html>)

<sup>1</sup> + indicates a fall in deprivation & - indicates a deprivation increase

## Drug trends

The trend in drug use that continues to pertain to the Finglas Cabra Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force area can be described as a complex culture of polydrug use involving two relatively distinct social groups. An older habitual user group (40 upwards) using methadone, cannabis resin, heroin and crack cocaine and, a younger recreational user group (16-40) using cannabis weed, ecstasy, mephedrone and cocaine powder.

In recent years as employment in the economy improved an increasing population of adults engaging in the use of cocaine powder and alcohol is being noticed by local drug services.

## Prevalence

Finglas Cabra LD&ATF drug prevalence data is included in the Northern Dublin Regional area data contained within the National Drug Prevalence Survey 2010/11. Data for the North Dublin Region show considerably higher levels of drug use than the national average. For example, almost twice as many males reported using an illegal drug in the previous year in the North Dublin Regional area than in Ireland as a whole (18% compared to 10%).

The National Drug Prevalence Survey (2010/11) data also show that number of all cases treated has continued to increase in the HSE CHO9 area between 2017 and 2019, from 1876 to 2531 cases. The number of new treatment cases increased in this time from 460 to 765. (HRB Bulletin, NDTRS 2013 – 2019 Drug Data, 2019)

Numbers referred for treatment by Electoral Division 2018 & 2019



Dr Liam MacGabhann (DCU School of Nursing), Paul McAuliffe T.D. (Lord Mayor of Dublin 2019), Dr. Denise Proudfoot (DCU School of Nursing), John Bennett (Coordinator, Finglas Cabra Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force)

**Table 2.0. Drug Use Referral Figures in the Task Force Area<sup>2</sup>**

Division	2018 Data			2019 Data		
	Total numbers of adult referrals for alcohol and drugs <sup>3</sup>	No of individuals whose referrals related to drugs		Total numbers of adult referrals for alcohol and drugs <sup>3</sup>	No of individuals whose referrals related to drugs	
		Total Number	Number aged <25 years		Total Number	Number aged <25 years
Ballygall A	51	44	∞	50	38	∞
Ballygall B	8	<5	∞	12	10	∞
Ballygall D	7	<5	∞	11	7	∞
Ballymun F	6	6	∞	11	7	∞
Finglas North A	82	60	∞	100	72	6
Finglas North B	73	49	∞	55	41	11 (aged 20-24)
Finglas North C	30	19	∞	20	11	∞
Finglas South A	48	34	∞	51	34	9 (aged 20-24)
Finglas South B	47	33	∞	85	53	∞
Finglas South C	52	37	∞	66	36	∞
Finglas South D	46	37	6 (aged 20-24)	50	34	∞
Cabra West A	12	7	-	12	6	-
Cabra West B	27	17	0	36	21	-
Cabra West C	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-
Cabra West D	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-
Cabra East A	44	33	0	42	32	-
Cabra East B	58	43	10	71	45	7 (aged 20-24)
Cabra East C	48	37	0	48	36	6 (aged 20-24)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>&gt;39</b>

<sup>2</sup> NDTRS data is not published where any individual cell contains five or less cases.

<sup>3&4</sup> These figures may also include a small number of concerned persons and persons referred for gambling respectively.

## Opiate Substitution Treatment (methadone treatment)

The numbers of people attending Opiate Substitution Treatment in 2019 remained stable. The gender breakdown of these number also remained stable at 70% male and 30% female.

**Table 3.0. No. of Clients in Opiate Substitution Treatment in the Task Force Area**

Time Period	No of clients in treatment (during 2017)	National % of Clients	Number of clients in Treatment (at end of 2017)	Number of clients in Treatment (at end of 2017)	No of clients aged < 25	Location of treatment (indicative percentages)	
Jan-Dec 2017	480 (324 (67%) male and 156 (33%) female)	4.2	435 (295 (68%) male and 140 (32%) female)	4.2	9	Clinic	64%
						National Drug Treatment Centre	4%
						GP	25%
						Prison	7%
Jan-Dec 2018	481 (330 (69%) male and 151 (31%) female)	4.1	443	4.4	<10	Clinic	63%
						National Drug Treatment Centre	<4%
						GP	25%
						Prison	<8%
Jan-Dec 2019	479 (333 (70%) male and 146 (30%) female)	4.1	436 (302 (69%) male and 134 (31%) female)	4.2	<10	Clinic	62%
						National Drug Treatment Centre	<4%
						GP	26%
						Prison	<8%

## Drug related deaths

Drug related death is an indicator of the nature of the drug problem in any society. In the 2007 – 2016 period the greatest proportion of the drug related deaths recorded in the state and in the HSE local Health Office area were from the Finglas Cabra Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force area.

**Table 4.0. Drug related deaths among the 17-24-year-old over the 10-year period 2007-2016<sup>5</sup>**

Geographical location	Poisoning deaths <sup>6</sup>	Non-poisoning deaths <sup>7</sup>	Total deaths
Finglas Cabra Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force	18	15	33
LHO Dublin North City	25	15	40
Total	43	30	73

Source: Irish National Drug-Related Deaths Index (NDRDI)<sup>8</sup>

In general, the consensus of opinion among Task Force members is that the local drug use can continue to be described as a “consumption of an assortment of illicit and legal drugs” which “has become normalised and embedded into the social and cultural practices of many different social groups” in the Finglas and Cabra LDATF area. (O’Gorman, 2013).

5 Due to the small numbers the data for individual years cannot be presented so this analysis includes data over a 10 year period. Data pertaining to all drug-related deaths which occurred in 2017 will be published in December 2019.

6 Poisoning deaths are those directly due to the toxic effect of the presence in the body of a drug or drugs and/or other substance(s). Other terms used to describe such deaths include overdose, directly drug-related death and acute drug death. Deaths arising from adverse reactions to prescribed medication are not included

7 Non-poisoning deaths are the deaths of individuals with a history of drug dependency or non-dependent abuse of drugs (ascertained from toxicology results and from CTL, medical or coronial records), irrespective of whether the use of the drug was directly implicated in the death. For presentation purposes it is necessary to group these deaths into broad categories.

8 NDRDI is an epidemiological database which records cases of death by drug and alcohol poisoning and deaths among drug users and those who are alcohol dependent.



Launch of Dual Diagnosis Report at Dublin's Mansion House, 2019

# Task Force Meetings

**A total of eight Task Force meetings were organised in 2019.**

The Task Force currently has 20 members. Membership includes representation from the statutory, community and local voluntary sector. Generally, there was good level of attendance by all sectors at Task Force meetings in 2019 (See list of members and attendance in appendix 1).

## **TF Supply and Estate Management Sub-committee**

The Supply Reduction and Estate Management sub-committee met every quarter during 2019. Each of these meetings focused on a drugs seizure report from An Garda Síochána, Estate Management report from Dublin City Council, and activity reports from the respective Coordinators of Finglas Safety Forum and Cabra Community Policing.

The Safety Survey carried out by Finglas Safety Forum was launched by The Lord Mayor of Dublin City Cllr Paul McAuliffe. The Safety Forum worked with all of its stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the survey. Particularly attention was given to the recommendation in relation to dangerous driving of scrambler motorbikes and the links this has to the local drugs trade.

## **Treatment, Rehab and Family Support Sub-committee**

The treatment and rehabilitation sub-committee met five times over the course of 2019. These meetings focused on the following topics:



**Inter-agency  
training**



**Service user  
involvement  
research**



**Dual diagnosis**



**Information  
sharing**

## Task Force global project funding allocation in 2019

The Task Force recommended the following project funding from its global allocation from the Dept of Health, Drugs Policy Unit in 2019.

Finglas Addiction Support Team	€415,377
Cabra Aftercare	€32,911
Task Force Health Promotion Worker	€52,225
Finglas Safety Forum	€48,730
Cabra Community Policing Forum	€50,608
Colaiste Eoin Equine Project	€9,500
Rehabilitation Progression Fund	€12,329
The Voyages Programme (Finglas Centre)	€78,012
Community Development Resource Fund	€17,331
Addiction Training Courses	€23,500
Drug Prevention Initiative Programme	€93,935
Supply Awareness Project	€8,225



Daniel Kearney (Youth Worker FYRC), TY Students St Michaels Holy Faith Secondary School, Orla Skelly (HSCL St Michaels Holy Faith Sec School), Mary Heffernan (Health Promotion, Finglas Cabra LDATF)

# Task Force Activity 2019

The work of the Task Force was greatly helped in 2019 following the announcement by the Minister for the Drugs Strategy of additional funding. The funding involved has made it possible for the Task Force to cover core costs and undertake small scale once-off project work.

## Community Action Research on Dual Diagnosis

The Task Force worked with Finglas Addiction Support Team, DCU, HSE Community Health Office 9 and service users on a community action research on dual diagnosis. Following a programme of extensive community consultation, The Dual Diagnosis report with its findings and recommendations was published at a launch at the Mansion House in November 2019, by the then Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr Paul McAuliffe.

## Cabra Safety Survey

In 2019 the Task Force provided funding for a survey into the perceptions of community safety in the Cabra area. Over 500 survey questionnaires were completed online and in hard copy formats. Overall the survey provided a good snapshot of the perception of safety in the Cabra area. One of the most informative aspects of the survey was the alignment between the views expressed by residents attending safety forum meetings and the views captured in the findings of the survey. The plan is to use the survey as a baseline from which to repeat the survey in the near future.

## Family Health Partnership

A joint funding application was made with Blanchardstown LDATF to Strand 2 of the funding provided by Government for Task Force pilot actions in support of the implementation of the National Drug Strategy. The successful application involved the provision of an ante and post-natal care partnership project, for women using drugs and/or alcohol harmfully. The project will be rolled out across the Finglas and Cabra areas in 2020.



Niall Counihan (Task Force Community rep Cabra), Martin Hoey (Chair of Task Force), Paschal Donohue T.D. (Minister of Finance), Marie Coughlan (Director of Fingal Centre)

# Interagency Networking

## Young people engaging in drug use

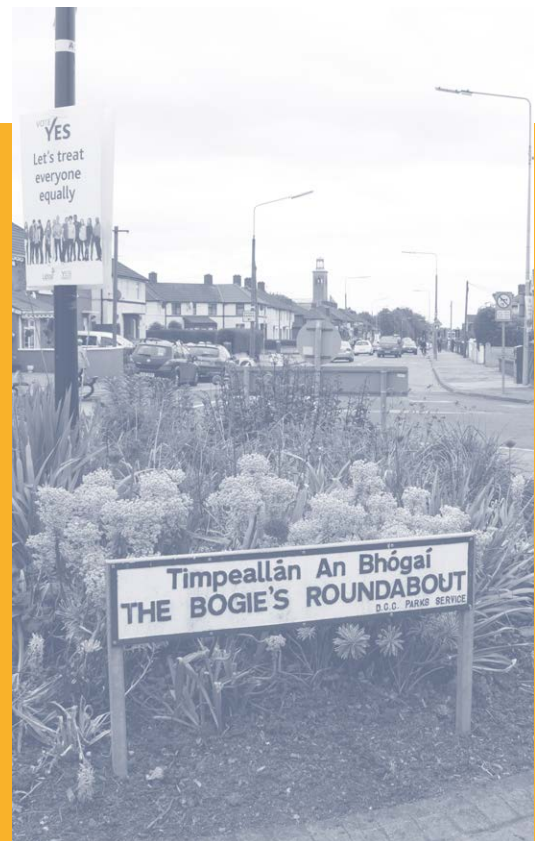
In April 2018 the Task Force invited Finglas services to a facilitated inter-agency workshop on the needs of young people (8-18) involved in substance use in the Margaret Aylward Centre, Glasnevin. From this, a Task Force inter-agency sub-committee was set up to support needs assessment research into young people and drugs in Finglas in 2019.

## Better Finglas

The Task Force continues to be represented on the Better Finglas Steering Committee. Better Finglas is an inter-agency structure set up by agencies on the ground in Finglas with the aim of tapping into funding from the Dept of Children and Young People, Area Based Childhood Programme. Better Finglas now provides an innovative programme of evidence based early years (pre-birth – 4 years) interventions.

## TUSLA Child and Family Networks

All services in Finglas with an interest in supporting vulnerable families and children are represented on the TUSLA's child and family networks. The Task Force is represented on the networks' in Finglas and Cabra area.



## School Completion Programme

The Task Force participates in the two School Completion Programme Management Committees in Finglas and Cabra.

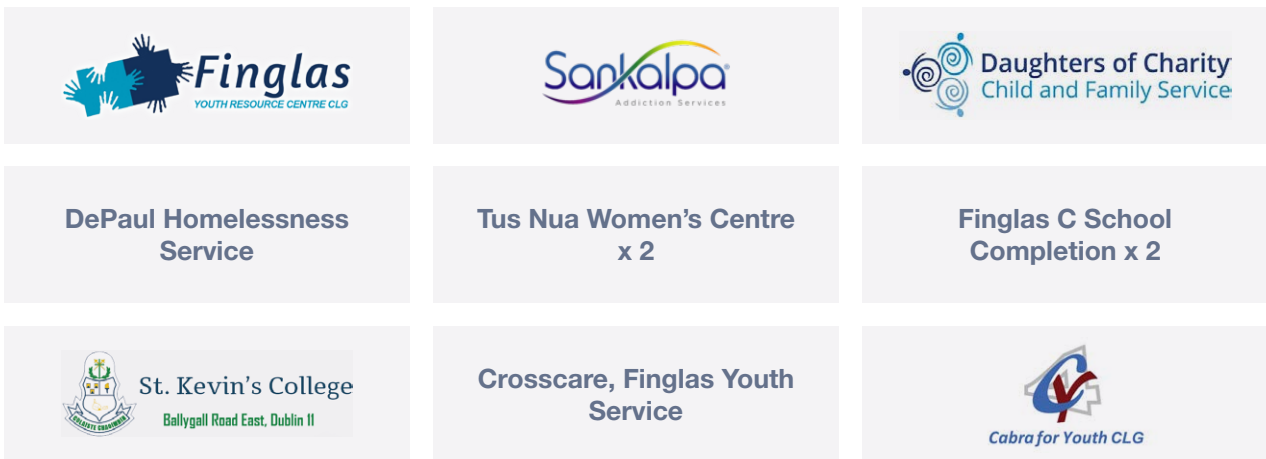
## Dublin City Council, Joint Policing Committee

The Task Force Coordinator attends the meetings of the Joint Policing Committee for Dublin North West. At these meetings the Coordinator is available to share information on the work of the Task Force with JPC members.

# Drug related interagency training

## MI Brief Intervention Training

Two training courses in motivational interviewing were organised for staff of local organisations in 2019. Both ran concurrently from September – December. The Task Force has been organizing MI training for the staff of local organisations for over 10 years. The organisation of training enables the Task Force to promote networking and integration across services. The organisations whose staff benefitted from the training included:



# Rehabilitation Progression Support Purchasing Scheme

The Task Force administers a small support purchasing scheme aimed at assisting local individuals who are engaged in drug treatment achieve the objectives of formal care plans agreed with their Key/Caseworker. In 2019 the scheme provided grants to the following organisations.

Finglas Addiction Support Team were provided with funding for 7 group activities for their clients. LOFT in Cabra were funded to provide 3 group activities for clients. 13 applications were funded from keyworkers for education and training supports in their clients care plans.



Dessie Ellis T.D., Cllr Anthony Connaghan, Ms Michelle Slevin (Coordinator, Voyages Rehab Programme)

# Drug Prevention & Education Activity 2019

The Task Force plays a significant role in responding to local needs in the relation to drug education and prevention activity in the Finglas and Cabra areas. The following drug education activities were delivered in 2019 in collaboration with our local partners in schools and youth services.

## Drug Education Programme

For many years now the Task Force has played a successful role in the provision of evidence informed drug education and drug related health promotion. This is delivered mainly by its Health Promotion Worker under the supervision of the Task Force Coordinator. 2019 the Health Promotion Worker collaborated with local schools and youth services on a variety of bespoke evidence informed activities that reached number of our population segments.

## Short Training Sessions

- Provision of Drugs & Alcohol Awareness workshops to local schools, 3rd level College and Community Organisations. Each workshop was customised to the suit the knowledge requirement and age appropriateness of each group. 3 x Summer Project /Programmes; 1 x 3rd Level Students (Colaiste Ide); 14 x 2nd level Students (Finglas Cabra Post primary Schools); 2 x Erin's Isle GAA Club Youth Groups.
- Planned and delivered drug education interventions in 2 local youth services e.g. SESH Programme
- Organised drug awareness seminar for staff of Focus Ireland
- Organised the delivery of a Transition Year alcohol awareness programme in 2 Secondary Schools
- Supported the Voyages programme for parents who are stabilised drug users and/or in recovery by devising awareness workshops on the following themes, parenting, awareness of substance use and its impacts; presentation on cocaine and crack cocaine; sleep hygiene. Each workshop lasted three hours.
- Organised the SAOR Brief Intervention Training for professionals. 10 attended from the LDATF area



Andy Tuite, Superintendent William Carolan, Garda David Clifford, Sgt John Kelly, Ms Michelle McNally (Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator)

## School Health Alcohol Harm Reduction Programme (SHAHRP)

In 2018 the Task Force led the introduction of School Health Alcohol Harm Reduction Programme (SHAHRP) to the Republic of Ireland. SHAHRP has been successfully delivered to schools in Northern Ireland for over 10 years and following evaluation research there by John Moore’s University SHAHRP students were found to have:



In the evaluation the SHAHRP program was found to be particularly successful with early risky drinkers. Early unsupervised drinkers from the SHAHRP group experienced 18.4% less alcohol related harm after participating in both phases of the program and this difference was maintained 17 months after completion of the program.

Given the findings of the evaluation research and successful implementation in Northern Ireland, staff of 6 local secondary schools in Finglas and Cabra were trained by Task Force staff to deliver SHAHRP 2019 in the schools. The training took place early in 2019. Following the training, the programme the schools began delivering SHAHRP to the 380 students in the following schools:

<b>St Michaels Holy Faith x 2 staff</b>	<b>New Cross College</b>	<b>St Vincent's Secondary School</b>
<b>St Kevin's College x 3 staff</b>	<b>St Mary's Holy Faith x 2 staff</b>	<b>Colaiste Eoin x 1</b>

## Transition Year Programme

The peer led drug awareness video production project is a collaboration between the Task Force and the transition year programmes in our local schools. In 2019 the TF Health Promotion Worker supported the provision of a drama/ drug awareness programme in New Cross College in West Finglas. The programme ran for a period of ten weeks including one day filming. Twelve students were involved in this initiative. Participants learn factual information about drugs while on the programme. In 2019 the drama element of the programme produced a short film "Words Hurt". (See film online at Task Force Facebook page).

## Peer to Peer Drug Education Programme

The Peer 2 Peer Drug Awareness Programme has been running in Finglas Cabra post-primary schools for over 15 years. The 2018/19 programme included seven of the eleven schools local secondary schools. The TY students to take part in a six-week drug education programme. A total of 26 students engaged in the training.

## Task Force Drug Prevention Initiatives

The Drug Prevention Initiative Fund continued to support our local schools to offer additional support to vulnerable students. 18 local schools participated in the programme and approximately 400 children and young people benefitted from the therapeutic activities that were funded. Local schools and youth organisation received a combined total of €45,566 in 2019 towards the cost of these school-based prevention programmes.



The Bogie's Roundabout, Cabra

School/Organisation	Description
St Fergal's National School	Green Fingers Programme (Gardening therapy)
Gaelscoil Bharra	Drama Group/Play Therapy
St Catherine's Infant School	Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
Christ The King GNS	Aquatics (Physical Therapy)
Christ The King JGNS	Athletics & Yoga (Physical Therapy)
St Catherine's Senior School	Art Therapy
Christ The King BNS	Magic of Music (Music Therapy)
St Joseph's GNS	Dramatherapy
Mother of Divine Grace	Dramatherapy
St Malachy's MNS	Dramatherapy
St Kevin's College	Wellbeing (Mental Health Programme)
Cabra Community College	Homework Club (Young people at risk)
St Kevin's BNS	Dramatherapy
St Michael's GSS	Homework Club (Young people at risk)
New Cross College	Strength & Conditioning Club & Dramatherapy
St Finbarr's BNS	Play Therapy
St Finian's NS	Dramatherapy
Finglas Youth Resource Centre	Halloween Festival Stand by young people

## Psychotherapeutic support

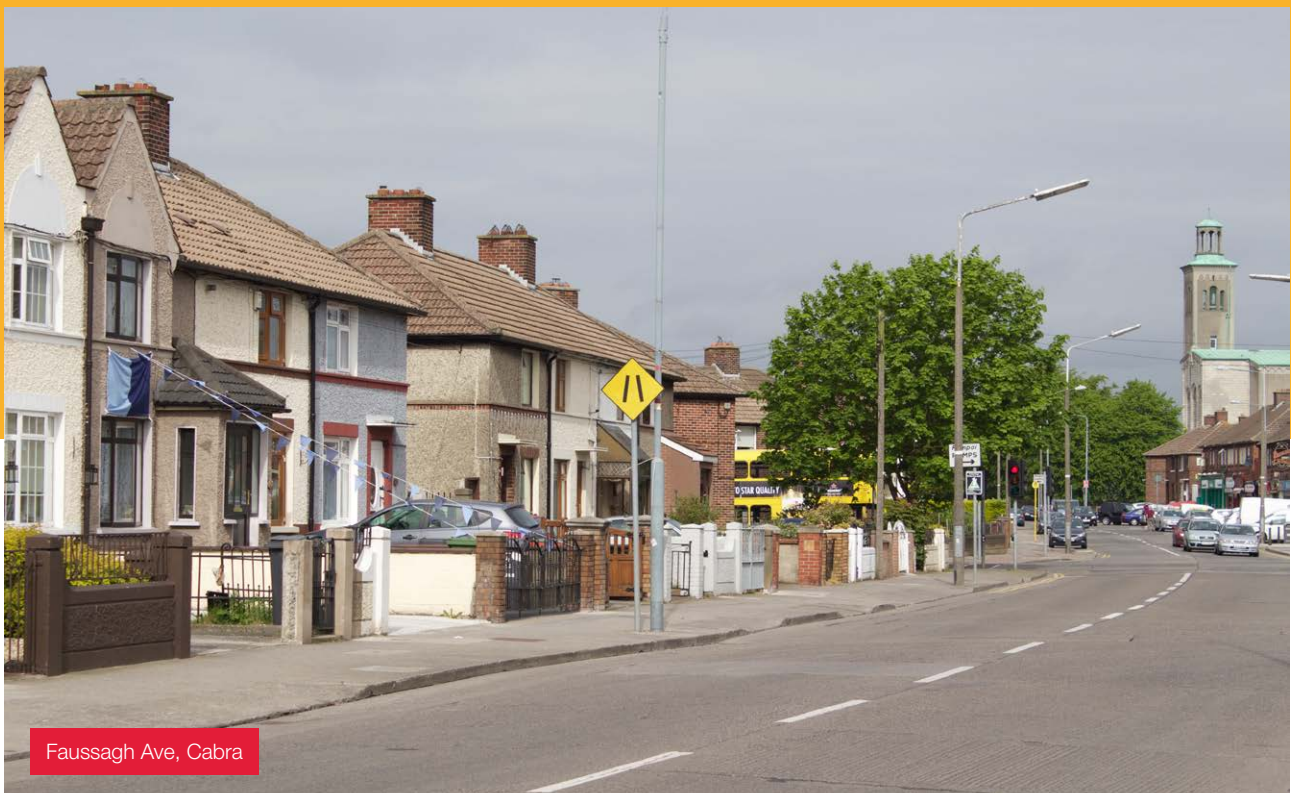
The Task Force continued to provide funding to Finglas Addiction Support Team for a psychotherapist service for families in Finglas.

## Targeting young people at risk

Something Everyone Should Know Programme (SESH) is targeted at 24 young people aged 13-16 who are already engaged or are at risk of becoming involved in substance use. The young people are targeted through already established groups, outreach and referrals from other services. This year the two main youthwork organisations in Finglas; Finglas Youth Resource Centre, and Finglas Youth Service supported the organisation of the programme with the Task Force Health Promotion Worker providing the programmes drug awareness education and training elements.

## Task Force - Community Resilience Programme

The Task Force continued to support a range of volunteer led community resilience building activities in 2019. These activities were mainly organised by people who give their time free of charge towards improving the quality of life for vulnerable children and families in neighbourhoods suffering from the stress of drugs dealing and the other criminality associated with it.



Organisation	Description	Number participating
National Family Support Network	Family Support Conference	8 family members
New Cross College	Wellness Fair	100 children and parents
Finglas Traveller Summer Project	Children's activity	25 children
Finglas West Summer Project	Children's activity	125 children
Annamoe Summer Project (Cabra)	Children's activity	41 children
Erin's Isle GAA Club Summer Project	Children's activity	75 children
The Den Summer Project	Children's activity	45 children
BJG Summer Project	Children's activity	65 children
Scoil Chaiarians Summer Project	Children's activity	44 children
Ventry Park Summer Project	Children's activity	50 children
St Joseph's & St Kevin's Summer Project	Children's activity	55 children
Rivermount Summer Project	Children's activity	150 children
East Finglas Residents Association	Family day activities	30 children
The Den	Pool Club	20 young people
FAST Family Support	Family Support, meditation course	15 adults
FAST Family Support	Family Support, yoga course	15 adults
The "Hopefuls" Family Support Group	Family Support Programme	20 adults
Barnardo's	Contribution to Family Fun Day	100+ children
Rivermount FC	Activities and materials	30 young people
Wheel of Friendship	Stress Management course	25 adults
Total		1038 individuals

# Community Safety

The Task Force continue to provide management support to Finglas Safety Forum and Cabra Community Policing Forum. These are community development projects aimed at promoting a problem-solving approach to community safety issues linked to the drug problem in the Task Force area by all community stakeholders. This is particularly relevant to the work of the Task Force due to the continued sale and use of drugs in public spaces and the destabilizing effect this has on community life in the area. The Task Force has an on-going commitment to reducing the impact of this using community development and problem-solving methodologies involving all key stakeholders.

## Finglas Safety Forum

Finglas Safety Forum is a Task Force project set up to facilitate a problem-solving approach aimed at improved community safety in Finglas. The Task Force employs the Coordinator of the Safety Forum. The Safety Forum Coordinator works as part of the Task Force staff team. Finglas Community Safety Forum is recognized by the Dublin City Council Joint Policing Committee as a Local Policing Forum.

## Forum meetings in 2019

12x Safety Forum meetings (3x Finglas West, 3x Finglas East, 3x Finglas South and 3x Meakstown Forum meetings).

- 10x pre Forum correspondences with Fingal County Council.
- 16x pre and post forum meetings with Dublin City Council
- Facilitated a number of focus groups with approximately 40 young people along with project worker based at Finglas Youth Resource Centre who hosted a peer education day in the youth centre. The event focused on mental health, resilience and community safety (1x day).
- 1x- Meeting with the Communications Officer, Children Healthy Ireland in respect to assisting with the promoting and informing the local community of the Urgent Paediatric Care Centre. This involved circulation of leaflets to local organisations, community centres and also to attendees at all Forum meetings.
- Launch of Finglas Safety Survey- Presentation of the findings and recommendations made in light of the findings of the Finglas Safety Survey with relevant stakeholders in attendance e.g. Gardai, Dublin City Council, Lord Mayor, Fingal County Council, Finglas residents etc.
- Assisted in the Finglas Garda Station Open Day. In preparation for the open day, I liaised with Road Safety Authority, arranged and collected Road Safety Authority merchandises in bulk e.g. high- vis jackets, high- vis rucksack covers, school pencils/sharpeners, cases, road safety/ cycle safety posters etc which were disseminated on the day to pupils from numerous schools within the local area as well as promoting the Safety Forum.
- Coordinated 8x Neighbourhood Watch meetings with Heathfield and Lanesborough area residents along with local Community Garda, Garda Inspector, Community Sergeant and Crime Prevention Officer in attendance.

## Community issues arising from meetings



### Public transport

Enhancing safety on public transport was a recommendation made from the Finglas Safety Survey. As public transport is a vital service to the economic and social wellbeing of people in Finglas it was recommended that the Finglas Safety Forum would consult with key stakeholders to identify particular solutions to the issues reported in the survey in respect to accessing public transport in the area.



### Aggressive begging

At multiple rounds of Safety Forum meetings this year, namely, Finglas East and West Safety Forum meetings, issues/concerns around the level of begging outside local shops have been raised 28 site visits made with some visits including dialogue with shop owners/staff.



### Drug dealing

4 meetings were coordinated in 2019 by the Safety Forum with shop employees/employers located on Barry Avenue along with two Community Guards attached to the Finglas West, Public Domain Manager and Area Manager (Dublin City Council), due to reports of drug use/dealing/anti-social behaviour. At these meetings, shop owners informed of regular groups of individuals congregating outside the shops and the time patterns such activity seemed to occur. Commitment was made by Community Guards of continuing patrols and Gardaí gave updates of seizures at subsequent meetings.



### Discarded drug litter/paraphernalia

This issue has been reported/raised multiple times also, namely Finglas West area (Northway Park, Barry area, St Fergal's lane, St Kevin's School- Finglas West, Ballygall area- Finglas East, Farnham Park, Lanesborough Road/Gardens - Meakstown). As such, verbal and written reports were discussed by the Task Force and communicated to relevant partner agencies e.g. HSE. 26 site visits involving Dublin City Council and/or councillors/residents were made to these locations.

Inter-agency problem solving meeting organised in 2019 on foot of report from St Joseph's school (Finglas West) about the significant public health concern reported to the Safety Forum by the school Principal being caused by individuals entering the school grounds to engage in injecting drug use and staff then having to dispose of the used drug paraphernalia. Coordinated meeting with St Joseph's and St Kevin's Principal, Task Force Coordinator, Barnardo's and Community Garda in attendance with agreed actions made.



### Public Lighting

2 meetings were organised in the year with residents of Dunsink Drive and Grove Park Avenue respectively involving the Public Domain Officer of Dublin City Council, to report and assess the need for improved lighting in the area. Finglas Safety Forum

## Cabra Community Policing Forum

The Task Force has provided funding and organisational support to Cabra Community Policing Forum since 2001. The Policing Forum employs a Coordinator who plays a very active role in community safety and development in the Cabra area. Cabra Community Policing Forum is recognized by the Dublin City Council Joint Policing Committee as a Local Policing Forum.

Six bi-monthly CCP forum public meetings were held in Cabra during 2019. The Cabra CPF Coordinator carried out all actions/ correspondences relating to decisions taken at forum meetings where necessary. The CCPF Coordinator also attended regular meetings with Gardai in relation to issues raised locally outside of forum meetings. Attended meetings with local residents and acted on issues raised. Arranged meetings with Dublin City Council in relation to issues locally outside of forum meetings.

CCPF assisted with the organisation of the Cabra annual community festival. CCPF organised a crime prevention coffee morning as part of the festival. Arranged venue and speakers, made a presentation on the Forum at the festival. Event attended by approximately one hundred people, local Garda management and crime prevention officers, Dublin city Council officials and elected representatives.

CCPF administered the 1st community safety survey in the Cabra area in 2019. This involved distributing over 500 questionnaires both hard copy and online to broad spectrum of residents and organisations in the area.

CCPF continued to participate in the local committee of the Garda Youth Diversion project and referral committee in Cabra. The CCPF provided assistance to organisation of the geographical expansion of the juvenile diversion programme and the development of its role in supporting families.

The CCPF continued to participate in the board of Cabra for Youth (Cabra's CDYSB Youth Project). Attended all support and referral sub-committee meetings and assisted with development of strategic targeting of specific identified young people at risk. Assisted in development and refurbishment of additional premises for Cabra for Youth. (St Bernard's Faussagh Ave)

Assisted and directed further development of Lock Keepers Site at 6th Lock Royal Canal. The purpose of this development is to provide facilities for local young people to engage in positive activities along the Royal Canal such as kayaking, cycling walking and fishing. Assisted in development of Cabra Kayak Club which caters for residents outside the focus of Cabra for Youth.

CCPF also participated in all management committee meetings of Tolka Valley Community Training Centre. Assisted in ongoing development of community garden at Liffey Junction, Royal Canal.



Catherine Brophy (DCC Public Domain Officer), Cllr Keith Connolly, Cllr Mary Callaghan, Aidan Maher (Area Manager, DCC, Finglas), Cllr Pauline Conroy, Michelle McNally (Coordinator Finglas Safety Forum), Derek Healy (Area Housing Manager Finglas)

## Drug related debt and intimidation

Cabra Community Policing Forum and Finglas Safety Forum seek to play a supportive but realistic role in relation to drug debt and intimidation in their localities. The main aspect of this role are:

- Support those affected in order to facilitate discussion in relation to their experience(s) of drug intimidation.
- Actively listen to the individual stories of those affected and provide/signpost them with relevant information on local support services available, for example, designated local Garda Inspector, Family Support Network, The Drug Debt Intimidation Programme, where appropriate, The Finglas Support After Crime and Garda Crime Victim Support.
- Discuss with those affected options regarding formal or informal contact with local Garda Inspector nominated to respond to drug debt intimidation.
- Discuss availability and potential benefits of local services for family members engaged in problematic use of drugs, e.g. drug addiction services, Finglas Addiction Support Team, youth services and school completion services.
- Discuss availability of relevant and local family support services for all family members affected by drug debt intimidation e.g. The Loft, St Helena's Family Resource Centre.



Mr Martin Hoey, Chairperson, Finglas Cabra LDATF



Cllr Mary Callaghan, Roisin Shortall T.D.

# Appendices

## Task Force members 2019

Name	Organisation
Martin Hoey, TF Chairperson	Finglas South Community Rep
John Bennett	Task Force Co-ordinator
Brian Kirwan	HSE CHO9 Social inclusion
Dessie Ellis T.D.	Dáil Eireann
Aidan Maher	Dublin City Council Finglas
Liz O'Driscoll	Voluntary Sector (The LOFT)
Kevin Smullen	City Dublin Education Training Board
Niall Counihan	Cabra Community rep
Tom Birmingham	Finglas East Community rep
Declan Meenagh	Cabra Community Rep
Michelle Culligan	Finglas West Community Rep
Sean Lowde	Probation Service
Audrey Cruise	TÚSLA – St Helena's Family Centre
Sgt John O'Reilly	An Garda Síochána
Cllr Anthony Connaghan	DCC Dublin North West
Cllr Keith Connolly	DCC Dublin North West
Cllr Mary Callaghan	DCC Dublin North West
Rachel Kelly	Finglas Youth Services Sector
Amy Roche	Finglas Addiction Support Team
Mary Corridan	Dublin NW Area Partnership
Roy Dignam	Service user rep

## Task Force - CLG Board of Directors

<b>Aidan Maher</b> Director	<b>Tom Bermingham</b> Director, Chairman	<b>Declan Meenagh</b> Director
<b>Triona O'Sullivan</b> Director (stepped down in 2019)	<b>John Bennett</b> Company Secretary	<b>Martin Hoey</b> Task Force Chair
<b>Inspector Andy Tuite</b> Treasurer		

## Supply Reduction Sub-Committee

<b>Sgt John O'Reilly</b> An Garda Síochána	<b>Martin Hoey</b> Chair Finglas South Combined Residents Committee	<b>Michelle McNally</b> Coordinator Finglas Safety Forum
<b>Philip Power</b> Dublin City Council Housing Management, Estate Officer	<b>John Bennett</b> Finglas Cabra Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force	<b>Martin Hoey</b> Task Force Chair

## Treatment, Rehabilitation & Family Support Sub-Committee

<b>Mick Williams</b> Finglas Addiction Support Team	<b>Paul Grace</b> Sankalpa	<b>Liz O'Driscoll</b> LOFT, Cabra
<b>Michelle Slevin</b> Voyages Programme	<b>Valerie O'Connell</b> Probation Service	<b>Kevin Smullen</b> City Dublin Education & Training Board
<b>Elaine Fleming</b> Focus Ireland, Aylward Green	<b>John Bennett</b> Finglas Cabra Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force	

## Task Force Staff

**John Bennett**

Task Force Coordinator

**Lorna Hannon**

TF Administrator (Job share)

**Sharon O'Farrell**

TF Administrator (Job share)

**Mary Heffernan**

Health Promotion Worker

**Michelle McNally**

Finglas Safety Forum  
Coordinator

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