

Safer Blanchardstown Report to JPC December 2021

Problem Solving

At present Safer Blanchardstown and partners are involved in a significant piece of work in the XXX area of Blanchardstown (the area shall remain anonymous for now).

The problem was initially identified through local partners, the Drug and Alcohol Trends Monitoring System research and was then brought to the board of Safer Blanchardstown for consideration. A meeting of Safer Blanchardstown, Blanchardstown Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force and An Garda Síochána took place in December 2019 and a decision was made to use a Problem Solving Approach to try to impact the issue.

A problem solving group was formed in February 2020 consisting of 25 partner organisations plus all elected public reps for the area (see list below) to consider and define the problem.

The problem as defined by the group is:

Younger and younger, young people getting involved in drugs
An increase in the range of drugs available and being used

In brief, the following draft Response has been developed:

Community:

- Promote awareness within the community of the amount of young people involved in drug use in the area
- Raise awareness of the ways in which young people are groomed into becoming drug runners
- Awareness of harms drugs are causing to young people, adults, community and wider society
- Community groups and all partners to like and share postings on social media
- Fliers to all homes in the XXX area
- TBYB Posters in all centres and schools
- TBYB Banners in centres and sports clubs
- Gardai to increase Hi Vis patrols in the area, target drug dealing in the area and increase school visits with an emphasis on harms caused by drugs
- Experimentation and recreational drug use to be promoted as a gateway behaviour
- Support local youths interested in scrambler motorbikes to access the Mulhuddart Motocross Club

Secondary school:

- Run youth survey in schools, youth clubs and football clubs to ascertain attitudes to drugs at time 1 and again at time 2
- Teachers and youth leaders to use the Think Before You Buy Teacher/Youth leader pack
- Develop links between local employers, schools and Community Training Centre to prioritise young people from the area for apprenticeships, training and other employment opportunities
- Experimentation and recreational drug use to be promoted as a gateway behaviour

Primary schools

- Support the development of emotional intelligence in primary school children through the delivery of Peer to Peer mediation programme
- Mediation for 6th class pupils in local primary schools to be delivered from April 2022
- TBYB posters to be on display in schools and age appropriate discussions around the wider dangers of drug use to take place as needed.

List of Partners:

1. Safer Blanchardstown
2. Blanchardstown Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force (BLD&ATF)
3. Fingal County Council (FCC)
4. An Garda Siochaná (Gda)
5. Mountview Family Resource Centre (MFRC)
6. Blakestown Community Centre (BCC)
7. Community Reps
8. Resident groups
9. Blakestown/Mountview Youth Initiative (BMYI)
10. Neighbourhood Youth Project (NYP)
11. Dublin15 Community Drug Team (D15CAT)
12. Empower
13. D15 Community Drug & Alcohol Addiction Team (D15CD&AAT)
14. Mountview Boys & Girls FC
15. Mountview Youth & Community Centre
16. Blanchardstown CTC
17. Jigsaw
18. Foroige
19. School Completion
20. St Mochtas FC
21. Tusla
22. St Peregrines GFC
23. Scoil Mhuire Senior National School
24. Blakestown Community School
25. Community Training Centre
26. All local elected Councillors