

# A Better City for All

## Coverage report

# Media Attendees

- Patricia Rice, 98FM
- Fergal Bowers, RTE
- Fiona Kenny, 4FM
- Stephanie, FM 104
- Cormac O'Keeffe, Irish Examiner
- Ciara Kenny, Irish Times
- Mark, RTE Prime Time

# Press Coverage

# Irish Times

22.06.2012

## Impact on city of drug treatment highlighted

Detoxification units should be more accessible – report

CIARA KENNY

THE CLUSTERING of drug-treatment centres and homelessness services in Dublin city centre is contributing to antisocial behaviour in the capital, according to a new multi-agency report published yesterday.

The Better City for All report concluded problematic drug users should have greater access to treatment options nationally, with services such as detoxification units available closer to their homes.

The street-dealing of prescription drugs such as benzodiazepines and z-hypnotic sedatives such as zimmovane was identified as one of the key problems to be addressed. The group recommended gardai be given powers to initiate prosecutions against people who deal these prescription medications, which now out-sell heroin, cocaine and cannabis on the streets of Dublin.

The report was produced by a group of 11 agencies dealing with substance abuse and antisocial behaviour, including the Ana Liffey Drug Project, an Garda Síochána, Dublin City Business Improvement District, Dublin Simon Community and local drugs taskforces and treatment centres.

The study covers the area between Christ Church, the Irish Financial Services Centre, Parnell Square and St Stephen's Green.

The research included analysing data from the Garda, mapping the location of support services and alcohol outlets,

reviewing recommendations made in previous reports, and interviews with tourists, members of the public, service users and treatment providers.

The report supports recent recommendations made by Prof Michael Farrell and Prof Joe Barry in their report on the opioid treatment protocol, which called for an increase in the number of level 2 GPs who could provide methadone substitution treatment locally.

Opening hours in drug-treatment centres should be revised, as the four main providers in Dublin are closed between 1pm and 2pm which can lead to antisocial behaviour, the report said.

Alcohol was also identified as a key contributor to public order offences and property crime. The group recommended no new planning permissions should be given for off-licence sales in the city centre.

Accommodation should be provided where people who wish to consume alcohol can do so under regulated conditions, according to the group. This would reduce street-drinking, which negatively affects perceptions of safety.

Speaking at the launch of the report yesterday, the strategic response group chairman Johnny Connolly said this is the first time all stakeholders involved in drug treatment and substance-misuse-related antisocial behaviour have come together to deliver a comprehensive set of recommendations.

# Irish Examiner

22.06.2012

## Drug gangs increasingly using children

by Cormac O'Keeffe

Growing numbers of rival drug gangs in Dublin city centre are using children to thwart Garda crackdowns, according to a report.

Dealers are also using bicycles and the Luas, and are carrying smaller amounts of drugs to evade Garda attempts to clean up the city.

Abuse of prescription drugs — now prevalent across the entire country — is contributing to “dis-inhibition and vocal street intimidation of passersby” by users.

These are among the findings of research for a report on substance misuse-related antisocial behaviour in Dublin city centre. The report, *A Better City for All*, was the work of a group comprising of drug treatment centres, gardaí, business interests, homeless groups, Dublin City Council, and local drug taskforces.

Chairman of the strategic response group, Johnny Connolly, said drug treatment centres were often wrongly blamed for antisocial behaviour in the city

and said the issues would be “far worse” if those services were not there for drug users.

However, he said the report did recommend: More treatment services, mainly through GPs, in local areas; the opening of the four centres in the city centre during lunchtime; and the development of “good neighbour” protocols by the treatment centres.

The report called on gardaí to be given the legal power to prosecute people for dealing in prescription drugs.



# Irish Daily Mail

22.06.2012

## Dublin's drug clinics should be relocated

### Report says centres lead to anti-social behaviour

By **Ali Bracken**  
Crime Correspondent

DRUG treatment centres in the heart of Dublin city are contributing to anti-social behaviour, according to a new report.

The Irish Daily Mail campaign to clear the capital of

**Irish Daily Mail**  
**CAMPAIGN**

**CLEAN UP**  
**O'CONNELL ST**

the scourge of visible drug and alcohol abuse has highlighted the problem on O'Connell Street and surrounding areas.

And now the Better City For All report has found that drug addicts should have greater access to treatment options closer to their homes and opening hours

### MUGGER WAS DRUG DEALER

A CONVICTED burglar who knocked an 83-year-old woman unconscious in a mugging near O'Connell Street had been charged with dealing heroin two months earlier, a court heard yesterday.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard that Trevor O'Shea had been charged in January 2010 after gardai arrested him with over €20,450 worth of heroin and €396 worth of cocaine.

However, O'Shea had his charges struck out two months

later. Five days after that O'Shea of Belfin Park, Birr, Co. Offaly mugged grandmother-of-seven Bridget Campbell on the steps of the Pro-Cathedral, just off O'Connell Street.

Mrs Campbell suffered a broken leg and spent a week in intensive care.

After charges were re-entered O'Shea, 35, was yesterday given a two-year extension to his current prison sentence. He pleaded guilty to dealing drugs.

for clinics need to be revised, as they are contributing to anti-social behaviour. The report also calls for a crackdown on 'street drinking' and dealing in prescription drugs.

Some 11 agencies – including local drugs task forces, An Garda Síochána, the Ana Liffey Drug Project, and the Dublin Simon Community – were involved in compiling the report.

It recommends that people be

treated and accommodated in 'the most appropriate setting for their circumstances' and as close to their home as possible.

The group also suggests that closures of the four main centres in Dublin between 1pm and 2pm are contributing to anti-social behaviour.

According to the report, emergency accommodation should only ever be used in an 'emergency'. This is often not the case, as

people often spend long periods in homeless accommodation due to a lack of suitable long-term housing options.

The report also recommends that alcoholics should be allowed to drink in their accommodation 'under regulated conditions'.

Lord Mayor of Dublin, Andrew Montague, who launched the report yesterday, said: 'Drug users should receive care locally and methadone treatment must be made promptly available, where the user lives. There is a serious problem with the sale and swapping of prescription drugs in Dublin city centre. We need to empower the gardai to prosecute where offenders are found to be trading prescription drugs.'

Dublin City Business Improvement District CEO Richard Guiney called on the Government to act on the report.

He said: 'We now need the support of the Government to turn these recommendations into actions, to improve the situation on the ground for service users, delivery agencies and of course all those who live, work and spend time in Dublin city centre.'

Comment - Page 12  
ali.bracken@dailyemail.ie



# Online



# RTE Online

21.06.2012

## 'Better City for All' report calls for improved access to substance treatment centres in Dublin

Updated: 16:31, Thursday, 21 June 2012



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A report on substance abuse and anti-social behaviour suggests that a contributory problem for accessing treatment is the fact that there is a clustering of treatment centres in Dublin city centre.

Article

Audio (1)



The report said there should be better access to treatment options

The 'Better City for All' report also highlighted the fact that the main centres close from 1pm-2pm.

It said there should be better access to treatment options nationally, with more local services close to home.

The report was produced by a strategic response group involving around 13 agencies.



It says that no new planning permissions should be given for off-licence sales in the Dublin city area.

Chairman of the group and research officer with the Health Research



# Irish Times Online

21.06.2012

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irishtimes.com - Last Updated: Thursday, June 21, 2012, 14:43

## More localised drug treatment urged



Dublin City Business Improvement District CEO Richard Guiney and Johnny Connolly, chairman of the strategic response group, at the publication of the Better City for All report. Photograph: Maxwells

### External

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CIARA KENNY

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The Irish Times - Friday, June 22, 2012

## Impact on city of drug treatment highlighted

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The report was produced by a group of 11 agencies dealing with

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Home » Lifestyle » New report calls for improved access to substance abuse centres

## New report calls for improved access to substance abuse centres

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June 21, 2012

By David Richardson

A new report has called for better access to substance abuse support centres.

The 'Better City for All' report highlighted the fact that the main centres are clustered together and close from 1pm-2pm.





# SIPTU

## 21.06.2012



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## Press Release

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### A 'Better City for All' report launched

Date Released: 21 June 2012

The Strategic Response Group (SRG), set up as a partnership approach to address public substance misuse and perceived anti-social behaviour in Dublin city centre, on Thursday (21st June), published the most comprehensive and innovative multi-agency report and set of recommendations to date, on the topic.

The report - 'A Better City for All' - acknowledges that for historical reasons there is a clustering of drug treatment and homelessness services in or adjacent to the inner city.

While these services play a major role in the provision of effective treatment to problematic drug users, the report recommends; that there should be greater access to prompt provision of treatment options nationally; that people should be treated and accommodated in the most appropriate setting for their circumstances as well as provided with support services as close to their home as possible.

Formally launching the report, Lord Mayor of Dublin, Andrew Montague, said; "There is a serious problem with the sale and swapping of prescription drugs in Dublin city centre. We need to empower the Gardaí to prosecute in cases where offenders are found to be trading prescription drugs, and introduce a national protocol on the prescription of benzodiazepines as a matter of urgency to address problematic issues like repeat prescriptions. Drug users should receive care locally and Methadone treatment must be made promptly available, where the user lives."



# Broadcast

# RTE Primetime

21.06.2012



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## The Deal In Dublin



### On tonight's programme:

Yellows . . . Blueys . . . Zimmos . . . Gear . . .  
Juice . . . Brown . . . Dollys . . . Qs . . .

Street-level drug dealing in Dublin City exists in its own world, its own language.

Every day in 100sq metre area around O'Connell Street, Dublin drugs are openly bought and sold with the public oblivious to what's happening.

It's a cat and mouse game between Gardaí and Dealers, say local shopkeepers.

Dealers know they have a captive market, though. Within walking distance of O'Connell Street, there are numerous drug treatment clinics operating.

An "absolute killer", one drug addict states about the fact he takes 100km round trip 5 days a week, into the city to get his methadone. Drugs are constantly "in his face".

# RTE Primetime

21.06.2012

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## RTÉ ONE Prime Time

Prime Time take a look at the reality of illegal drugs and drug dealing in Ireland's capital city. Also, Prime Time take a look at the report by the Independent Child Death Review Group. 427 pages detail the lives of 196 children either in care, aftercare, or known to the HSE who died in a ten year period.

Broadcast on: Thu, 21 June 2012  
Available until: Thu, 12 July 2012  
Duration: 0:30

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21.06.2012



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# RTE News at One



News At One: Report on  
substance abuse and anti-social  
behaviour - Health Research  
Board's Johnny Connolly

# The Last Word, Today FM

21.06.2012



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A promotional banner for "The Last Word with Matt Cooper". It features a red background with a statue of a thinker, a soccer ball, and several coins. A torn paper effect reveals the text "The Last Word with Matt Cooper". To the right is a portrait of Matt Cooper and a stack of books. The "Irish Life" logo is in the bottom right corner of the banner.

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