

national collective of
**community based
women's
networks**



AN ROINN DĒI AGUS CÉIT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Support Scheme to enhance inclusion of women in communities

NCCWN Report for 2017

WOMEN'S EQUALITY & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Disadvantaged women are the target group for all NCCWN Projects – in the main, NCCWN Projects recognise disadvantage in relation to women’s socio-economic circumstances. In addition, rural Projects work with women who are often further disadvantaged through social isolation and lack of access to supports and services. Marginalised women are identified through outreach, consultation, local statistics and information.

DJE funding enables the NCCWN Board to employ 46 staff, 2 at national level and 44 locally throughout the 17 areas. At local level, NCCWN staff outreach and engage women experiencing disadvantage and lever in programme funding to support women’s equality and voice in their communities.

In 2017, NCCWN Projects developed and delivered local area work plans based on four strategic areas of priority; Engagement, Participation, Policy and Equality and Organisational Development & Sustainability. The objectives and actions within these strategic areas are in line with, and indeed reflected in the National Women’s Strategy 2017-2020 whose overall goal is ‘to change attitudes and practices preventing women’s and girl’s full participation in education, employment and public life, at all levels, and to improve services for women and girls with priority given to the needs of those experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, the poorest outcomes’

Actions undertaken by NCCWN Projects in 2017 under the area of Engagement support and help progress the following National Women’s Strategy 2017-2020 high level objectives to:

- *Advance socio -economic equality for women and girls*
- *Advance the physical and mental health and well-being of women and girls*
- *Ensure the visibility in society of women and girls, and their equal and active citizenship*
- *Advance women in leadership at all levels*
- *Combat violence against women*
- *Embed gender equality in decision-making*

NCCWN Strategic Priority 1: Engagement

Engage with women experiencing disadvantage through outreach and predevelopment work to reduce isolation, increase confidence, build relationships and empower women.

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Actions</i>
<i>To support marginalised women to overcome the barriers that prevent them from reaching their full potential in society</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Develop outreach strategies to engage the most marginalised and isolated women to support their participation.</i> • <i>Carry out needs assessments to identify appropriate services and supports</i> • <i>Provide services and supports where needed to address barriers</i> • <i>Facilitate access through referrals to existing services and supports available.</i>
<i>To engage, support and encourage women to</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Retain and develop our presence in local communities, providing first point of contact including drop-in centres</i>

<i>participate in all aspects of community life</i>	
<i>To engage women and promote women's equality</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Organise events and information sessions/opportunities that provide hard to reach women, with information on specific issues that affect them. (E.g. Health screening, education, VAW services) and referring or signposting to existing services.</i> • <i>Support the development of networking and support structures for women in local communities.</i>
<i>To raise awareness of women's equality issues</i>	<i>Use a collective approach to raising awareness by marking key dates and engaging women in a range of campaigns of key dates and events for women i.e. International Women's Day, Rural Women's Day, 16 Days of Action Against Violence Against Women etc.</i>

Throughout 2017, NCCWN Projects continued to outreach to the most marginalised women in their areas. Women were supported within the Projects or signposted to other services and supports based on identified needs. Supports to women ranged from counselling, childcare, parenting, domestic abuse, mentoring, to FEAD distribution, mental health and well woman clinics and women's group support etc. Project staff worked with women, supporting and encouraging them to access services and supports available in their communities.

Projects also used a variety of methods to promote and facilitate access to services, including newsletters, media, websites and social media, one-to-one engagements, referrals and word of mouth. Agencies that projects referred to include training centres, VTOS, NALA, Women's Aid, Women's refuges, MABs, Pieta House, Legal Aid, SICAP, Homecare Agencies, Social Workers etc.

With no programme funding available to them, our Projects worked hard to try and source funding from a variety of sources. Money leveraged allowed them to deliver a range of engagement opportunities and capacity building and tailored learning activities, often involving extensive outreach work in hard to reach communities.

Such activities included the provision of events, information and training aimed at women. These events are also used to disseminate information and create awareness regarding their project, or issues of relevance to women in their areas; and to consult with them on issues that may be of concern or affecting them.

Over 150 events including information days/sessions, enrolment days, coffee mornings, open days, fundraisers, awareness-raising events and celebration days were held, in addition to awareness raising campaigns on issues such as Breast Cancer Awareness, 16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women, Gender Equality Awareness, Mental Health, End Direct Provision, Pension Equality, The Elephant Collective Human Trafficking and local campaigns. Awareness of these campaigns was raised by phone, email, posters, media, social media and personal presentation.

In the context of the National Women's Strategy, these events help advance the physical and mental health and wellbeing of women and girls while ongoing work on highlighting violence against women and girls and support services available to them support NWS actions to combat violence against women.

Other of methods of engagement with women in our communities included:

- Enabling organisations such as MABs, CIS, Community Gardaí, ETBs and domestic violence services to hold outreach clinics in Projects.
- Participating in FEAD and providing food parcels to women/families in need in their communities
- Providing physical space and administration for support groups such as 'Living with Addiction' (for family members of addicts), ELLA (Lesbian & Bi-sexual women), GROW (overcoming mental health problems)
- Operating positive mental health support groups such as 'Mind Matters' and 'Bosom Buddies'
- Supporting women's groups and supporting women to participate in, contribute to and lead local community groups and committees.

International Women's Day (8th March) events were hosted by all 17 NCCWN Women's Projects which provided opportunities to outreach, highlight women's equality issues and raise the profile of the NCCWN work at local level. The IWD theme for 2017 was '#Be Bold for Change'.

Most NCCWN Projects operate a 'Drop In' service to women in their communities while all operate an 'Open Door' policy which means they welcome women into the project at any time during its open hours.

Some NCCWN Projects provide Counselling Services in their communities with over 200 women availing of these low-cost services in 2017. Funding for these services is leveraged from Tusla and shortfalls raised by fundraising efforts in the projects providing the service. Facilitating services like this are of huge importance in rural areas where the distance to the nearest town/urban centre would make counselling hard to access.

Over half of NCCWN Projects produced newsletters, distributing them by hand, door-to-door, mail drops, community centres, libraries and by electronic means on email and social media.



Silence+Voice
Eigse Na mBan
Gathering of Women

October 7th & 8th 2017 / Danlann An Chláir

Speakers
Bridie Egan
Sharon O'Halloran
Donna Shanda Yima
Fatima Fernand
Sharon Murphy
Anne Rynne
Ann Marie Flanagan
Katie Teasby

Booking
Full weekend
Friday 7th
Saturday 8th
Sunday 9th

086977
0858386977



NCCWN Events 2017

'Be Bold for Change' on International Women's Day

ACCESS 2000 Community Education Project is calling Wexford people to Support
The Elephant Collective in their campaign for
Automatic Inquests into Maternal Deaths in Ireland

10:30am - 2 pm March 8th at the Bullring, Wexford Town
Sign a postcard which will be sent to
The Minister for Justice Equality and Law Reform

ACCESS The Elephant Collective



NCCWN Strategic Priority 2: Participation

Facilitate progression of women experiencing disadvantage from engagement to active participation

Objectives	Actions
To mobilise women, raising their consciousness of the issues affecting them	Promote and support the engagement of women experiencing disadvantage to participate in women centred capacity building programmes.
To build women's capacity to represent the collective concerns of women especially those from marginalised communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design and carry out actions that support and provide opportunities that enable women to develop their potential and make informed choices about their future. Actions to include consciousness raising, empowerment, feminism and equality.• Provide women's community education programmes. Support and organise the delivery of a range of accessible formal and non-formal community education and training programmes, that are tailored to meet the needs of women in our communities
To represent and support women's representation and participation in a range of relevant structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify relevant local structures for women's participation including PPNs, local school's committees, LCDCs, partnerships, ETBs where women's participation• Support participation of new and existing women's groups and build capacity by supporting volunteers with skills to participate on community policy and decision-making fora.
To challenge barriers to women's participation locally, regionally and nationally	Support women to name barriers to their participation and work with relevant organisations to identify needs and reduce barriers to women's participation

Community education is a way of working for many Projects in the NCCWN. Often our projects are the only provider of education and training specifically designed to cater for disadvantaged women in an area. In recognition of women in their role as primary carers, our Projects plan, promote and deliver a range of accredited and non-accredited education programmes in response to the identified needs in a local area.

Again, our Projects sourced funding to deliver a range of capacity building and tailored learning activities, often involving extensive outreach work in hard to reach communities. Projects worked on a one to one basis with women, supporting and encouraging them to access progression routes. Projects have found that this type of work can act as a catalyst to further education and development opportunities. In 2017, over €100,000 was leveraged to deliver training sessions with over 5,000 participants.

Projects also worked with NALA and their local ETBs to provide relevant courses for women. ETBs are supported to hold outreach clinics in local projects, where that need has been identified. The women Projects work with often have a fear of engaging in formal education programmes due to earlier negative experiences in formal education. Projects work at a personal level with women, encouraging them to access the services available to them.

A range of accredited courses were offered from QQI components, FETAC modules in information technology, language and culture, retail sales, applied psychology and social studies. Non-accredited courses included craft courses, language classes, self-development, fitness and cookery.

Additionally, in 2017 eight NCCWN projects began delivering local STEPS courses for women under PEIL (Programme for Employability, Inclusion & Learning 2014-2020) a series of training opportunities on self-development and work-related skills, to assist a return to the labour market and entrepreneurship. This positive action, in line with the National Women's Strategy, seeks to increase access to training opportunities for women and to bring the employment rate for women closer to 69-71% to meet the Europe 2020 target for women.

These actions also further support Strategy actions to improve the position of women on low pay and/or in precarious or low work hours. Furthermore, socially excluded women, particularly those living in poverty, are supported to access education, training and employment opportunities.



Courses/Programmes
2017



NCCWN Projects identify and actively participate in local social inclusion and education and training networks to highlight the needs of local disadvantaged women and promote the activities and services that local education and training organisations have to offer. In 2017, committees/interagency groups with NCCWN members included family support networks, community education networks, training networks, mental health and domestic violence networks to public participation networks, childcare networks and committees, feminist networks, women in business, social inclusion and other interagency groups.

Such participation of women helps put a greater focus on gender issues and not only women's participation in general, but on the voices of socially excluded women at a community level and in policy and decision-making fora. The participation of women at a community level supports the progression of the NWS objective of ensuring the visibility in society of women and girls, and their Equal and Active Citizenship in Irish society.

NCCWN local, regional and national structures also further provide an effective framework for challenging barriers by building capacity and enabling women not usually heard to have a voice.

Projects have identified that one of the main barriers to women's participation is childcare. Projects support women to access affordable childcare through provision of places at childcare facilities attached to our Projects, or by signposting women to community childcare in their areas thereby improving access to these opportunities for many disadvantaged women. Some of our Projects offer crèche, preschool and afterschool services. In 2017, we had four childcare centres with 178 childcare places.

Throughout 2017, Projects held information evenings with women and the local training and employment service providers (i.e. LEADER/Skillsnet officers) to encourage women to avail of existing services in their area. Throughout the country, we provided work experience opportunities and CE/Tus placements for marginalised women. Projects also supported women in job readiness

through: C.V. preparation, provision of training spaces for relevant services to engage and signposted them to local employment services. They provided training and employment opportunities through running programmes such as BTEI, EWM and Local Training Initiatives (LTI) and through providing work experience and training in social enterprises such as project cafes and charity shops. To provide access to information and supports, some of our Projects offer space for local LES offices and self-employed holistic therapists to operate from.

Again, these actions also help progress NWS actions to improve the position of women on low pay and/or in precarious or low work hours. Furthermore, socially excluded women, particularly those living in poverty, are supported to access education, training and employment opportunities.

NCCWN Strategic Priority 3: Policy & Equality

Develop strategies to promote women’s equality and inclusion and highlight policy issues

Objectives	Actions
To promote disadvantaged women’s equality and inclusion locally and nationally	Research, identify and articulate the needs of disadvantaged women at decision making arenas locally, regionally and nationally, to influence the development of policies and decisions that affect their lives.
To highlight the needs and perspectives of disadvantaged women by challenging inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop relevant awareness raising events and campaigns • Engage with all Government Departments on issues in relation to women
To collaborate and work in partnership on relevant representational structures in relation to women’s equality issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategically collaborate and work in partnership with local, regional and national organisations on relevant and agreed objectives to benefit disadvantaged women

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed into policy development in relation to women experiencing disadvantage through representations, submissions and contributions to policy documents • Join and become active in the Community Platform
To build capacity of NCCWN Projects to outreach, engage and support participation of women experiencing disadvantage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build and strengthen the capacity of local women to identify and voice their concerns and participate in society.
To highlight women's equality issues	Develop and effectively implement local area work plans and results framework, based on local needs and in line with agreed national equality priorities.

NCCWN Women's Projects continue to play a critical role in raising awareness of gender equality through engagement with local development companies, rural development agencies and other local, regional and national bodies tasked with community and local development.

The Women's Equality & Development Programme provides an opportunity for greater visibility for women in poverty and living in disadvantaged communities.

In October 2017, NCCWN Clare hosted a two day 'Silence + Voice - A Festival of Feminisms' which, through debate and learning, music and song, drama and poetry, provided 300 participants with an opportunity to reflect on silence and voice in the journey of women in Ireland.

In 2017, NCCWN have partnered with NWCI on the *Pension Equality* campaign. A series of Pension workshops were held in our south Kerry project which resulted in a group travelling to the Dáil to meet government officials and give their personal story on how pension inequality affected them. They also contributed to a pre-budget submission on the issue. Such engagement and participation in policy and equality issues/campaigns gives women the confidence to become more active citizens as they become aware of how their participation in society and their collective voice can affect policies/decisions at government level.



Pension Equality Campaign

NCCWN Projects have the capacity and the experience to act as a link between national policy actions and what happens on the ground. The local work plans of our projects respond to locally identified needs but are also informed by national policies such as: *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the national policy framework for children and young people*, *National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland*, *LGBTI Inclusion Strategy*, *Connecting for Life: Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2020*, *National Disability Inclusion Strategy*, *Our Communities: A framework policy for local and community development in Ireland*, *Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2016-2021*

NCCWN Projects work collaboratively in their area to ensure that they resource individuals and communities that are most socially excluded to access participate and become involved with policy, practice and decision-making processes on matters affecting them and their local community.

The NCCWN Women's Projects provide opportunities for greater influence and synergies with local government structures, and particularly in ensuring that gender equality is mainstreamed across local government and through the work of local community and development organisations.

Projects have actively participated in planning and consultation workshops feeding into Local Community Development Plan, ensuring that the voice of women was heard at local planning and decision-making tables.

Alignment and the restructuring of local government has meant changes in many of the areas in which NCCWN works, however some project staff have been elected onto the new Local Community Development Committee in their area.

A major strength of NCCWN is the way in which it effectively connects women at the local level to a strategic role at the national level, and in turn links national priorities to the local level. NCCWN staff represented women's affairs at local level and participated in decision making structures. NCCWN staff and advisory committee members sat on boards and committees including LDC Boards, RAPID AITs, PPNs, Youth Forum, local education networks.

At a national level, NCCWN is represented on the NWCI, WHRA, Irish Observatory on Violence against Women, Community Work Ireland (CWI), Community Platform, AONTAS, SAFE Ireland, the National Women's Strategy for Women and Girls 2017–2020 (NSWG) Strategic Committee. NCCWN is also represented on the Policy Advisory Group on Women in Local Government and Development to support women's engagement and participation in local and community structures.

NCCWN Strategic Priority Area 4: Organisational Development & Sustainability

Develop the NCCWN to be able to fulfil its objectives and to ensure the sustainability of the organisation

Objectives	Actions
To build capacity of NCCWN management to support the NCCWN locally and nationally to develop and enhance operational capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the NCCWN Board by ongoing capacity building and upskilling • Ensure highest levels of governance and accountability • Ensure the NCCWN Board are complying with employment responsibilities and obligations
To ensure the sustainability of NCCWN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide staff development and training • Ensure feedback mechanisms are in place to support communications between local and national structures • Ensure Advisory Groups locally are supported to participate in governance structures at local and national level. • Identify organisational needs and develop strategies to ensure adequate resources to support the sustainability of the organisation
To develop and consolidate the collective approach of the NCCWN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new organisational strategic plan reflective of the organisations vision & mission and of changing structures • Continue to maintain and develop robust planning and reporting processes and procedures
To develop a national profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relaunch NCCWN at national level to develop a national profile under the new Department • Develop a collective NCCWN brand
To build capacity of NCCWN management and staff to inform and input to organisational and policy development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and agree a format for projects to promote the mission and vision of NCCWN • Coordinate local actions and promote and brand these actions under the banner of NCCWN

7 NCCWN Board meetings were held in 2017. Each Board meeting addresses organisational, policy and employment issues. The meetings also provide a forum to discuss any training and development needs. The NCCWN AGM was held on 3rd November 2017.

Consultations were carried out with NCCWN staff and management to relaunch NCCWN and a subgroup was formed to plan the relaunch for February 2017. Minister Fitzgerald provided the keynote address

Collective branding was carried out with the updating of NCCWN local Projects' letterheads to have a similar look and feel.

Work also took place on the national NCCWN social media page with all local projects feeding in and posting upcoming events.

Consultation mechanisms were developed for management to communicate with NCCWN Projects on organisational and policy issues monthly. These mechanisms also encourage input from NCCWN Projects.

DJE provided support for NCCWN to centralise payroll enabling the employment of the national financial coordinator for four days per week. Procedures were put in place in 2017 to enable payroll centralisation from 2018. This has also supported local administrators to carry out more direct work with women participating in their projects.

NCCWN Clondalkin staff explored the potential for providing outreach services and supports to women in the Lucan area during September to December 2017. Research and a feasibility study was undertaken to support the development of premises in the area. Premises were set up for 2018 – a report is attached.

NCCWN were successful in their application to deliver Gender Equality Activity of the European Social Fund (ESF) Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020 through eight of their local Projects. The programme commenced from 1st June 2017 and is managed, coordinated and administered centrally by the National Coordinator and National Financial Coordinator. This programme, providing a series of training opportunities on self-development and work-related skills, enables the Projects to support women in their communities who are most distanced from the labour market.

NCCWN QUANTITATIVE ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Disadvantaged women are the target group for all NCCWN Projects – in the main, NCCWN Projects recognise disadvantage in relation to women’s socio-economic circumstances. In addition, rural Projects work with women who are often further disadvantaged through social isolation and lack of access to supports and services. Marginalised women are identified through outreach, consultation, local statistics and information. NCCWN Projects aim to ensure that all local courses they provide are needs-based. Prior to course development, consultations and outreach is undertaken by local NCCWN staff. Courses are advertised locally through local media (print and radio), social media, other community organisations, noticeboards, word of mouth, etc.

DJE funding enables the NCCWN Board to employ 46 staff, 2 at national level and 44 locally throughout the 17 areas. At local level, NCCWN staff outreach and engage women experiencing disadvantage and lever in programme funding to support women’s equality and voice in their communities.

ENGAGEMENT

Consultation/Needs Analysis

All NCCWN projects held events IN 2017 which they also used as a means of consulting with women in their area regarding their needs, what they would like to see happening in their area etc. They also use the events to disseminate information and create awareness regarding their project or issues of relevance to women in their areas.

These events include information days/sessions, enrolment days, coffee mornings, open days, fundraisers, awareness-raising events. The need for events/information days this quarter would have been identified last quarter or in the early part of this quarter.

Consultation/Information Meetings/Events	Numbers of participants
171 consultation/information meetings/events were held locally	3581 engagements with women through these events in 2017

Referrals

NCCWN projects refer women to other statutory agencies and services and community organisations and in turn also receive referrals from agencies.

Referrals Received From	Referrals Made To
<i>Self-Referrals</i> <i>Saoirse</i>	<i>Free Legal Aid</i> <i>Citizen’s Information</i>

<p> <i>Women's Refuges</i> <i>Centre for Unemployed</i> <i>Public Health Nurse</i> <i>Mental Health Service</i> <i>Clondalkin Addiction Support Programme</i> <i>HSE</i> <i>Employ-ability</i> <i>Parish</i> <i>CDPs</i> <i>FRCs</i> <i>Adult Guidance</i> <i>Tusla</i> <i>Schools</i> <i>ETBs</i> <i>Social Services</i> <i>Haven Services</i> <i>St. Vincent de Paul</i> <i>Making Connections Drugs Project</i> <i>HSE Social Workers</i> <i>HSE Addiction Services</i> <i>Barnardos</i> <i>TUS</i> <i>WIT</i> <i>Counselling Services</i> <i>Local Development Company</i> <i>DSP</i> <i>Horizon</i> </p>	<p> <i>Women's Aid</i> <i>HSE Addiction Services</i> <i>Drug & Alcohol Task Forces</i> <i>CDPs</i> <i>St. Vincent de Paul</i> <i>HSE Social Workers</i> <i>Jobs Club</i> <i>Dress for Success</i> <i>ETBs</i> <i>Childcare Services</i> <i>HSE Mental Health Adult Services</i> <i>Training Services</i> <i>Employ-ability</i> <i>Counselling</i> <i>FRCs</i> <i>Adult Guidance Services</i> <i>VTOS</i> <i>Youthreach</i> <i>Tusla Meitheal</i> <i>Pavee Point</i> <i>Local Development Companies</i> <i>MABs</i> <i>Adult Literacy Services</i> <i>Tallaght Rehabilitation</i> <i>Schools</i> <i>GPs</i> </p>
775 REFERRALS RECEIVED IN THIS QUARTER	666 REFERRALS MADE IN THIS QUARTER

Services/ Supports

- **11** NCCWN Projects operate a 'Drop In' service to women in their communities while the remainder all operate an 'Open Door' policy which means they welcome women into the project at any time during its open hours. **2304** women availed of this service during 2017.
- **3** NCCWN Projects provide a childcare service offering **278** childcare places in their communities. These places are funded by Pobal, ECCE, HSE and fees.
- **4** NCCWN Projects provide a Counselling Service in their communities with **228** women availing of this low-cost service this quarter. Funding for the service is leveraged from Tusla and raised by fundraising efforts in the projects providing the service.
- Other supports offered by NCCWN Projects include: advice, signposting, one-to-one support and guidance, listening ear, accessing information, accessing community supports, making applications, admin for groups, well-woman clinic, personal development, citizens information, jobs club, digital skills training, FEAD distribution

- Over **50%** of NCCWN Projects produced a newsletter this quarter, distributing them by hand, door-to-door, mail drops, community centres, libraries and by electronic means on email and social media. Approximately **20,000** copies of newsletters were distributed to women by mail drop or electronically.

NCCWN Projects made **53,227** engagements with women this quarter.

Engagements In Person	Engagements By Phone	Engagements By Other Means
14,807	11,773	26,647

PARTICIPATION

70% of NCCWN Projects leveraged in funding and/or tutor hours to deliver courses/workshops for women in their local areas. Local NCCWN Projects sourced over €100,000 to provide a wide range of needs-based courses/workshops for over 6,000 women in 2017

Accredited Courses
QQI Level 3 General Learning x2 QQI Level 5 Childcare QQI Level 6 Childcare QQI Level 5 Healthcare QQI Level 6 Healthcare QQI Level 4 Retail Sales QQI Level 4 Food Safety QQI Level 3 Communications QQI Level 4 Communications QQI Level 4 Information Processing QQI Level 5 Information Processing QQI Level 3 Employability Skills QQI Level 4 Employability Skills QQI Level 4 Retail Practices & Sales QQI Level 5 Retail Practices & Sales UCD Level 7 – Women Gender & Social Justice
Unaccredited Courses/Workshops
Gender Equality Workshops x 12 Women in the Home x 8 workshops Women’s Equality Seminar Human Trafficking Workshop x 3 Keeping Children Safe on Social Media Leadership Feminist Issues Computers Everyday Maths Domestic Violence Workshop Personal Development History Bonnet Project Lead Into Employment Facilitator Training Spanish Healthy Sexuality

Respecting Boundaries
Employment Skills
Community Development
IT Skills
Community & Culture
Pension Equality
New Horizons
Elder Abuse

Women's Health & Well Being Courses/Workshops

Health & Wellbeing (6 Projects)
Ronanstown CDP Health Workshop
Clondalkin WN Health and Wellbeing
Holistic Morning
Fuel Food – Healthy Eating
Aromatherapy (2 Projects)
Yoga (3 Projects)
Pilates (2 Projects)
Mindfulness
Health Wellbeing & Tai Chi
Mental Health Seminar
Fashion & Frolics
Wellness Techniques
Taking Control
Have Your Say
Breast Cancer Awareness
Reproductive Rights
First Aid
Manual Handling
Healthy Sexuality
Consent
Locker-Room Talk
Diversity 55

Arts/Crafts/Social Group work

Art (3 Projects)
Art Therapy
Christmas Decoration
Drama (3 Projects)
Card Making
Gardening Skills
Horticulture
Aroma Therapy
Knitting & Crochet (2 Projects)
Knitting (3 Projects)
Photography (2 Projects)
Jewellery Group
Book Club (3 Projects)
Mask Making
Painting on Glass
Bloom Postcard Garden
Decoupage

Feng Shui Cookery Quilting Dancing Salsa Willow Wreath Making Learn to Play Cards

- Over **80%** of NCCWN Projects offer work experience opportunities to women in their communities within their projects. This work experience includes: childcare, student placements, homecare, administration, reception, shop assistant in charity shop, volunteering at events, CE schemes and teaching practice.
- **75%** of NCCWN Projects supported women’s groups in their communities by providing

Total number of women’s groups supported in this reporting period	Number of women participating in women’s groups supported by NCCWN locally
92	At least 932

space, activities, administration, funding applications, facilitation of meetings etc.

In **TOTAL 10,865** women participated in project activities in 2017.

POLICY & EQUALITY

Research Carried Out in 2017

Research Topic	Partner (if any)	Findings	How Findings Used
Needs Analysis Domestic Violence Worker Waterford	Oasis House Refuge	Need Established	To apply for funding
Needs Analysis Lucan		Need Established for Outreach service in Lucan	Outreach Project established
History & Evolution of Neilstown	South Dublin County Partnership	Need for social housing & employment/ training opportunities	By local authority for future planning
Access to Education for women in Direct Provision		Asylum seekers unable to access QQI free of charge	Letter writing campaign to government
Violence & the Neo Liberal Silencing of Women	Partnership research with PhD student	Lack of Feminist Analysis in policy development	To inform work and Festival of Feminisms

Campaigns

NCCWN Projects took part in campaigns in 2017 in partnership with local and national agencies. These campaigns included:

Campaign	Campaign Outcomes
Breast Cancer Awareness	Awareness Raised
16 Days	Increased awareness of domestic violence & services available
Just Ask Mental Health Campaign	Destigmatise mental health and raise awareness of mental health services
Pension Reform	Collective voices heard at government level, much media coverage resulting in reverse of budget changes of 2012
Direct Provision Access	Ongoing
The Elephant Collective	Minister for Justice pledged to pass a bill to make inquests into deaths at maternity hospitals mandatory
Fundraising for Counselling	Funds raised for vital service

Submissions

NCCWN Projects made submissions to local developments and plans, including Local Economic & Community Plans and local SICAP consultations. NCCWN Projects also contributed to NCCWN national consultation responses, including NCCWN pre-budget submission to ensure linkage between issues for women on the ground and national policy development. At the NCCWN meeting with Minister Fitzgerald, she advised that NCCWN submit a pre-budget submission calling for reinstatement of funding. A submission was sent in May and resubmitted in September outlining the potential that reinstatement and investment of funding would have on the NCCWN in creating opportunities to engage women experiencing disadvantage. NCCWN submissions were also made to the Citizens' Assembly and on women and pensions, migrant women and asylum seekers rights. NCCWN Projects participated in regional and local NSWG consultations and NCCWN made a national submission incorporating local NCCWN Projects' submissions - support for NCCWN is an action under the NSWG.

Women's Representation at Local, Regional & National Level

NCCWN Project staff represent their projects and the women of their communities on various local planning decision-making fora, committees and interagency groups. These groups include: Public Participation Networks, Childcare Centres, Family Resource Centres, Community Network Meetings, Drugs Task forces, Equality Networks, County Councils, Education & Training Boards, Migrant Support Groups, Violence Against Women Networks, Local Development Companies, Child & Family Support Networks, Meitheals, Regeneration Networks, Cultural Networks, and a wide range of local community organisations committees

This quarter NCCWN Project staff attended **1038** representational meetings in their local communities.

NCCWN is represented on the NWCI, WHRA, Irish Observatory on Violence against Women, Community Work Ireland (CWI), Community Platform, AONTAS, SAFE Ireland, the National Women's

Strategy for Women and Girls 2017–2020 (NSWG) Strategic Committee. NCCWN is also represented on the Policy Advisory Group on Women in Local Government and Development to support women’s engagement and participation in local and community structures.

Representation events and meetings attended by NCCWN in 2017 included:

- The Irish Observatory on Violence against Women conference “The Istanbul Convention: Measuring the Scale of the Crisis”
- The Women’s Mental Health Congress
- NWCI AGM – NCCWN motion to support grassroots women’s equality and development was passed
- AONTAS AGM
- ESF Conference: Celebrating 60 Years of Investing in People
- Oversight Group on Women, Peace and Security
- EAPN event on the EU- its Parliament and the fight against poverty
- NCCWN supported NWCI consultation regarding women and pensions by hosting local consultation meetings and bringing women to meet with public representatives prior to the Budget
- 2017 Social Inclusion Forum - NCCWN Projects participated in regional and local consultations to feed into the Forum
- Miriam participated in a DHPCLG focus group on 6th April on Community Development and Social Inclusion – set up by Crowe Horwath Consultants on behalf of the Department.

NCCWN national work in this reporting period

NCCWN held a national NCCWN National Launch Event in February 2017 at which Minister Fitzgerald gave the keynote speech.

NCCWN met with Minister Fitzgerald in March in relation to ensuring the sustainability of NCCWN – John Hurley (DJE) was also in attendance. The Minister acknowledged the work of NCCWN and restated DJE’s commitment to DJE funding for five years.

In line with audit report recommendations that NCCWN meet with DJE at least twice per year, NCCWN met with DJE officials in June and November 2017.

Follow-up information, requested by DJE officials, in relation to the report of the audit of NCCWN carried out in 2016 was submitted. In line with audit recommendations, DJE officials began conducting on-site visits to all NCCWN projects and NCCWN Women Together Tallaght project was the first to be audited in July 2017.

While NCCWN were not successful in their pre-Budget submission requesting reinstatement of funding to NCCWN in the 2018 Budget, DJE provided support for NCCWN to centralise payroll. Procedures were put in place in 2017 to enable payroll centralisation from 2018.

DJE agreed the utilisation of an NCCWN Clondalkin staffing underspend to develop outreach to disadvantaged women in Lucan during September to December 2017. This staffing underspend was

utilised to support NCCWN Clondalkin staff to explore the potential for providing outreach services and supports to women in the Lucan area and the work was carried out between September and December 2017. Research and a feasibility study was undertaken to support the development of premises in the area for 2018 – a report is attached.

NCCWN were successful in their application to deliver Gender Equality Activity of the European Social Fund (ESF) Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020 through eight of their local Projects. The programme commenced from 1st June 2017 and is managed, coordinated and administered centrally by the National Coordinator and National Financial Coordinator. This programme, providing a series of training opportunities on self-development and work-related skills, enables the Projects to support women in their communities who are most distanced from the labour market.