

# **CARP KILLINARDEN**

## ***COMMUNITY ADDICTION RESPONSE PROGRAMME***



Slánú visit to Dublin – our rehabilitation group.

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

# 2006

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### **Mission Statement**

CARP works with people so that they don't feel helpless when faced with the tragic consequences of problem drug use either to themselves, their families and their community.

### **Ethos**

CARP tries to have a non-judgmental approach to individual drug use and works with each person so that they can address their addictions while ensuring that they cause minimal damage and injury to themselves, their families and their community.

### **HISTORY**

**CARP** began in July 1995 as a response to drugs problem in Killinarden. It was a partnership between parents of problem drug users, who had been meeting regularly since October 1994, and Killinarden Community Council. It became a registered company in December 1997.

### **DIRECTORS**

CARP has a board of 8 directors who are elected on an annual basis. Tony O'Hagan, member of the community department South Dublin County Council, is the chairperson.

Jane Wade, one of the original members of the parents group, is the company secretary.

Patricia Darling, development officer of Vincent de Paul for West Tallaght, is the company treasurer.

The other directors are:

Patricia Byrne, estate management officer for Killinarden and Killinarden Community Council representative.

Mary Glynn, one of the original members of the parents group.

Patricia Nolan, Manager Tallaght Volunteer Bureau

Joe Ryan, business man.

Joe McGee, MSC, Assistant MSC Provincial.

## **STAFF**

CARP has a staff of 8.

6 full time employees

Liam O'Brien, Co-ordinator and Manager.

Ann Doyle, Community Support Worker.

Audrey Kavanagh, Administrator/Receptionist.

George Bradley, General Assistant and Security.

Pat McVeigh, Manager Slánú

Sylvia Beatley, Development Slánú

4 part time.

Vivienne Nolan, Youth and outreach Worker.

Leena Madani, Addiction Counsellor

Deirdre Dowdall, Keyworker for people in treatment.

Thérèse Hegarty, Family Therapist.

There is a weekly team meeting for those involved in the clinical and another for those involved in rehabilitation.

CARP is basically an addiction response centre for the people of Killinarden and further a field.

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Drug use in Killinarden during 2006.**

2006 continued the trend that had emerged in 2004 of less and less people presenting for treatment for problem heroin use. Sixteen people started treatment with CARP during the year.

There is a certain stability in problem heroin use in that our numbers are remaining around 75 on our scripting clinic but with changes of personnel. People are transferred by the HSE to their clinic in Belgard Road and others transferred back. Former CARP people who come out of prison on methadone are treated in Belgard Road and then after a month or so transferred to CARP.

During 2006 people had only to wait a month, at most, after assessment before starting treatment. If it took longer then that was very often due to people not turning up when asked to do so and so the delay was due to their own actions.

Some people left CARP during 2006 and went into 'Born Again' treatment centres. There have been mixed reactions to such centres. One person left us on a Friday and rang the following Monday from England saying that he had been deposited at the train station by the centre he went to and he broke a rule and was told go home without any money. CARP paid for his return home.

There has been considerable interest in people going down the country for residential treatment. CARP was willing to act as a conduit for local drug task force monies to pay for people's treatment but the people wanting such treatment never passed through the necessary process. One such residential place expects people to attend a weekly assessment in Dublin city and to bring €200 with them when entering the residential. Other centres are asking for €1,000 deposit which will be returned on successful completion of their residential.

Cocaine continues to be the drug of choice of most young people in Killinarden – after alcohol and cannabis/hash. Crack or rather free base – a form of cocaine that is smoked is becoming more common. Crack involves serious amounts of money and any family member receiving a claim should be of concern to the home from the fear that it might all go up in smoke. Abuse of prescription drugs still continues to be a problem. E was mentioned more often that 2005 and was also available as a powder. Acid was mentioned once or twice and even though there were tales about Crystal Meth no one had any experience of it.

## **2. Health Service Executive – South Western Area (HSE.SWA)**

### **2.1 Finance**

The HSE.SWE grant aided CARP with a Section 65 grant each year. As in 2005 this included national wage agreement increases but no benchmarking.

### **2.2 Methadone Scripting Clinic**

The HSE.SWE provides a doctor and nurse three mornings and one afternoon a week. They look after the methadone scripting needs of 75 people who are in receipt of substitution therapy with CARP.

### **2.3 Needle Exchange**

2006 was our third year involved in needle exchange. HSE.SWA outreach workers did a needle exchange twice a week in CARP – Tues 5 – 7 pm and Fri 12 – 2 pm. During 2006 CARP operated an exchange five afternoons a week – Monday through to Friday from 2 pm to 5 pm. We supplied 915 exchanges to 144 individuals of whom 86 were new to the service.

In 2005 we supplied 497 exchanges for 84 individuals.

This represents an almost doubling of numbers.

### **3. Rehabilitation**

#### **3.1 Art/Crafts**

This is done with monies from the Tallaght Local Drugs Task Force. Arts/crafts were held on Mondays, Wednesdays(until end July) and Thursday(until end August) afternoons.

#### **3.2 Pilot Rehabilitation Project for 18 to 25 year olds in treatment for drug use.**

One of the highlights of the year was the start up of the rehabilitation project – called Slánú – from the start of September. CARP welcomed two new members of staff – Patrick McVeigh, the manager and Sylvia Beatley, the development worker early in September. The first participants and classes started in October. There were 8 participants by the end of the year with plans to build the numbers to 14/16. Four new people were to start early in January.

Funding for the project comes from FÁS, Pobal (formerly Dormant Accounts), VEC and Tallaght Local Drugs Task Force.

### **4. Young Persons Facilities and Services Fund**

#### **4.1 Siblings Groups**

There are three Siblings Groups running on Monday, Tuesday & Thursday afternoons. Groups run from 3.30pm - 5.00pm. During school mid-terms and during the summer holidays they run all day when possible. These Groups are still most popular with the young people.

There is a waiting list at the moment of ten young boys aged between 12 & 13 years. Hopefully in the near future a group will become available to them.

Two of these groups are boys groups and one girls group. 99% of groups are attending full-time education or working. Through feedback from the young people(YP), they have expressed how being in the Siblings Group has given them encouragement to stay in school. Numbers remain high.

#### **4.2 Drop-in**

Unfortunately due to a lack of volunteers we had to close the drop-in. In February we felt this would not affect the YP too much as the Community Centre had Drop-ins running 5 nights a week and the YP were availing of this service. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of CARP and myself to thank the volunteers for their time and dedication throughout the six years that the drop-in was running and to thank the YP for turning up every week.

### **4.3 Overnights**

We had two overnights this year, two nights for each group. One group went to a Hostel in Cork and the other group went to a Hostel in Galway. These trips were enjoyed by all, including the leaders.

### **4.4 One-to-one**

This is a very important part of the job. This gives us the opportunity to assess YP in a safe & comfortable environment and if needed to guide them to the relevant services.

### **4.5 Fishing Trips**

Still a firm favourite among the YP. These are run throughout the summer.

### **4.6 Prison Visits**

Glad to report that prison visits were few and far between this year. The few visits were requests from prisoners or referrals from other agencies, i.e. Deonach Probation Services.

### **4.7 One Person Programme**

Once again, we took part in the One Person Programme. This is run by The Square, Tallaght, The Community Guards and Dublin Bus. It is a four week programme run on Saturdays. We went to Glendalough, Football Games held in the Astro Turf, a Trip to Baldonnell Air Force Base and a Presentation in The Square, Tallaght. 12 YP took part in this and enjoyed the experience.

### **4.8 Networking**

Still remains a vital part of this job

### **4.9 Wednesday Drop-in**

Working with Nicola from HSE, this project started in April to replace drop-ins. Together, Nicola and myself prepare and serve a full meal on Wednesdays for YP/Participants and their children. The drop-in is open from 9.00am – 2.00pm, all are welcome.

### **Total Yearly Numbers:**

Group	Numbers
Drop-in (Evenings)	111 YP
Siblings	474
Overnights	30
One-to-one	46
Prison Visits	6

Drop-in (Wednesday)	452
One Person Programme	48

## **5. Dept of Justice, Equity and Law Reform**

### **5.1 Prison Visitation**

CARP staff had less visits to the prisons than 2005. This was in part due to less requests for visits but also due to the year long illness of a staff member.

CARP was part of subgroup of the Tallaght Local Drugs Task Force that brought out a report on working with the prison services.

### **5.2 Probation Service**

Over the years the Probation Service, both Tallaght and Smithfield, has liaised with CARP over mutual clients.

This continued to expand during 2005 and a number of clients have been referred to CARP for urinalysis. Fifteen people presented themselves for urinalysis from the Probation Service.

## **6. Killinarden Community**

Killinarden Community Council (KCC) and CARP continue to work closely together.  
Liam O'Brien

CARP has representation on a number of bodies: Local Drugs Task Force; Citywide; VEC Youth Programme; National Advisory Committee on Drugs; Tallaght Homeless Advice Unit; Brookfield Addiction Support Programme; Drug Treatment Centre, Trinity Court; CARP is also a representative on for the Community Platform on the Social Inclusions Measures Committee of South Dublin County Council.

## **7. Publications**

### **7.1 Webpage**

CARP's webpage [www.carp.ie](http://www.carp.ie) contains a monthly update on CARP's activities.

7.2 Due to our newsletter editor moving to a better city, Cork, there was no newsletter during 2006.



## **8. Premises**

The occupancy rate of the building has increased during 2005. The yearly total was close to 12,000.

We were delighted with the work done on the surrounds of our building when it was tarmacadamed in Feb. This has improved the parking and kept some mud out of the building.

Our building had its telephone system upgraded during the year. All room now contain telephones. At the same time all rooms had broadband installed. We are thankful to South Dublin County Council for grant aiding us to the amount of €1,000.

During the year the rubbish containers in an adjacent premises were set on fire. We were always conscious of this possibility and so kept our bins indoors overnight and at weekends. This causes some odour problems. With the start of Slánú we got a vandal proof shed built. This was grant aided by the Local Drugs Task Force.

We are still awaiting the final instalments of our capital funding from the HSE.SWE. They are refusing to hand it over until CARP receives a management license from SDCC. It looks as if we might get the matter resolved early in 2006.

## **9. Homeless**

There were 72 episodes of people presenting to the services - an increase of near 30 on 2005. However, some months no one presented to use the service. The pattern that showed itself during the year was that one or two people would be homeless for maybe two or three weeks at a time and then the service would be used regularly until they found accommodation.

## **10. Counselling**

Demand for counselling continued during 2005. Our counsellor, Leena Madani, continued to work with a number of clients in partnership with the HSE.SWA and with Target, as well as clients from CARP. The total number of attended sessions was 325 for 57 clients of whom 17 were attending for the first time.

## **11. Family Therapy**

In September 2006 our family therapist, Thérèse Hegarty, increased to two the number of days she was with CARP. There were 185 sessions attended by 28 families. 18 of these families were new to the service.

## **12. Finance**

Financially things became more solid during 2006.

### **12.1 CARP Non grant income**

CARP co-facilitated the Community Addiction Studies in the Tallaght Institute of Technology. Half the facilitation fees and the administration fee, totalling €4,000, are paid to CARP.

Rent of the premises, arts crafts, donations etc realised €5.5K

### **12.3 Statutory Grants**

CARP received the following statutory grants:

Health Board: €150K (includes monies owing from 2004)

Local Drugs Task Force: €28K

Young Persons Facilities and Services Fund: €61K

Kathryn Howard Foundation: €2K

VEC: €10K

## **13. Cocaine Project**

Valentine's Day 2005 saw the first night of the cocaine project, run jointly by St Dominic's Contact Centre, Millbrook Lawns and CARP Killinarden. Since then 80 clients have presented themselves. They receive holistic therapies as well as counselling and support around the problem drug use. The average number of visits is 3. There are 2 males for every female and the average age is the mid 20s.

The pilot project was evaluated by Goodbodies and this evaluation can be seen on [www.pobail.ie](http://www.pobail.ie).

## **14. Staff**

All of CARP's efforts in dealing with problem drug use wouldn't be possible without the very dedicated staff. CARP directors are appreciative of the invaluable work they do.

## **15. Problem Drug Users**

Finally, CARP would like to thank all problem drug users who avail of our services. We thank you for your courtesy, kindness and understanding of our limitations. We would like for you to make us redundant but we have to be realistic and acknowledge that problem drug use will continue to be a factor in our lives for the future.

However, CARP hopes that it will in some way remove the stigma attached to being a problem drug user and that some time in the future more people will see problem drug

use as a human condition and not something for which people should be condemned but rather helped to deal with so that people can get on with the difficult job of life.

## **16. Future**

CARP believes that it now has achieved most of its objectives and has a community based response to problem drug use in Killinarden and with the other projects of a similar nature in Tallaght is ready to continue to address problem drug use.

CARP has been attempting over the years to link up with other communities in Europe to share with them CARP's and Tallaght's response to problem drug use. It is this object that we are going to prioritise in 2007.