

# THE LIBERTIES COMMUNITY PROJECT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



## Report on 2025 Integration Programme

[Click to view the report here](#)

We are pleased to share The Liberties Community Project Integration Programme Report on Activities, 2025.

Over the past year, our Integration Programme has continued to respond to the needs of IPAS residents and the wider 'New Irish' community, while creating meaningful connections with the established communities of The Liberties.

From education and employment supports to food security, advice and advocacy, culture and activities for children and young people, the programme reflects a community-led, inclusive approach to integration.

2025 at a glance:

- >Over 15,800 instances of engagement across integration services
- >35 classes and activities delivered weekly, with consistently high demand
- >17 individuals supported into employment or self-employment
- >35 volunteers contributing weekly to programme delivery)

The report also highlights the challenges faced in 2025 — including space constraints, staffing capacity and reliance on volunteers — alongside clear opportunities for future growth and impact.

Many thanks to our staff, volunteers, partners and funders for their ongoing commitment and support. This work would not be possible without strong collaboration and shared belief in the value of locally grounded integration.

## Welcome from the CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we begin a new year, I want to take the opportunity to thank our staff, volunteers, board members, partners and funders for the dedication, care and commitment shown throughout 2025. It was a challenging year in many respects, but also one marked by resilience, creativity and meaningful impact across the community we are proud to serve.

This edition of the newsletter highlights just some of that work — from the continued strength of our Afterschool and Integration programmes, to new partnerships and initiatives that point toward a more equitable future for The Liberties. It also reflects our ongoing commitment to working collaboratively — with schools, community groups, academic institutions, corporate partners and residents — to ensure that local voices shape local solutions.

As always, the work of The Liberties Community Project is rooted in the belief that communities thrive when they are supported not just through services, but through opportunity, dignity and inclusion. I am deeply grateful to everyone who contributes to making this possible.

I hope you enjoy reading this update and learning more about the people, partnerships and projects that are shaping our work as we move through 2026.

Best,  
Austin Campbell CEO, The Liberties Community Project

## Afterschool

The Liberties Community Project Afterschool Programme operates five services across The Liberties for young people aged six to twelve years. Services operate in partnership with local primary schools and run Monday to Friday, 2.30pm to 5.30pm, 48 weeks of the year and serve approximately 150 young people in total. Alongside daily homework support, children are offered a wide range of extracurricular activities, including swimming, football, music and beekeeping. These activities are designed to support confidence, creativity, teamwork and wellbeing, while also encouraging curiosity and enjoyment beyond the classroom.

The programme is led by a dedicated Afterschool Programme Manager, who works closely with Home School Liaison Teachers and relevant support agencies to ensure children and families can access additional supports where needed. This integrated approach strengthens outcomes for children and helps families navigate challenges as they arise. Contact [info@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie](mailto:info@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie) to learn more.

## Stay Updated

The Liberties Community Project will publish quarterly newsletters designed to keep attendees, friends and supporters up to date on what's happening.

Please sign up to our mailing list and receive newsletters by email through the news tab on our website- [www.thelibertiescommunityproject.ie](http://www.thelibertiescommunityproject.ie) or by emailing [info@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie](mailto:info@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie) and requesting to be added.

Physical copies will be available from our centres as well as from a selection of local Liberties businesses and services.



[www.thelibertiescommunityproject.ie](http://www.thelibertiescommunityproject.ie)



## Christmas Toy Drive

Many thanks to the German-Irish Chamber of Industry & Commerce and Siemens Digital Enterprise Ireland who generously contributed to The Liberties Community Project Community Project 2025 Christmas Toy Drive. Many thanks also to Diageo Ireland for their generous contribution again this year.

The generosity shown by corporate partners through initiatives like these brings relief and joy to children and families supported by The Liberties Community Project who need it most at a difficult time of year. We are grateful to be able to increase our impact through a number of corporate partnerships and look forward to growing this area of impact in 2026.

## Liberties Sports Infrastructure Fund

The Liberties Community Project, in partnership with Sporting Liberties, has established the 'Liberties Sports Infrastructure Fund' — a new initiative dedicated to developing high-quality, accessible sports facilities for our community. We are proud to announce a €500,000 commitment from Mediolanum International - Ireland towards the Fund's first project: the development of a publicly accessible playing pitch on a site at St. James's Primary School on Basin Lane.

Our ambition is simple: that one day The Liberties will thrive not because it is supported by charity, but because it is fairly served by policy and resources and this represents a meaningful step toward that goal. This partnership between Mediolanum International - Ireland, its business community, and organisations like ours shows what's possible when the social, public, and private sectors work together — creating not just relief, but opportunity and hope for a brighter future.

Many thanks to Mediolanum International - Ireland their philanthropy collective and Sporting Liberties for their support and shared vision for the community we're proud to serve. More updates will be provided on this project as the year progresses.



## FR. MICHAEL MERNAGH

ACTIVIST PRIEST  
OF THE LIBERTIES



## Michael Mernagh Piece

Many thanks to Owen Ryan and Allen Meagher of Changing Ireland for publishing a powerful profile of Fr. Michael Mernagh, founder of the South Inner City Community Development Association — one of the two organisations that later merged to become The Liberties Community Project. Fr. Mernagh's lifelong commitment to social justice, anti-poverty work, and community empowerment has shaped not only our organisation, but community development practice across Ireland. From standing up for Traveller families facing discrimination, to challenging systems that failed the most vulnerable, to pioneering grassroots research and integrated community services, his work has always centred on dignity, equality and the belief that every community deserves a voice.

Today, as The Liberties Community Project continues to serve children, families and communities across Dublin 8 we are proud of the foundations Fr. Mernagh and others built more than 40 years ago. Their vision at this time — that communities themselves must define their needs and lead the response — remains at the heart of everything we do



## COOKING UP CONNECTIONS



A Community Recipe Book for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty



## Cooking Up Connections

The Liberties Community Project was delighted to deliver 'Cooking Up Connections', a special community event to mark United Nations Eradication of Poverty Day that brought community members together through shared cooking, learning and storytelling. 'Cooking Up Connections' saw participants take part in hands-on cooking and budgeting sessions, exploring simple ways to make nutritious meals on a budget, and prepare a community meal that was enjoyed together — celebrating family, culture, resilience and the strength of our community. A booklet was then developed to capture outputs from the day. [Click here to view it](#)

The Liberties Community Project work on UN Eradication of Poverty Day built on our wider commitment to food security and community wellbeing that is delivered every day:

- Community Food Programme- We distribute c.500kg of fresh, nutritious fruit and vegetables every week to families across Dublin 8
- Open Kitchen Programme- Individuals without cooking facilities at home can access a safe, well-equipped kitchen space in our 3 Usher Street premises.
- Curriculum of Cookery Classes- Weekly classes support participants build confidence, learn practical skills, and discover the joy of preparing healthy meals together.

Please contact us on [info@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie](mailto:info@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie) if you would like to learn more about our wider food or community development programmes.



## The Liberties Festival - Open Call

The Liberties Festival has an Open Call for ideas for the Festival which returns from July 20th to 26th.

If anyone wants to propose an idea in person, please e-mail [michael@thelibertiesfestival.com](mailto:michael@thelibertiesfestival.com) and/or drop into 90 Meath Street to arrange a chat.

The deadline for submissions is Friday February 6th.

Full details here: [thelibertiesfestival.com/open-call-2026](https://thelibertiesfestival.com/open-call-2026)