

Request for Tender for NEIC Parenting Programme External Evaluation

Context and Rationale:

Northeast Inner-City Coalition

The North East Inner City (NEIC) Initiative was launched in July 2016 by the Government to drive the long-term social and economic regeneration of Dublin's North East Inner City. A Ministerial Taskforce was established, supported by Mr Kieran Mulvey, who engaged with local stakeholders and produced the 2017 Mulvey Report, *Creating a Brighter Future*. This report outlined key recommendations across five priority areas: crime and drugs, education, employment, family and youth services, and physical infrastructure.

To implement these recommendations, a Programme Implementation Board (PIB) was established, led by an Independent Chairperson and supported by five Subgroups comprising government departments, agencies, and community representatives. These Subgroups operate under a shared vision: to make the NEIC a safe, vibrant, and inclusive place to live and work.

In 2019, the PIB introduced a structured Strategic Plan for 2020–2022, later extended to 2023 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan emphasised sustainable outcomes, cross-group collaboration, and accountability. Building on this, the NEIC Strategic Plan 2024–2027 was developed collaboratively with stakeholders and the community, reaffirming the Initiative's commitment to the Mulvey Report's priorities and setting a refreshed strategic direction for the next three years.

Early Learning Initiative

The Early Learning Initiative (ELI) at National College of Ireland was developed to address the problem of educational underachievement in marginalized communities. Building upon tried and tested models of early years intervention, it is our mission to work with communities in areas of greatest need to provide world-class parent and child learning support programmes.

Supporting parents in their key role as the primary carers and educators of their children was an integral part of the Mulvey report, who proposed the creation of an Integrated System of Social Services, which addresses the real problems faced by families and their children. P. 37-38 P. 38 Outcome/Output 1. This is reflected in the NEIC Strategic Plan and the priorities and work of Subgroup 3: Family Wellbeing. These included:

- Improving child, parent and family wellbeing with a focus on parenting.
- Supporting Parenting, in particular increasing the supports provided to vulnerable parents and those with children with additional needs.
- Addressing gap in service delivery for supports for parents

NEIC Parenting Programme

In 2021, the NEIC launched a parenting initiative to enhance the coordination of programmes and support for parents in the NEIC. It was envisaged that this initiative would also enhance the referral pathways for parents of children of all age groups in the NEIC. A key goal is to establish a Parent Forum and involve parents in the design, delivery and evaluation of programmes & supports being delivered to parents in the NEIC. When the initial proposal was submitted for the role of the NEIC Parenting Support Coordinator, it was noted that this person needed to be in position for at least 3 years for the initiative's aims and objectives to be achieved and the model be in a position such that it can be sustained by Tusla or another statutory organisation. The ELI successfully tendered for management of the programme in 2022 and the NEIC Parenting Coordinator started in post in October 2021. The NEIC Parenting Programme is approaching the end of its fourth year of implementation.

Scope - Aim and Objectives:

Conduct an evaluation of the NEIC Parenting Supports, including the Coordination Programme and produce a report that assesses what's available, what's working well, what else is needed and make recommendations for the future, in line with the Young Ireland, First Five, Supporting Parents: A National Model of Parenting Support Services, Equal Start, NEIC 2024-27 Strategic Plan and National Vision for Home Visiting.

Specific aims:

1. An independent evaluation of the current NEIC Parenting Supports, including the Coordination Programme, on the sustainability of existing parental supports and what else is required to ensure parent have the long-term sustainable supports they need to enable their children to thrive.
2. Provide an overview of the supports available to parents in the NEIC; what is working, and why; what could be improved and why; what is needed to meet existing and emerging needs along with and Government policies/initiatives.
3. Identify appropriate and 'best-fit' parental support pathways for the diverse range of parents living in NEIC through an inclusive consultation with and feedback from a representative from each cohort of parents e.g. first-time parents, migrants, homeless, children with additional needs, indigenous families, newly arrived families, cultural communities etc.
4. Assess if the priorities outlined in the Mulvey Report and NEIC Strategic Plan along with the NEIC Parenting Coordination programme's aims and objectives have been achieved along with what is required to achieve these objectives and lessons learnt for future programmes. What changes have taken place for parenting supports in the NEIC over the three-year period of the programme.
5. Make recommendations for the future, in line with the Young Ireland, First Five, Supporting Parents: A National Model of Parenting Support Services, Equal Start and NEIC Strategic Plan

6. Exploration of the process used to develop the existing system of parent supports in the NEIC, how they addressed the identified community need or not and recommendations for similar projects. What approaches for engaging parents and capacity building among parents and practitioners worked best. How can we retain this capacity within the community long term?
7. Inform the NEIC PIB and Subgroup 3's decision making in relation to the development and delivery of parenting supports as part of the next Strategic Plan.

Methodology

- Desk research reviewing relevant literature, manuals and programme resources regarding replication, quality and scalability and updating current literature review. Identifying and gathering secondary data from external organisations supporting parents in the NEIC.
- Engage in ethics approval process if required. This can be facilitated through NCI's Ethics Committee if required.
- Analysis of all NEIC Parenting Programme data to date.
- Conduct focus groups the NEIC Parent Strategy Group, family support workers, relevant stakeholders, service providers, and the NEIC Parenting Coordinator.
- Conduct focus groups with parents.
- More detailed interviews with individuals from NEIC Parent Strategy Group, relevant stakeholders and service providers along with parents.
- Write up and disseminate research findings as appropriate.
- Work closely with the ELI team, ELI Research team, Evaluation Steering Group, NEIC Subgroup 3 and including monthly check-in meetings to coordinate the research processes and dissemination strategy.
- Other appropriate research activities as needed
- Any other duties as assigned by the ELI Director and Assistant Directors

Deliverables:

- An interim report on findings
- A detailed report containing literature review, methodology, summary of the findings (including outcomes achieved or not achieved for parents in the NEIC), discussion and sets out actionable recommendations, which document its alignment with key national and local policy, strategy, services, and needs.
 - The report should first be delivered in draft format, to be finalised after review by the ELI Research Team and Evaluation Steering Group
- A presentation in PowerPoint format summarising the report.
- A summary report containing a summary of the findings and setting out actionable recommendations that can be delivered to the boards and community stakeholders.

Timeframe:

It is anticipated this research will commence by October 2025 and be completed by September 2026

Budget:

Submissions from individuals and groups are welcome. Group submissions must include details for each member of which roles they will undertake to deliver as part of the tender and their qualifications/experience to do so. Where a group submits a proposal, a lead researcher must be named who shall be fully responsible for providing the services required by this brief. Quotes not more than €24,000 including VAT.

Ownership of documents and copyright

All documents produced by the consultant in connection with this appointment and submitted to ELI will be considered the property of ELI and the NEIC programme and may be used by either party at any time, including for other projects, without the prior approval of the consultant, irrespective of whether or not the contract is terminated prior to its completion.

Submission should include:

- An overview of organisation/consultancy and personnel for project lead.
- CVs of all proposed researchers to be delivering the project.
- Outline of relevant experience with examples of previous work, including experience of working within marginalised communities.
- Understanding of the scope of the research proposal and the challenges facing parents and service providers in the NEIC.
- Timeline for completion.
- Garda Vetting clearance.
- Breakdown of costing, inclusive of VAT.
- Tax clearance certificate/number.

Criteria Assessment:

- Sufficient breadth or depth of practical specialist knowledge in research; development of research methods and techniques to work within own area i.e. literature reviewing, qualitative, quantitative and secondary data analysis.

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the scope of the research and demonstrable project management competencies required to deliver proposal.
- Demonstrable knowledge and/ or experience of engagement with children and families, particularly those from educationally marginalized communities.
- Ability to deal effectively with a wide variety of college personnel, community stakeholders and other outside individuals/organizations
- Cost effectiveness and capacity to complete the work within the agreed timeframe.
- Evidence of previous relevant work
- Excellent IT skills in MS Excel, MS Word, SPSS, and other relevant research packages
- Value for money (all quotes to be inclusive of VAT)
- Tenderers are required to hold professional indemnity insurance for the provision of professional services. Tenders must provide on request at any time prior to the award decision being made:
 - Evidence of insurances in place; **or**
 - Letter from Insurance Broker confirming that the required levels could be put in place if successful

Criterion	Max. score available	Min. score
Previous research experience & writing skills	20	15
Understanding of the scope of the research	20	15
Capacity to complete the work within an agreed timeframe and to a high standard.	20	15
Previous experience with children and families from educationally marginalised communities	20	10
Value for money	20	10
Total maximum score available	100	65

Queries and further information

Further information can be requested from eligants@ncirl.ie. In the interest of equity for all tenderers, all requests for additional information, and clarification on the contents of this invitation to tender will be made available to all through updates to this document. **Please note, the deadline for queries is Friday 22nd August 2025.**

ELI may shortlist tenderers for interview on the basis of the written tender before making a final decision on tender selection.

Submissions to be made by midnight on Sunday 31st August 2025 via email to eligants@ncirl.ie with the subject heading "NEIC Parenting Programme External Evaluation Tender Application"