

**Beyond Walls: Dublin City
Council's Library In The
Community Service**

Enda Leaney

**Dublin City Council Libraries
EBLIDA Annual Conference
2026**



**Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council**

SDGs & Public Libraries



Provide a free, high-quality service – no fees, no fines.



Inclusive quality education and support lifelong opportunities for all.



Bridge the Digital Divide and support digital literacy.



Foster communities through social inclusion.

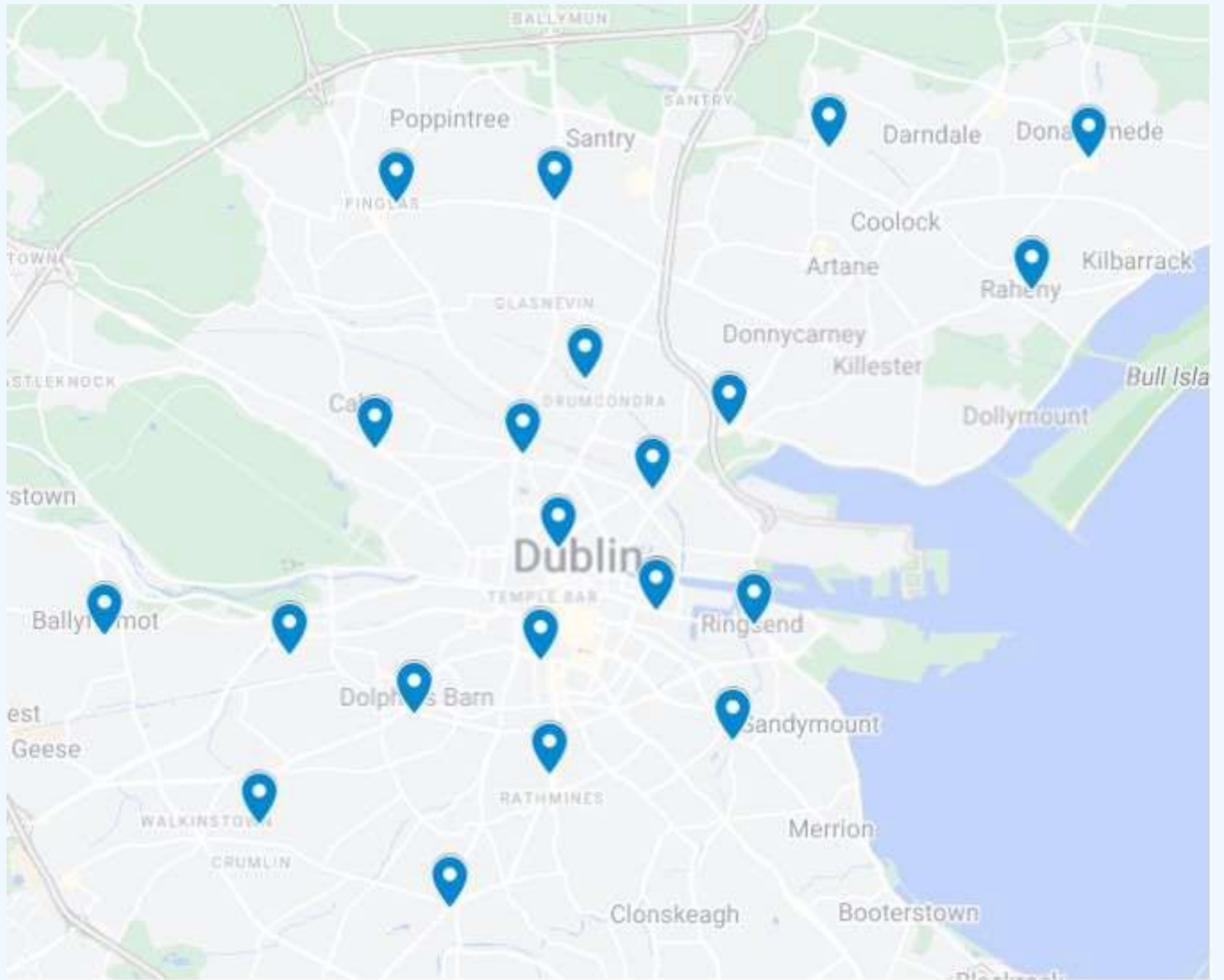
Dublin City Council Libraries

117.6 sq km

Urban

592,713 people

21 branch libraries



The Library In The Community Mission

Raise Awareness

Increase Access

Remove Barriers

Direct Engagement

Support
Marginalised &
Disadvantaged
Communities

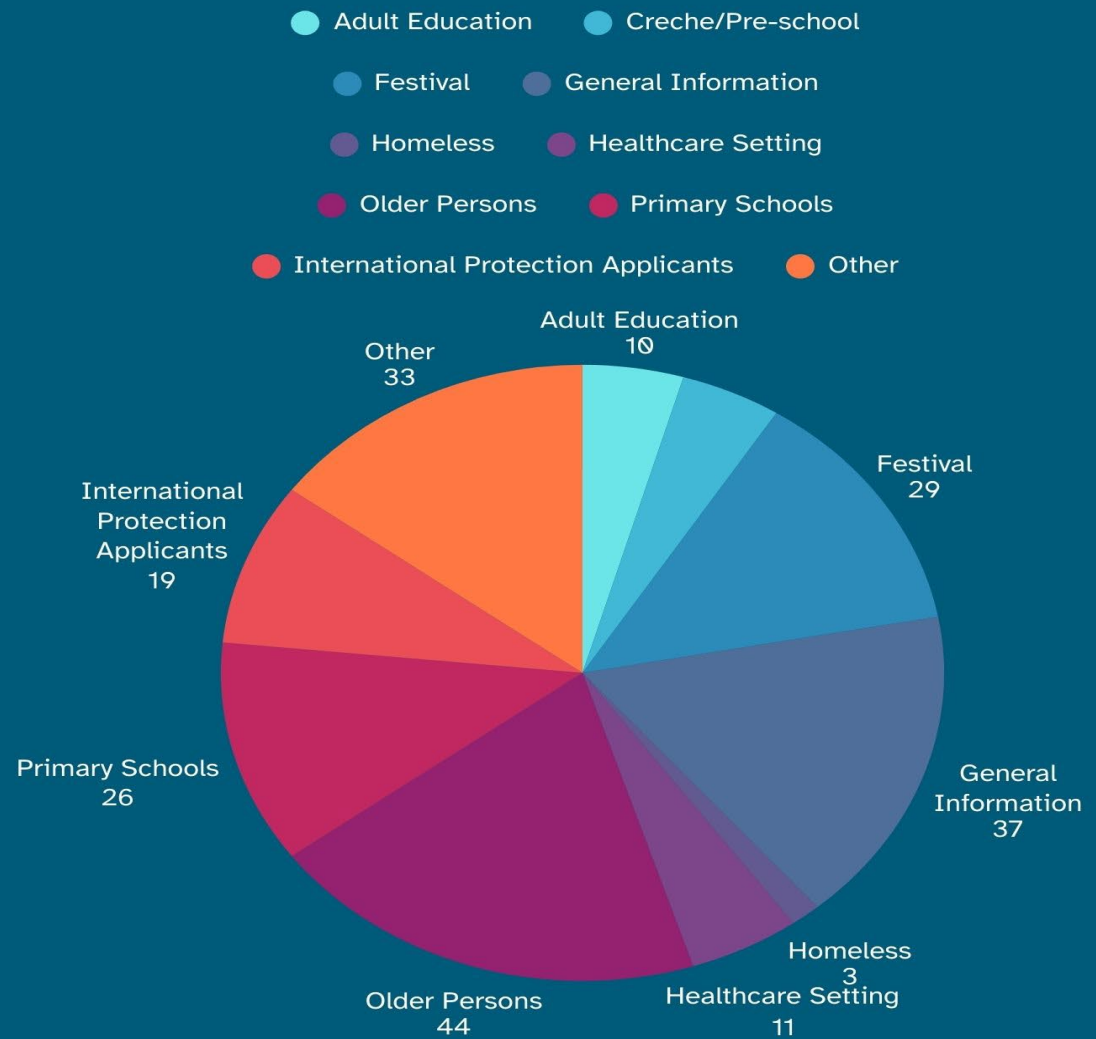
Sustainability

Outreach Events



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Outreach Events 2025 (by audience)

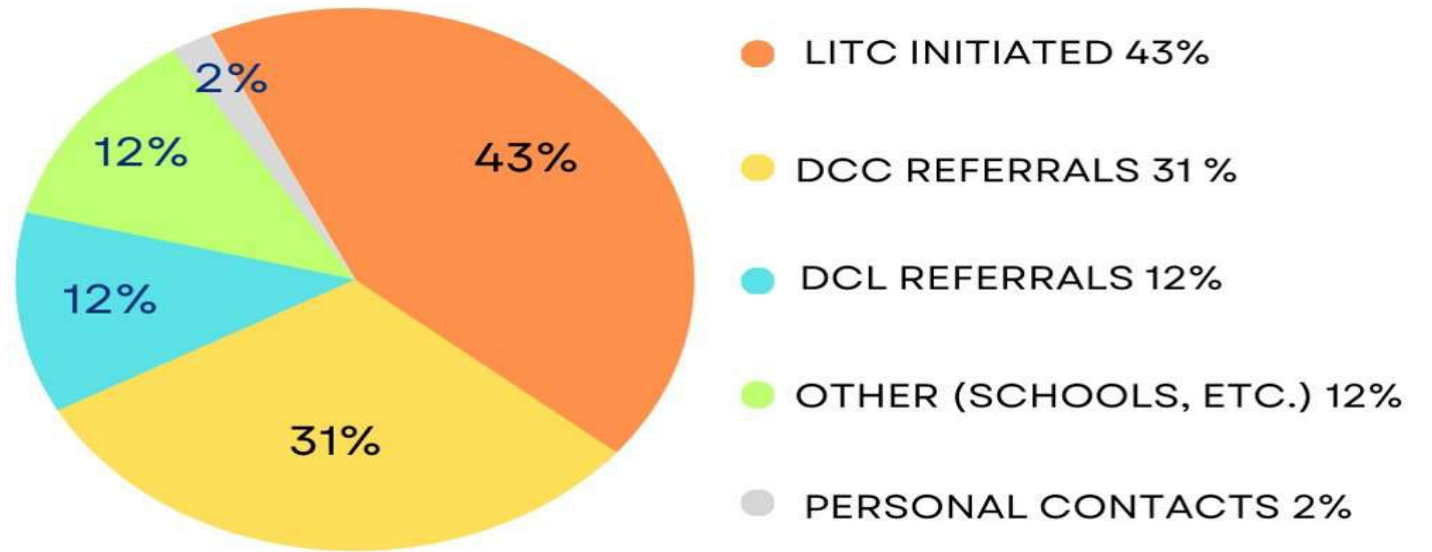


**Distribution of number of events
by type/audience**

Challenges

- Identifying Relevant Audiences
- Health & Safety
- Logistics
- Communication

Library in the Community Contacts



Outreach: New Models of Engagement

Festivals



Library Lockers



Outreach: New Models of Engagement

Older Person's Housing



Maternity Hospitals



Outreach: New Models of Engagement

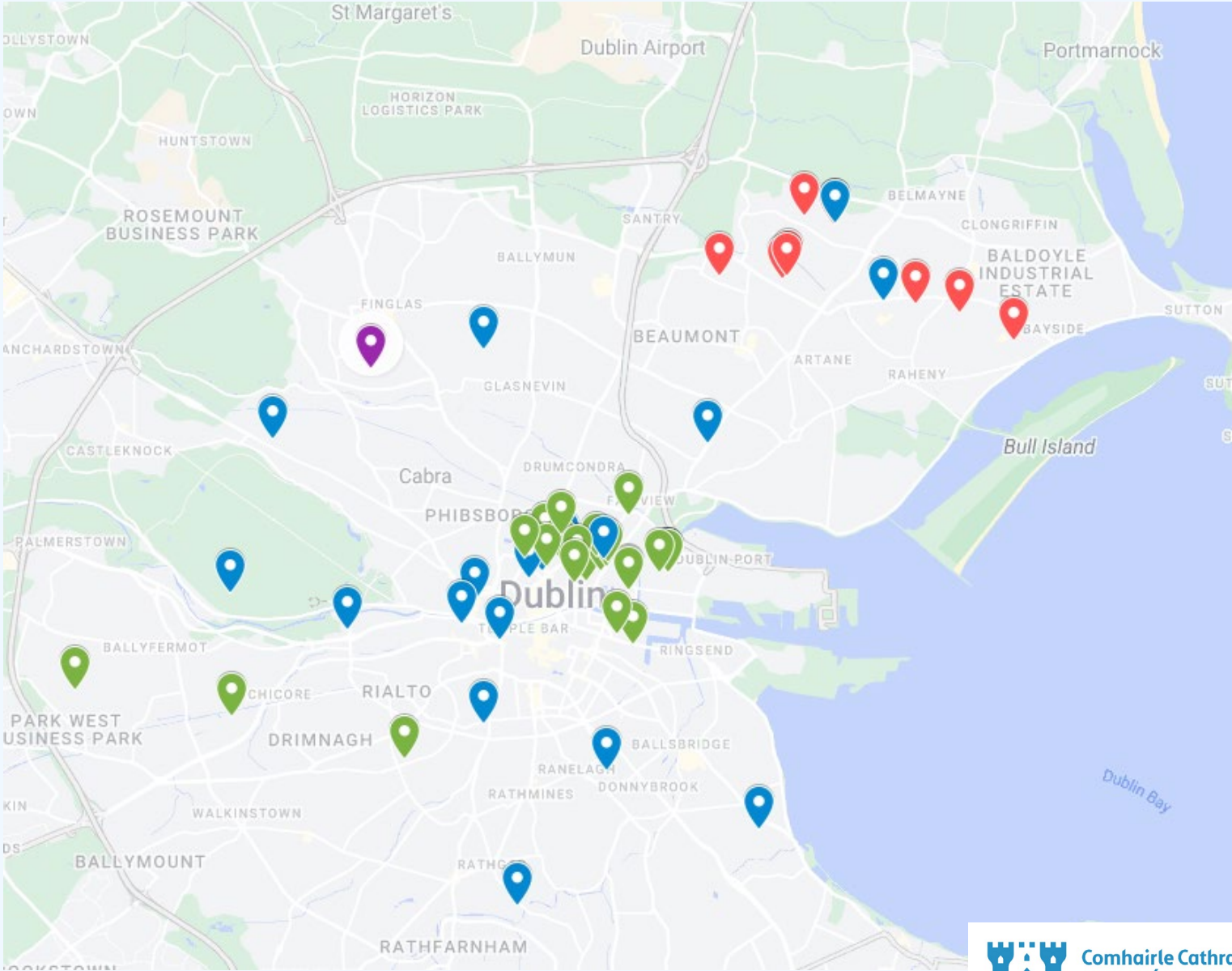
Community Centres



IPAS Centres



Outreach Collections (85)



Assistive Technology

Mobile Tovertafel

Sensory Toy Catalogues

C-Pens

AAC Devices

Acorn Tablets

Communication Boards






Benefits of Outreach

- Engagement with non-users
- Increased membership
- Promotion of library service as socially inclusive and accessible
- Promotion of relevant library services
- Service Development
- Explode stereotypes




Promotion of Dublin City Council Libraries


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Hundreds sign up for library cards at refugee centres, nursing homes and festivals



Calum and Diane Crawford pictured at the Stoneybatter Festival event. Photo: Stephen Collins/Collins Photos.



Fri 5 Jul 2024 at 02:30

A hundred people signed up for library cards when a team reached out to a refugee centre, as part of a scheme bringing libraries to the wider community and marginalised groups.

A Dublin City Libraries team behind the 'Library in the Community' drive says it has dispelled a perception that refugees arriving in Ireland seeking international protection are uneducated.

A four-person team is leading the charge to bring libraries to festivals, nursing homes, hospitals, refugee centres and homeless accommodation.

Last year, they facilitated 144 events in 86 locations throughout the city, engaging with more than 14,000 people.

The outreach team staged its most recent event at the Stoneybatter Festival in Dublin, explaining Dublin City Libraries' services to the general public.

The programme is being showcased as part of #YourCouncilDay today, which highlights the role of city and county councils in supporting people in their daily lives.

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Dublin

'Opportunities like this were reserved for the wealthy in Nigeria': Dublin libraries open up to refugees

Hundreds of people have signed up for library cards at refugee centres



Library In The Community

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