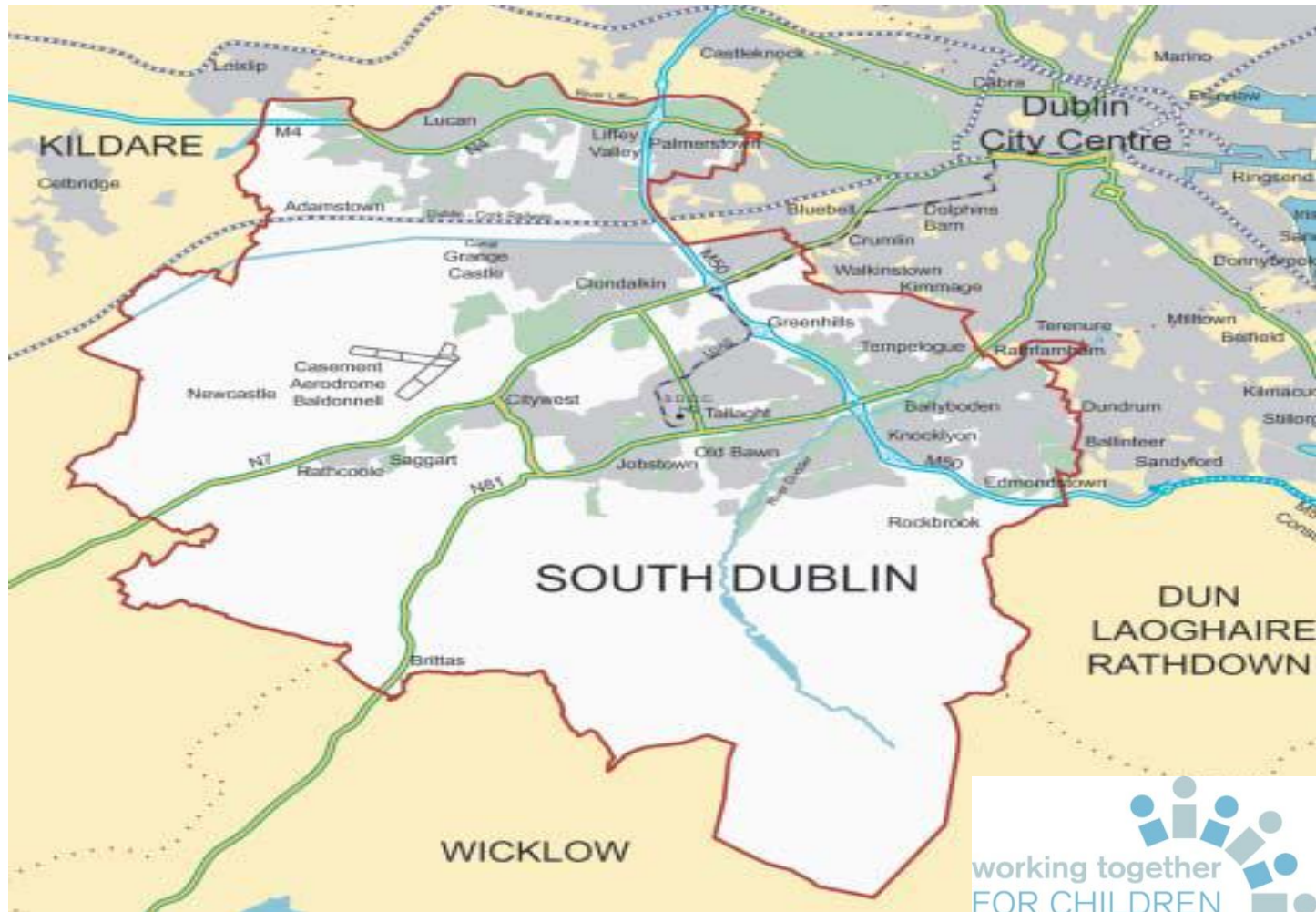
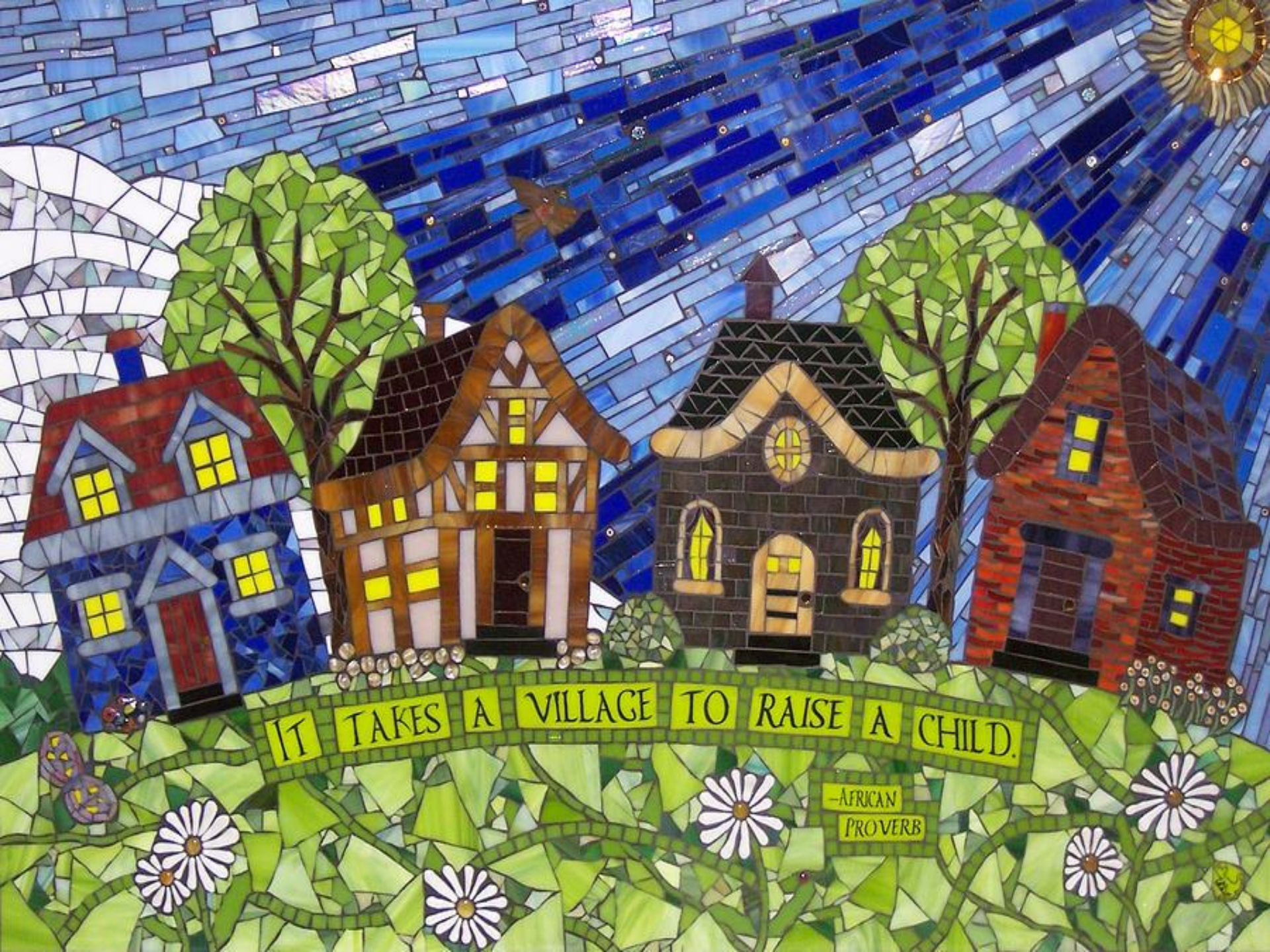


South Dublin Children's Services Committee

***“SPREADING THE
GOSPEL – THE BENEFITS
AND CHALLENGES OF
INTERAGENCY
PROTOCOLS”***

South Dublin Children's Services Committee





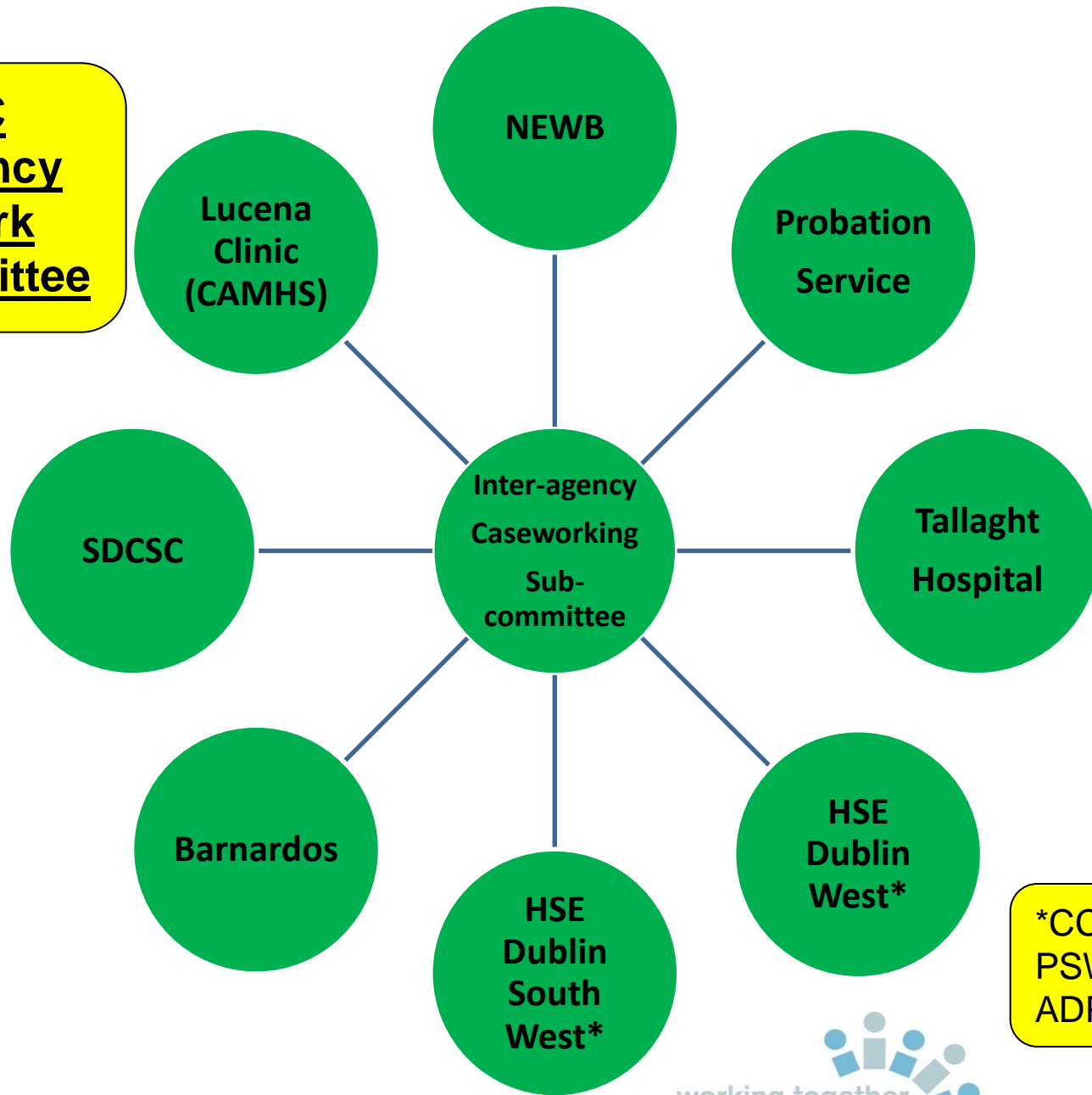
IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD.

-AFRICAN
PROVERB

South Dublin County

- County established in 1994
- CSC set up in 2007
- Total population: 265,205 (Census 2011)
- Families 71,380
- Children: 74,518 (28.1%)
- 4 RAPID areas

**SDCSC
Inter Agency
Casework
Sub-committee**



*CCM,
PSW,
ADPHN

Interagency Casework Sub-Committee

Work completed to date:

- Frontline Worker's Directory – hard copy and on-line
- Best Practice Guidelines on Sharing Information about Children and Families
- Inter-agency Caseworking Protocol
- “It takes a village to raise a child” practitioner skills workshop – December 2012.

“It takes a village to raise a child”

- Non-stigmatising for parents
- It is okay / normal to need help in raising your child / children
- A sense of community responsibility for / shared ownership of its children
- A community of residents / a community of service providers with a shared concern for the children of the county
- **“It takes a county to raise a child!”**

Sharing Information about Children & Families -Best Practice Guidelines:

- Practitioners recognise the importance of information sharing and there is already much good practice.
- In some situations practitioners feel uncertain about what it is lawful / constrained by “confidentiality”.
- In early intervention and preventive work decisions may be less clear cut than in child protection situations.

Sharing Information about Children & Families -Best Practice Guidelines:

- For families with complex needs to receive the services they require in an integrated and co-ordinated fashion, the effective and appropriate sharing of information between agencies is essential
- Appropriate sharing of information is a cornerstone of any strategy to improve outcomes for children

Sharing Information about Children & Families - Best Practice Guidelines:

- Outlines the issues regarding the sharing of information
- Encourages the sharing by consent wherever possible. Helps practitioners understand the concept of “consent”.
- Outlines the concept of “the vital interests of the child”
- Promotes a standardized approach to sharing of information between agencies in South Dublin County

Inter-agency Caseworking Protocol

OVERALL AIM:

- Families experience a timely and integrated support package which helps them to address their needs in the most effective way possible.

Inter-agency Caseworking Protocol

- Clear plan, roles, leadership and communication
- Clear procedures / processes
- Children and families feel consulted and involved – understand their plans
- Regular reviews leading to outcomes and closures

Protocol implementation process

- Development leading to CSC and agency sign off
- Training needs assessment / training design, pilot and roll out
- Training delivered to 180 staff / 40 agencies
- Pilot of Interagency Protocol – revised version

Benefits of protocols

- Information shared appropriately through good practice
- Greater parent and child input to their plans
- Often less agencies needed
- Agencies work in an integrated and focused manner – efficiency / common model of work
- Agencies empowered by having mandate to take on leadership role

Challenges

- Agency sign off
- Total implementation rather than cherry picking
- Agency boundaries / need for co-terminosity
- Resources to roll out training

Opportunity

- National protocols - drawing on the work of SDCSC, of other CSCs, of the CFA Service Delivery Model, of legislative changes
- Supported by CES / National Coordinator / Steering committee
- HIQA National Standards for the Protection and Welfare of Children For Health Service Executive Children and Family Services July 2012:

Opportunity

2.9.1 There are national, standardised protocols and procedures for information sharing and for the referral, assessment, case management and review of child protection and welfare concerns for interagency and inter-professional working, within and between services.

Carpe diem!

Work not possible without:

- CSC Committee & sub committee members present and past
- Maria Donoghue and Patricia Wilson, SDCSC Office
- Gary Davis, Deputy Data Protection Commissioner
- Child and Family Research Centre, NUIG Fergal Landy and John Canavan
- Mick McKiernan, previous Project Manager
- Theresa Barnett, HSE Children First Training Officer
- Claire Hickey, Senior Research Manager, Barnardos
- Funding: CAAB, OMCYA and RAPID
- Support in kind: HSE, NEWB and SDCC

