



Senator Marie Sherlock

Spring 2024



CHAMPIONING A SAFER, LIVEABLE CITY FOR ALL

Last November the shameful rioting and damage to our city endangered lives and livelihoods. We now know how fast small numbers of far-right agitators can exploit frustrations in the city. **We must never let that take hold again. We have a wonderful diversity here in Dublin and we must protect it.**

However, the Dublin we know and love is under enormous strain.

There's a chronic shortage of childcare places, of health and disability workers and of teachers in our schools. **Even well paid workers earning over €100,000 can't afford to buy in two thirds of Dublin's post codes.** And here on the Northside, despite the brilliant efforts of many Gardaí, the reality is that there are **over 100 fewer community Gardaí on the ground compared with a decade ago.**

So much needs to be done; turning over 3,000 long term vacant houses in our area into homes, building on available public land, state support to build/repurpose buildings for childcare facilities, lifting the health recruitment embargo, measures to train and recruit more health professionals, extra payment to teachers in Deis schools agus Gaelscoileanna.

On Policing and Public safety we need to see the **Garda training college in Phoenix Park re-opened and greater early intervention for youths.** There are only 5 Garda Juvenile Liaison Officers across the whole of the Northside. Our youth clubs need more support. More boots on the ground are vital to making the city feel safer, but it's not enough. There are serious issues with planning in the city and services for those who are most vulnerable.

Stop the slaughter of Palestinians



The world must not stand by and watch the indiscriminate slaughter of children and innocent civilians. We in the Labour Party have been steadfast in our calls for an immediate ceasefire, the need for economic sanctions against an Israeli Government intent on genocide and the need for a permanent settlement for Palestine and Israel.



*A chara,
I'm your local Senator.*

If there are ever any issues in your area or assistance that you need, I want to be able to help.

Deán teagmháil liom,

Marie

Seanadóir Marie Sherlock

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Please get in touch

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We need more artist spaces



Marie with Kate Farnon of the Dean Arts Studio and Laura and Maeve from THISISPOPBABY.

Sadly for our city, there is **massive competition for the very few artists places that exist.**

Dublin City Council's Space to Create project will deliver 60 additional places across Artane, Bridgefoot Street, Merchant's Quay and Temple Bar. While welcome, it will take time and will be a drop in the ocean when compared to the **estimated artist space of 1125 places, needed in the city, according to research conducted for DCC in 2021.**

Bring Aldborough House back into use for local community



Aldborough House on Portland Row has been shamefully empty for two decades. The site of the first theatre on the island of Ireland, I feel passionate that the whole building be brought back into use for the benefit of the local community.

Please sign our petition calling on the Government & Dublin City Council to purchase Aldborough house and to renovate this incredible building.

You can sign it using this QR code



New system needed to help match children with special schools/classes



Marie with Embrace Autism D9, the fantastic parent support group which meets in Gracepark ETNS.

Every year parents of children with significant additional need face a **horrendous process in trying to find a school place when they leave primary school.** With no system to match children to schools, parents often end up applying to 20 or more schools. Many families find themselves with no place very close to the return to school date. I have appealed to the Minister for Education for a matching system to be established.

These issues come on top of a system already struggling with massive waiting lists and serious delays in accessing vital resources, like assistive technology.

Leave when it matters most

In November our **reproductive health leave bill** passed all stages in the Seanad! It would provide **up to 20 days' paid time off** for anyone experiencing the loss of an early miscarriage and **10 days' paid leave** for those undergoing fertility **treatments** like IVF.

Unfortunately, the Government voted to bury the bill for 12 months. The fight goes on.



Supporting Grassroots Football



My colleague Aodhán Ó Riordáin brought a **historic motion to the Dáil calling for financial support for grassroots football** across Ireland. Far too many clubs in the inner city face **massive funding challenges with no permanent access to training and match facilities.** We need to see serious Government investment to ensure that kids and adults of all ages can get involved and play.

Marie with Stephen Dunleavy and Leo of Sheriff YC. Both Sheriff YC and East Wall Bessboro FC have very exciting plans for their respective parts of the Alfie Byrne Road pitches. However, they've endured regular and heartbreaking vandalism to their pitches in recent months. Sadly we need greater security for these pitches.

Standing up for Workers



Four years on from the pandemic, there is still **no legal framework in force for remote and flexible work in Ireland. We have persistently called for a right to flexible work** for all workers in this country.

Increased use of artificial intelligence in workplaces presents great opportunities but also poses a huge threat in how workers are monitored, managed and paid.

We have produced **legislation to provide protections for workers have called for an AI supervisory agency in Ireland.** Almost all workplaces use some form of artificial intelligence now with some evidence to suggest that 10% of workers are using what is termed "generative AI".

I'm aware that a number of small businesses in our area are under pressure financially. We need jobs, we need a vibrant local economy and workers need decent pay. We have called out business groups who have called for pay freezes. Decent pay means a strong local economy.

We need to protect local childcare services

A growing number of local services are telling us of their **frustration in trying to stay open.**

Already we have a **huge shortage in the area** - 105 places lost in Stoneybatter.

One third of parents told us in our survey across the constituency last summer they spent **more than 12 months waiting for a creche place.**

As a start, we need to **protect existing quality childcare services** within our communities and better support providers, staff and parents. Budget 2024 was due to deliver a 25% cut to costs for parents from this October, but for many families the cuts will be less than that. Of course these changes only makes a difference if you can find a place!



Marie with Sandra and Amanda of Silverspoon Montessori, Charleville Road.

School News

Clonturk Community College

The development of a new campus for this 1000 pupil school plus three other schools has been delayed. In November, the Minister confirmed to us that the design team to set out the masterplan for the campus will be appointed early this year. The site on Swords Road will also be home to Gaelscoil Áine and Ellenfield Community College.

Gaelscoil Choláiste Mhuire

My thoughts are with all families experiencing trauma and distress after the shocking incident on November 23rd and particularly with the little girl injured in the attack. The new school building on Dominick Street is due for completion next year.



**Rethink
needed
on waste**



Our communities and our city centre face the **ongoing scourge of illegal dumping, a patchy waste collection service** and massive frustrations about cleanliness. We must also face the challenge of what happens to all our waste. I believe **we need to change who collects and who processes waste.** I've been working with a number of Oireachtas colleagues and DCC councillors to bring forward proposals on the transfer of waste collection back to the city council.



Adult Ed Tutors deserve fair pay

They are the unsung heroes of our education system, but are paid less compared with the rest of the education system. The Department of Education has consistently ignored Labour Court recommendations relating to their basic pay and pensions.



Better pay needed to retain Early Years Workers

Last November, we heard powerful contributions from the fourth-year early years education students in DCU, regarding the importance of the work they do and the lack of respect they feel in terms of pay, job security and above all recognition as educators in our country.



Marie with Roisin Lonergan and Marcela Parducci of the **Five Lamps Arts festival**. They do amazing work in showcasing art in the inner city, advocacy and opening up new audiences.

Retrofitting and Housing Adaptation Grants

Retrofitting is vital to reducing energy bills and important for reducing carbon emissions.

SEAI Grants:



Fully funded energy upgrades are available for homeowners in receipt of certain welfare supports but they face a scandalously long 24 month waiting list to get works done.



Part funded energy upgrades are available for some homeowners, and include support for attic and wall insulation, heat pumps, heating controls, and solar energy. Solar panels are now **exempt from VAT**.

Local Authority Housing Adaption Grants:



Grants are available for older persons, disabled persons and those with mobility difficulties to adapt their homes and make them more suited to their needs. This can include ramps, stair lifts, windows, doors and more.

Please contact my office for more information about any of the options above and for support with application forms.

INNERCITY AIR QUALITY EXCEEDS SAFE LIMITS

New transport plan for Dublin is vital

Air quality monitoring conducted by the EPA in Autumn 2023 has shown that nitrogen dioxide levels in parts of the inner city are **four times** the acceptable **World Health Organisation levels** and that they also exceeds **EU levels**.

This has a very **real impact**, particularly on those suffering from **respiratory conditions** and **asthma**.

We live in communities, not just highways to the city centre.



HEALTHIER AIR QUALITY WILL MEAN WE NEED

- ★ **More segregated continuous cycle paths**
- ★ **Safer footpaths & greater pedestrianisation of some streets.**
- ★ **24 hour bus services, cheaper public transport fares**

Crucially, these changes will mean that those **who must use** a car or van because of **mobility impairment**, to **carry work equipment** or to **deliver** to local businesses can more **easily** get around our city.



Marie with Declan Meenagh and Disability campaigners outside Leinster house, protesting the Governments' plans for disabled people of working age.

Ireland has the highest number of jobless disabled persons across all EU member states.

Government need to put supports in place, not instil fear of cuts to existing benefits.



Please get in touch

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Páirtí an **Lucht Oibre**

Working for a Fairer City