

'Making a Mark'

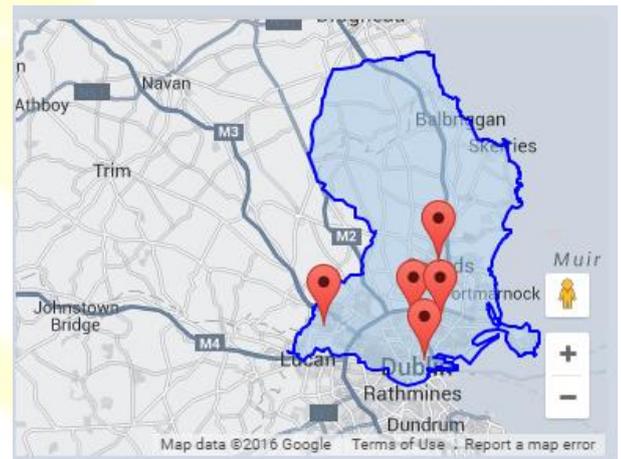
Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

Northdoc Medical Services Ltd

Northdoc Medical Services Ltd provides local doctors for D Doc, the GP out of hours service for patients in North Dublin.

The structure of the company is different from most GP co-ops in Ireland, in that private fees are retained by the company and are not distributed to members.

Instead, it is used solely for the promotion of the company's activities as a "for benefit" company.



The Social Enterprise Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to provide 'social impact statements', which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/environmental objectives.

Below are examples of how **Northdoc** is Making a Mark, striving to make a difference to local communities:

Social inputs – ensuring access to GP care

Our area of operation includes low income groups and significant areas of social deprivation.

People who are deemed eligible for free health care do not always get it. For a variety of reasons, a significant group, particularly homeless people, will never likely become part of the system that is there to serve them. Our fundamental commitment is to ensure that at least primary GP care will be provided to these people in the out of hours setting.

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We work closely with like-minded organisations, such as Safetynet; a networking organisation for nurses, doctors, and voluntary agencies providing primary health care to homeless people. Working with Safetynet, we have arranged, and funded, an X-ray service for the homeless and prison population in North Dublin, to establish the level of increase in TB among this population.

Social outputs – facilitating training

We work closely with the **North Dublin GP Training Scheme**. As well as opening our GP out of hours roster to these GPs, we facilitate training in a range of community services. In their 4th year, trainees spend one day per week in a special interest post in the areas of addiction, homelessness and community service.

Safetynet aims to engage patients in health services. This is achieved through the provision of medical services in homeless hostels and community based support services, including the D-Doc out of hours GP service for homeless people and a Mobile Health Clinic for homeless people and female sex workers.

In 2015 we sponsored the production of a video which is aimed at new GP trainees and provides an overview of the GP training experience in working in the Safetynet environment.



Social outcomes – Northdoc podcast

We are currently setting up a podcast on health, with specific emphasis on areas where medicine meets social need and challenges. We want to create a zone where the public can listen to GPs discussing health in a candid manner and for the public, especially those with no public voice, to be heard by GPs.

The aim is to change (or at least challenge) strongly held perceptions that working in areas of social deprivation is 'just very difficult' and to breakdown misconceptions and stereotypes.

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