

Appendix – 2.9

Social Inclusion Advisory Group -

COMMENTARY FOR THE SOCIAL INCLUSION REVIEW TO BE HELD IN KNOCKLOFTY HOUSE HOTEL, KNOCKLOFTY HOTEL, CLONMEL AT 3.00PM ON MONDAY JUNE 12.

1. Summary

It is proposed to carry out a Social Inclusion Review on the afternoon of June 12 (prior to the Board meeting). The review will focus on national and local community priorities for key services and recommend a mechanism to develop social strategy.

Social exclusion and poverty are at the core of the social agenda. The key national objectives are to eliminate poverty and enable anybody wishing to work to do so. The service providers largely serve the same client base (those who require social and economic inclusion) and use the same voluntary and community bodies when intermediary bodies are needed to deliver services to clients.

A common feature among the client base is that many have left school with no qualifications.

Co-ordination is likely to be a key theme in the County Social Strategy.

2. Purpose of the Social Inclusion review

The following outcomes are desired from the Social Inclusion Review on June 12:
That the meeting reviews service provision targeting social inclusion and economic inclusion and the elimination of poverty from a national and local community perspective

That key services are prioritised and a mechanism to gather the appropriate level of information about the provision of key services is agreed

That the meeting agrees a mechanism to develop a County Social Strategy which can be presented to Tipperary (South Riding) County Development Board

That members list short term needs (issues) that might be usefully addressed by a County Social Inclusion Working Group

3. Social Inclusion Review

National Priorities

National Anti-Poverty Strategy

Social Inclusion Strategy

While the more traditional aspects of social exclusion such as unemployment (and particularly long term unemployment) and educational disadvantage must continue to be vigorously tackled, we now face a new set of challenges. Enhanced prosperity serves to highlight long standing social problems such as homelessness, drug addiction and disaffection. Other issues which have emerged include: housing shortages and lack of childcare facilities. Increasing income disparities among

employees could pose a danger - the emergence of a new class of 'working poor'. (Summarised from the Annual report of the Interdepartmental Committee (1998-1999)).

Programme for Prosperity and Fairness

Includes a commitment to consider new targets for the National Anti-Poverty Strategy, including that of child poverty.

National Development Plan

Activity	Budget	Comment
Education		
Health		
Childcare		
Social Welfare		
Social Housing	£6 billion	
Transport		
Environment		
Justice		
Sports		
Recreation		
Community/Partnership		

Employment Action Plan

Guideline 1. Every unemployed young person is offered a new start before reaching six months of unemployment, in the form of training, retraining, work practice, a job or other employability measure.

Guideline 2. Unemployed adults are also offered a fresh start before reaching twelve months of unemployment by one of the means in Guideline 1 or, more generally, by accompanying individual vocational guidance.

Supporting Voluntary Activity

The rapidly changing economic and social situation in Ireland requires serious consideration on how best to change society in order to make it socially and economically inclusive. There is a need to create a more participatory democracy where active citizenship is fostered. An active voluntary and community sector contributes to a democratic, pluralist society, provides opportunities for the development of decentralised institutional administrative structures and fosters a climate in which innovative solutions to complex social problems and enhancement of quality of life can be pursued and, hopefully, realised (Green paper).

Early School

Community Priorities

Bridget O'Keeffe represents the Disadvantaged sector (Voluntary and community groups) on the County Development Board. Bridget will present an opinion on the services needed in a local community in targeting social and economic inclusion.

Discussion

Members present will be requested to present their views on the provision of services to target social and economic inclusion in South Tipperary with particular emphasis on what they consider priority services.

4. Mechanism to develop a County Social Strategy

The main task for Tipperary (South Riding) County Development Board in the 2000-2001 period is the development of a County Economic, Social and Cultural Strategy. The outcome desired from this agenda item is that the Chair (Oliver Clancy) will be able to recommend a mechanism to develop the County Social Strategy to the County Development Board.

The Department of the Environment and Local Government has published national guidelines on developing a county strategy. The recommended approach will address four strategic questions relevant to Social strategy:

- ✓ Where are we? What is the social situation of the county? How does it compare to neighbouring and other counties? How satisfactory is it? What are the key issues facing the county?
- ✓ Where do we want to go? How should the social situation have changed by the year 2010?
- ✓ How should we get there? What options are available to change the social situation? Which option represents the best chance of success?
- ✓ How will we know we are getting there?

The Director of Community and Enterprise is proposing that the Board establishes a Social Inclusion Working Group to assist it in developing the County Social Strategy. The initial task of the Social Inclusion Working Group would be to describe the social situation in the county; assess its current capability and prioritise the key issues likely to impact on the future development of South Tipperary. The Board will have a direct input in determining 'relevance' by discussing how the situation of the County should have changed by the year 2010, when it carries out a Social Review in September 2000.

The Board has accepted a workplan in which it will conduct an integrated review of the information, analysis and priority issues arising from each of the Topic Working Groups in February 2001. This integrated review will form the basis of a consultative document: 'a shared vision for the development of South Tipperary'. The Board will sign off in April 2001 on the strategic question - where do we want to go? It is proposed that the Social Inclusion Working Group would again assist the Board between April 2001 and November 2001 in addressing the third and fourth strategic questions - how should we get there and how will we know we are getting there?

Decision Item: A mechanism to advance the County Social Strategy

4. Short term Needs

Members are invited to list any specific needs in the 2000-2001 period that could be could usefully be addressed by a County Social Inclusion Working Group.

5. Review of the Meeting

This agenda item is intended to review the processes used at the meeting with a view to establishing better working practice at future meetings.