

South Tipperary Safety and Security Partnership

Council Chamber, County Hall, Clonmel, 01/03/05

Present: Jean Nelson, Michael Collins, Jim Lynch, Stephen O'Sullivan, Angela Dillon-White, Mary Barron, Mairead Ryan, Antje Hogan (Citizens Information Service), Teena Keane-Hogan, Geraldine Mullane, Andrew McMahon, Tess Collins, Sheila Collins (Superintendent Community Welfare), Mark Ryan, Margo Hayes, Catriona Crowe, Tadg Browne.

- 1) **Introductions and minutes:** Minutes of previous meeting were adopted (proposed Jim Lynch, seconded Jean Nelson)
 - a) **Matters arising:** Pat Holland reported that he and Martin Fennessy had visited Chief Superintendent Pat Murray, Thurles, and discussed the need for community policing in the towns, especially Clonmel and also the provision of a Garda Diversion project in Carrick-on-Suir.

- 2) **Presentation by Cuan Saor:**

Cuan Saor was 10 years old, providing refuge for victims of domestic violence, in a safe central location. Any publicity re domestic violence brings a huge workload rise. 75% of their clients are from the settled community, 25% from the travelling community. They aim to serve the county, not just Clonmel. A drop-in service is provided as well as a Pattern Change assertiveness programme and a 24 hour helpline. A local network re violence against women is in existence. They have two outreach clinics in Carrick and Tipperary (one day a week each) and these need to be expanded. Other areas such as Cahir are not being serviced. An offender programme is on the way. Cuan Saor very much appreciates the assistance of St. Vincent de Paul.

Their needs are

 - Accommodation (self-contained units, dispersed units).
 - The information booklet needs to be reprinted.

Issues

 - Women often return to situations of domestic violence.
 - The summer court break means a break in court service
 - Out of hours service from state agencies can be a difficulty
 - Transport costs for a victim of domestic violence to get to the shelter (this issue resolved by discussion with HE representative)
 - There is no 'wet' shelter for those with drink/drug addiction
 - Parking space outside shelter for staff (safety issue) (Committee agreed a letter to be send to Clonmel Borough Council).

3 Presentation by St. Vincent de Paul: Plans for a men's hostel and a women's hostel had been approved but funds are an issue. Hostels are now seeing younger clients, many with addiction issues. There is no homeless service in Clonmel at present and one is needed as Waterford city is beginning to refuse those from Clonmel. Those in hostels have several common factors: offenders/depression/addiction/literacy issues. The ethos of the Waterford hostel is to move clients form dependency to independence. Provision of services in-house is needed because many clients cannot cope with appointments etc. There is a dedicated homeless officer in Waterford Borough Council and good co-operation with FAS (provision of safe pass training for those willing to work on the buildings etc) A successful hostel must have good links with the Housing Officer, landlords, Aiseiri, Probation Service, the Courts etc. Waterford also has a rough sleepers project. Supported accommodation is required especially for those with psychiatric and addiction issues.

A proper hostel will

- Be staffed appropriately
- Be in a good location (accessible by clients)
- Be in a good building with no stairs
- Have a broad range of services in house
- Have an outreach service
- Provide a Health and Safety service for staff
- Have single rooms for clients
- Have links with a dedicated Homeless Officer in the local authority
- Be either wet or dry (both facilities are needed).

Issues arising

1. Data is essential
2. There is a major homeless issue in South Tipperary
3. The County Council does recognise the need for a shelter and are anxious to see it built
4. There is a difficulty in that the costs for the shelter are greater than those allowed by the Dept.
5. A Homeless Officer has been appointed in each local authority in the county
6. Numbers recorded by the County Council

2001	9 families	22 single males	22 females recorded as homeless
2002	15 families	27 do.	15 do
2003	10 do.	16	5
2004	1	21	1

Numbers seem to be dropping, perhaps because of the greater availability of private rented accommodation.
7. However the actual figures may be larger (Cuan Saor)
8. The HE gets a lot of young addicted homeless but where do we house them?
9. The Joint Ownership rule means that women who still have a share in the family home cannot yet be regarded as homeless.
10. Someone on a housing list elsewhere cannot transfer into the housing list here
11. It is vital that we have a baseline data base of all those homeless
12. Some people go to stay with other family members and so are unrecorded homeless
13. B and B 's are not an adequate response
14. There are people who cannot operate in a hostel
15. Families may have to be split up because we have no sheltered separate family sized accommodation
16. Supported housing (eg Sonas schemes in Dublin) are vital
17. Where will the funding for supported housing and staff come from?
18. Hostels see the same clients again and again ie they are not being supported to change
19. Need for local authorities to fund, retrospectively, the B + B costs of homeless persons (letter of representation to go to each local authority).
20. Representations to be made re funding for hostels in South East (PH to consult with St. V de P, Housing and HE.and also discuss staff ratios with Dept .

A submission to a joint Oireachtas committee on community policing was agreed.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the committee after that on the 19th April (Theme:Safety, Security and Youth Facilities) would concentrate on the gaps in provision for the homeless, in conjunction with the homeless forum. A draft proposal on the Second Chance Programme and anti-social behaviour generally (circulated at the meeting) would also be considered).

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 19th April 2005, 10.00 – 12.30 in Clonmel, Council Chamber, Co. Hall, Clonmel.