

South Tipperary Safety and Security Partnership

Council Chamber, County Hall, Clonmel, 08/11/05

Present: Richard Bowen, Planning Section, South Tipperary County Council, Mary Egan Spafield Resource Centre, Antje Hogan, Citizens Information Service, Mairead Ryan Cashel Town Council, Margo Hayes Carrick-on-Suir RAPID, Breeda Heffernan, Cuan Saor, Clonmel, Martin Fennessy, Clonmel RAPID, Tadhg Browne, Clonmel Borough Council, Teresa Roche, Fethard, Tess Collins South Tipperary County Council, John O'Regan Garda Siochana Tipperary Town, Sue-Ann O'Donnell Parent Network, Jean Nelson RAPID Community Rep Tipperary Town, Mary Ryan Tipperary RAPID, Martin Hayes, Suir Valley Community Based Drug initiative, Stephen O'Sullivan, Garda Siochana, Carrick-on-Suir, Helen Buckley, Knockanrawley Resource Centre, Tipperary.

Apologies: Sara Bourke,

Chairman: John Murphy, Probation and Welfare Service,

1) **Introductions and minutes:** Minutes of previous meeting were adopted

2) **Matters Arising:**

Bonfires

Carrick-on-Suir was relatively quiet as the Council took away bulky items from the bonfires. Tipperary had less fires (and tires on them) than before but fireworks are now being aimed at houses. There were lots of disturbances in the Clonmel RAPID areas with heavy items being put onto fires. Fethard had fires and the bank holiday hindered the taking away of bulky fuel items. It was agreed that the committee would hold a special meeting at the end of summer, 2006 to discuss these issues and invite area engineers, town clerks etc.

3) **Parenting**

Martin Hayes noted that

1. There are several Parenting Programmes available
2. Parent to Parent is a peer training programme
3. We are going through a time of huge change and we need to be prepared for it
4. The programme consists of eight workshops
5. Parents need to 'Expect and Inspect'.
6. In the last 4-5 years, over 1500 parents have undertaken the workshop and the programme is spreading nationwide
7. There are certain needs
 - o Strategic implementation of this or a similar programme in all primary schools
 - o Target groups eg parents of children in a juvenile liaison programme should be availing of the programme
 - o The programme needs to be proofed for literacy
 - o Professional evaluation of the programme is needed

Sue Ann O'Donnell noted

1. Her network is similar being also based on experiential learning
2. It consists of manuals and a week-long programme
3. There is a network of parents
4. Getting parents to attend training is the hardest part
5. Communication is the key
6. Six week courses are the ideal length

Issues/Ideas/Points raised:

- Spafield FRC had organised a number of courses and were glad to hear that it was difficult to get parents to join
- Lots of the new local authority tenants were young or single parents and they needed a link in with parenting classes but the tenant training course programmes were full as it was
- Courses would be made available through the community houses
- Maeve Martin's report to SIM re mental illness in children was alarming
- ADH diagnosis is on the rise as is the prescribing of medication for it
- Some families are working under severe emotional pressure
- Kids feel insignificant but is the answer prescribed drugs?
- Is the culture of drug use, binge drinking etc effecting the next generation?
- Community and alternative therapies have some effect
- There are strong family links associated with issues

- Strong family and /or community ties are important
- There is a need to move to an effective level of parenting in an estate, to get to the 'tipping point'.
- Pre-tenancy classes in Waterford have budget for an arts component to create a community feeling
- We need to create a vision of a sense of identity in estates
- We need to create a community leadership training programme
- We need to target primary schools with programmes and engage youth
- Knockanrawley has a parent support worker and the parenting programme needs to be as broad as required (relaxation, diet, nutrition, ADHD, children's events etc)
- How do we keep good kids good ?
- Kids are born with the need to belong, but some belong to the wrong group
- We should bring all those from communities needing parenting together with those providing parenting skills

Possible topics/Agenda for next meeting:

1. Introductions and Minutes
2. Matters Arising/Actions to be reviewed (from previous meetings)
3. Children and behavioural issues in Clonmel: presentation by Maeve Martin
4. Garda Siochana views on parenting issues in Clonmel.
5. Presentation by senior social worker on HSE brief (to be arranged)
6. Actions to be identified
7. Date and topic of next meeting

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, January 17th, 10-12 am, Council Chamber, County Hall, Clonmel.