

Submission from South Tipperary County Development Board re becoming a pilot of the National Crime Prevention Model

Summary - Key Points:

- The corner stone of The National Crime Council strategy '*A Crime Prevention Strategy for Ireland - Tackling the Concerns of Local Communities*', recommends the establishment of pilots of the National Crime Prevention Model within three County/City Development Boards.
- South Tipperary is an ideal county to pilot the Crime Prevention model because:
 - South Tipperary County Development Board have developed a model 'Local Agenda 21 Wheel' for examining the required level of services such as security, community facilities etc at local, small town, county and regional level which is now being used in the National Spatial Strategy. The County Development Board has used this model to start reviewing the required level of service re crime and security at local, small town, county and regional level.
 - The South Tipperary Social Inclusion Measures Group has completed a review of Crime and Security issues in South Tipperary and are in the process of establishing a Crime Prevention Partnership Group.
 - South Tipperary has three RAPID areas, which have already done considerable work on Crime & Security Issues with three Crime & Security task groups established for over a year who have now developed action plans around crime & security issues.
- The County Development Board has a remit re the co-ordination of services. The Aim of the pilot project is facilitate other agencies/ community to work with the Garda Síochána to plan and build 'Safer Communities for people to Live in South Tipperary' with the Garda Síochána as key stakeholders in the process.
- The objectives of the pilot would be to:
 - Establish a Crime Prevention Partnership Group in South Tipperary
 - Develop a sample of Local Crime Prevention plan at the following levels
 - Local housing estate level – (3 housing estates as part of the pilot- 1 in each RAPID area)
 - Local Village level – (2 villages)
 - Town Level (3 RAPID towns)
 - Develop a 'Best Practice manual'. The manual would include best practice guidelines which could be used by other counties/ areas re the following
 - Establishment and development of the Crime Prevention Partnership Group
 - Development of Local Crime Prevention Plans including safety statements
 - Development of pilot training programme for other areas undertaking the establishment of Crime Prevention Model.
 - Development of safety audit resource book
- The process would involve working with the existing structures/group that have been developed in South Tipperary such as the RAPID Crime & Security task groups to achieve the above objectives.

Background to need for Pilot Local Crime Prevention Models

Why Crime Prevention?

Traditionally we have relied upon the Garda Síochána and the justice system to prevent and reduce crime in the community. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that Crime Prevention requires an interagency/community approach. Relying on the criminal justice system as the only means of reducing crime is not effective.

The National Crime Council published '*A Crime Prevention Strategy for Ireland - Tackling the Concerns of the Local Community*' in June 2003. Recommendation 18 of the Strategy recommends the establishment of pilots of the National Crime Prevention Model within three County/City Development Boards. This recommendation is a corner stone of the Strategy and is based on the fact that crime prevention needs an interagency community approach in order to be successful.

What Factors Contribute to Crime?

There is ample research to indicate those factors, which can contribute to, or assist in predicting, the profiles of crime in the local community. These factors can include: access to schooling and education; levels of employment and income; family background; alcohol and other drug use; personal opportunities and incentives for the commission of crime; gender; age; and other environmental factors.

Local Crime Profiles

Overseas experience indicates that the most effective way to prevent crime is to develop detailed local crime profiles, which identify:

- the sites where crimes occur;
- the victims of crime;
- the circumstances or environments which encourage the occurrence of crime;
- the times of day when crime occurs;
- the incentives and opportunities for the commission of crime.

When detailed crime profiles are developed for an area such as South Tipperary, issues that are of most concern can be identified, and target strategies that will work to address and reduce that crime can be developed. A plan can be developed that applies a number of different strategies to a particular issue in a way, which will be effective in that community

What Can a South Tipperary Local Crime Prevention model Do?

Partnerships need to be developed if we are to effectively reduce local crime. It is local people and local agencies that best understand local problems. As the County Development Board is a body established to co-ordinate the delivery of local services, it is ideally placed to demonstrate leadership in facilitating partnerships that encourage and support the development of a co-ordinated and systematic approach to local crime prevention.

Local crime prevention plans cannot be developed and implemented without the involvement or leadership of local councils, health boards, community groups and Gardai. All partners can potentially support and develop local crime prevention plans.

The Aim of the pilot project is facilitate other agencies/ community to work with the Garda Síochána to plan and build 'Safer Communities for people to Live in South Tipperary' with the Garda Síochána leading the process.

- The objectives of the pilot would be to:
 - Establish a Crime Prevention Partnership Group in South Tipperary – members will be nominated from the SIM and CDB – this process has already started.
 - Develop a sample of Local Crime Prevention plan at the following levels
 - Local housing estate level – (3 housing estates as part of the pilot- 1 in each RAPID area)
 - Local Village level – (2 villages)
 - Town Level (3 RAPID towns)
 - Develop a 'Best Practice manual'. The manual would include best practice guidelines which could be used by other counties/ areas re the following
 - Establishment and development of the Crime Prevention Partnership Group
 - Development of Local Crime Prevention Plans including safety statements and targets
 - Development of pilot training programme for members of new Crime Prevention Partnerships in other areas undertaking the establishment of Crime Prevention Model.
 - Development of safety audit resource book
- The process would involve working with the existing structures/group that have been developed in South Tipperary such as the RAPID Crime & Security task groups to achieve the above objectives.

Setting Up a Local Crime Partnership Group in South Tipperary –Adding Value as a lot of work is already done

South Tipperary is an ideal county to pilot the Crime Prevention model because the South Tipperary County Development Board, the South Tipperary SIM Group and the three RAPID AIT GROUP in South Tipperary

have already a high degree of interagency co-operation developed and the groups have completed a lot of work, which would add value to the establishment of a Local Crime Partnership Group.

County Development Board

South Tipperary County Development Board has developed a model 'Local Agenda 21 Wheel' for examining the required level of services such as security, community facilities etc at local, small town, county and regional level which is now being used in the National Spatial Strategy. The County Development Board has used this model to start reviewing the required level of service re crime and security at local, small town, county and regional level.

SIM

The SIM Group has produced a review paper on Crime and Security issues in South Tipperary, which focused on the following:

- Current services provision / future plans/strategies for service provision
- Location of facilities or services - appropriate level of service at each level in the community: Village, Small Town, County Town, and Region.
- Issues in relation to crime and security
- Key unmet needs and gaps in services in relation to crime and security
- How the delivery of services re: crime and security can be improved by interagency actions
- Policy matters in relation to crime and security

In addition, the SIM Group are now in the process of establishing an interagency Crime Prevention Partnership Group (proposed that it will be chaired by An Garda Síochána) to

- a. have a watching brief on crime and security issues over the next year with a view to feeding up policy issues to the CDB and National Crime Council, examination of gaps identified in programmes and how these gap could be filled by developing workable solutions around law enforcement, crime prevention and reintegration of prisoners.
- b. consider proposals to ensure environmental design does not contribute to crime but acts as a crime prevention measure
- c. make a bid to be one of the Pilot National Crime Prevention Models with a view to developing a crime prevention plan.

RAPID AIT's

In South Tipperary, over the last year the three RAPID Area Implementation Team's (Clonmel, Carrick on Suir, Tipperary Town) have established task forces on Crime & security issues on an interagency / community basis. Each AIT has now an action plan developed around Crime & Security issues in the three towns of Clonmel, Carrick on Suir and Tipperary Town.

Clearly no single organisation can focus upon all the factors, which influence and contribute to local crime. Well-targeted measures must focus on the range of factors and circumstances, which influence the incidence of crime. Because of this, a range of stakeholders need to act co-operatively with the local community to implement these measures. These stakeholders can include:

- An Garda Síochána ;
- Health Board;
- Employment services;
- Housing and accommodation services;
- Schools;
- Neighborhood centers and community groups;
- Community & youth services;
- Local Area network for violence against women
- Local Drug Task Groups
- South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum

- Muintir na Tire – Community Watch
- Local government; and
- Local business pillar.
- Also a community representative as advocated in the NCC's report.

The South Tipperary Crime Prevention Group has the support and involvement of key the key agencies above. They are supportive, committed in principle to act and are represented at a senior level. The main function of the Local Crime Partnership Group in the future would be to act as a pilot in relation to a local crime prevention model and to devise, implement and monitor a local crime prevention plan.

The South Tipperary CDB, SIM and RAPID AIT's have invested substantial resources in examining Crime & Security issues. A request has been made to The Garda Síochána to chair the South Tipperary Crime Prevention Partnership. As part of a pilot - a crime prevention coordinator would bring great added value to the work already done.

The Crime Prevention Partnership Group has adopted the following principles in relation to developing a local crime prevention plan. The plan should:

- adopt a systematic, problem-solving approach;
- act on good practice and research findings;
- be realistic and achievable;
- focus on priority problems;
- combine situational and social prevention
- seek to prevent crime now *and* in the future; and
- command community support.
- Have inbuilt evaluation procedures.

The Working Group has also developed the following outline action plan in relation to the development of a crime prevention plan. This action plan would be implemented if South Tipperary were successful in being selected as a pilot for the National Crime Prevention model. The following is an outline of the process to be undertaken:

Publicising intention to prepare a crime prevention plan	Place notice in newspaper
Defining the problem	Collate crime data Conduct survey – use data already collected through RAPID process where possible Consult with adult residents, young people Seek submissions from the community Review existing measures Develop a crime profile report
Deciding what to do	Prioritise problems Identify options Test and select options Select strategies Prepare draft plan
Publicise the draft plan	Inform community about the plan Receive feedback from the community Amend plan, if required
Implementing the plan	Publish final version of plan Assign responsibility Obtain agreements Agree on the time frame Take action
Assessing progress	Monitor progress

	Measure outcomes and outputs Evaluate impact Publicise success
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This process has commenced in the three RAPID areas with action plans around crime and security measures in place, which have been developed in conjunction with the agencies and the community for example Tipperary Town RAPID AIT has developed a 16 point action plan including the development of safety statements as a partnership response involving residence groups, local businesses, Tipperary Town Council and the Gardai. Although a lot of work has been done, if South Tipperary was selected as a pilot project re National crime prevention model, we would be in a position to develop this process in the whole county. All the interagency structures in the county are committed to moving the Crime Partnership Group forward and to the development and implementation of a County crime Prevention plan for South Tipperary.