

## Safety & Security update for SIM Sept 09

### Safety & Security Partnership

#### **Bon Fire Actions**

- Clonmel pilot – Environmental Awareness Officer working with Residence groups to increase awareness of how householders can get rid of rubbish for free in the months prior to Halloween
- Soccer Development Officer to try and organise Soccer activities for kids on evenings around Halloween
- Clubs, youth organisations, community houses being encourage to organise events around Halloween as alternative to bonfires.

#### **Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch,**

Figures from call monitoring stations indicate that about 80% of calls are social calls, 18% medical and 1% crime related

Good links in place with HSE staff and home help staff who encourage older people to use alarms etc - The need for social interaction is clearly highlighted by breakdown of calls – community alert groups and neighbour hood watch group are now starting to focus on befriending projects

#### **Anti social behaviour**

Interagency approach essential

2<sup>nd</sup> Chance programme working where tenants know they are at risk of losing tenancy. Where everything else has failed it is important to follow through the legal route and have evictions – 3 cases at the moment in South Tipperary – sends out message and gives confidence to communities

#### **Alternative options for young people and resourcing of youth at risk services essential**

The following is an outline of the Youth Worker Issues raised at the recent Safety & Security Partnership: recommends index-linking the number of youth Workers to the number of disadvantaged youth locally and/or the number of School Staff in the area, and to enhance the development of Youth cafes in each RAPID Town.

While some RAPID Towns have a combined School Staff of 200, the Youth Projects struggle with a minimum staff compliment, FAS CE Workers and Volunteer Leaders. Given that 80% of a child's life from 0-18 years is spent OUTSIDE the School gates, it is vital the Community-Based Supports are in place to adequately resource activities OUTSIDE the school gates for this age cohort. Furthermore, Schools disproportionately benefit those who successfully achieve in the education system - conversely, it disproportionately marginalises those for whom education/school is not a good-fit.

**South Tipperary County Joint Policing Committee** – proposed committee will meet at end of October when nominations are back re membership

**Community Policing:** The Community Policing in Clonmel has had a huge impact – (feedback from community, Agencies and Gardai at Safety and Security Partnership) in Clonmel. The roll out of Community Policing is essential for the rest of the County.

**Drugs:** increased intravenous use of Heroin – Health and Safety issue for staff of Local Authorities and community re disposal of needles is going to be an issue in the future – training may be required – needle exchange projects are being considered to try and eliminate risks from used needles

## **Submission of South Tipperary County Development Board in relation to Garda Síochána Corporate Strategy 2010-2012**

**Community Policing Units** are very effective and it is essential they are rolled out. It is important that all areas have coverage in relation to community policing. A national approach is needed so that it is not hit and miss. The Community Policing Unit in Clonmel has had a huge impact on the estates.

### **Rapid areas**

- No further cuts to Garda numbers will take place in RAPID areas and where vacant posts exist in RAPID areas, that these will be filled as soon as possible.
- That RAPID areas are prioritised for the roll-out of community policing units.
- That funding is previously committed through the Community Based CCTV Scheme is guaranteed and ring fenced for these area so that CCTV systems can be installed as soon as possible.

**Partnership approach** between the Garda Síochána, other agencies and the community is essential to address issues and problems

- Garda involvement in RAPID implementation teams
- Garda involvement in other specific group such as interagency group to implement Traveller interagency plan
- Garda involvement in design or redesign of local authority estates to 'design out crime'

**Resource and interventions for families in difficulties** should be supported - many families are presenting to all agencies with difficulties in coping – there is a need for an interagency approach i.e. family type conference on an interagency level focusing on interventions to support individual families

- Support for family type conference programmes where all agencies involved with the family participate
- Support interventions which seek to improve parenting skills and increase parental responsibility are desirable as are initiatives to reduce early school leaving, by mentoring or other ways
- Support resourcing of Home liaison teacher - so that children at risk are identified and supported at a very young age
- interventions which seek to improve parenting skills and increase parental responsibility

### **Youth supports needed**

- Garda Síochána should put pressure on to develop more partnerships with youth organisations and should campaign to put youth service delivery on a more stable footing. Garda Síochána should encourage adequate resourcing of youth work
- JLO services
  - should be more resourced
  - should not just focus on diversion or kids already 'in trouble' – should try and get them before they get 'in trouble'
  - should be linked into all youth services
- Supports to rural areas re diversion away from crime : Rural areas have very little coverage in relation to youth supports which impacts on diversion away from crime
- Budgets for youth diversion should be increased not reduced and existing resources should be protected

Garda supports to tackle **anti social behaviour** is essential

- Training could be provided for communities on how to tackle anti social behaviour

**Drug task groups funding** should be restored and increased – Garda Síochána should encourage the focus to be on prevention . Communities should be supported around drug awareness. There should be more enforcement re public drinking

### **Encouragement of reporting :**

- Needs to be more reporting – this will only happen with more Garda / Community links
- Confidential reporting line re drugs should be promoted more

**Promote Community/ Neighbourhood Watch** - Encouraging local groups to raise awareness at local level, to develop good contacts with An Garda Síochána and reporting suspicious activities, - Highlighting individuals own responsibility in terms of Crime Prevention & Highlighting Communities own responsibility of Crime Prevention and the need to support vulnerable members of their community,