

## Disconnected Youth Report – SIM Sept 09

Since the last report the Disconnected Youth group have considered:

- Guidance services suitable for Early School Leavers
- Managing challenging behaviour

The group have received inputs from:

- Tom Ryan – South Tipperary Adult Guidance Service
- Le Cheile Mentoring Project
- Vincent Byrne on Managing Challenging behaviour- Councillor and life coach and lectures in MA in Drama Therapy in Maynooth, Coaching course in Waterford IT, an Adlerian Psychologist

## Issues

**Home School Liaison** position now only in DEIS schools

**Pathways project** which covers Clonmel, Carrick and Cahir has had cut in funding for the Pathways programme from FAS. While this cut has resulted in reduced resources for Waterford City, County and Tipperary (SR), the revised services have not resulted in a reduced South Tipperary Service yet (3 days per week). There is a significant risk that a further reduction in funding will be made to the 2009 budget, which if implemented, will impact on South Tipperary. There is no assurance that funding will be available for the whole Pathways project for 2010, and there are concerns about its continuation.

In 2008, 96 Early School leavers from Clonmel, Carrick and Cahir, were referred to Pathways. The following is a breakdown of the outcomes after mentoring through Pathways programme for 2008:

Training /Further Education	23
Employment / Apprenticeships	12
Looking for work	4
Addiction	2
Still unoccupied	6
Back to school	3
Referred to other	1
Disability	4
Moved from area	1

The above gives an idea of the impact of the programme being cut.

**Visiting Teacher for Travelling Community** - The Sth Tipp. caseload area has been reassigned as follows;

- Littleton, Ballinure (23 families) - to Dr. Marian Browne VTT Nth. Tipp
- Tipperary Town, Dundrum, Cashel (31 families) to Mid-Western Office VTT team
- Cahir, Bansha (12 families) to Southern Regional Office VTT team
- Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir, Killenaule, Fethard (29 families) - included in new Waterford/Sth. Tipp (East) VTT caseload - South Eastern Office VTT. This post has been offered and the position is expected to be filled at the end Sept./early Oct.

Expected that the VTTs will begin to engage with their new families and schools in the very near future, if not already in some cases.

**Training Proposed:** The group are proposing to organise a training day with Vincent Byrne targeting teachers, youth workers, early school leaving projects. Any contribution to cost of the training would be welcome.

## FYI: Pathways: South Tipperary Report Summary 2008

### Tracking and Mentoring

**96 ESL were referred or made known to Pathways from the Clonmel, Carrick and Cahir areas of South Tipperary in 2008.**

#### Area

Clonmel:	51	Carrick:	23
Cahir:	13	Newcastle:	4
Ballymacarbry	1	Clogheen:	1
Killenaule:	2	Portlaw:	1

#### Gender

Male: 69      Female: 27

#### Age

14yrs: 2    15yrs: 9    16yrs: 34    17yrs: 20    18yrs: 16    19yrs: 8    20yrs: 6    22yrs: 1

#### Qualification

Junior Cert: 69 - No qualification: 27

53 ESLs were unoccupied at contact

#### Source of Referral

School:	47	HSE:	4
Self:	7	EWO:	6
Refuge:	1	P&W:	1
JLO:	1	FAS:	1
Diversion Project:	3	Le Cheile:	1
CDP/Youth Worker:	2	Pry Project:	1
Neighbourhood Youth Project:			4
*CYTE/WYTEC/Youthreach (Waterford):			17

\* ESL made known to Pathways

**The total number of ESL mentored in South Tipperary during 2008 was 56.**

#### Outcomes after Mentoring

Training/Further education	23	Back to school	3
Employment/Apprenticeships	12	Referred to other	1
Looking for work	4	Disability	4
Addiction	2	Moved from area	1
Still unoccupied	6		

#### Gateway Programme

A Gateway Programme ran from the 15<sup>th</sup> April until the 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Eight young people completed the full programme. They both enjoyed and gained a lot from the experience. The Advocate continued to link in with them afterwards and we have seen a number move onto employment/training.

#### Other Findings

South Tipperary is an area that does not share the same kind of service delivery for ESL as occurs in Waterford City.

Indeed there is a dearth of the kind of services required for the meaningful and significant progression of ESL on to employment or further training and education.

#### Summary

As Pathways has become more established with the various agencies working closely with the project, it has become clear that schools & other services welcome the support Pathways can offer.

It is expected that these strong working relationships will continue through 2009.