

A meeting of all those interested in the topic of Disconnected Youth in South Tipperary took place in the Council Chamber, County Hall at 12.00am on Thursday 17th January.

Present: Marie Boland, Co. Libraries, David Lenane FAI, Triona Hases Spafield FRC, Grainne de Stafford Spafield FRC, Maria Buckley Pathways, John Lonergan JLO, Denis Shanahan Respond, Stephen O Sullivan Carrick-on-Suir GS, Tess Collins Community Liaison Officer, Sinead O'Mahoney Carey Substance Abuse Service HSE, Lisa Kavenagh Youth Officer VEC, Phil Shanahan CCP, Kathleen Prendergast RAPID, John Neville Youthreach Cappawhite, Sheila Goggin NEWB, Suzanne Walsh CCP, Jarlath Fallon Dept. of Education and Science.
Apologies: Ellen O'Donnell, Kevin Bowen, Tina Kennedy.

The meeting agreed to the formal foundation of the Reconnecting Youth group, as a sub-committee of the Social Inclusion Measures Group of the CDB, with the aim of reconnecting youth aged 16-20 with services and society. The group would focus on the needs of those not in formal education or training and the barriers to their reengagement. The collection of data was vital and it was noted that substance abuse and Live Register data should be available.

The meeting also agreed that

1. the group would be a developmentally based with an action plan with pilot projects as necessary
2. meetings would be formal and structured with agendae, objectives and meeting reports
3. Meeting reports would be written up and circulated to all those interested in the aims of the committee and beyond and would therefore not contain confidential material
4. Jarlath Folan agreed to be the Chair and Pat Holland the Secretary for a term of one year
5. Decision making would be by consensus
6. An agenda item for each meeting of the committee would be a report from the Pathways meeting
7. Membership of the group would be open unless otherwise agreed and it was noted that disability, Traveller and migrant groups should be represented on the committee as should be FAS and the Dept of SFA.
8. the tea/coffee break between this meeting and the Pathways meeting was an essential networking tool.
9. the agenda for the next meeting would be to create an action plan for the group
10. A budget of c,€6000 was available for data collection

Fionuala McGeever, CEO, VEC was thanked for her contribution to the group as chair for the last several years.

Date of next meeting: 11.30 Education Room, County Museum, Clonmel (preceded by Pathways meeting at 10 in the same venue and tea/coffee in the Council Canteen 10.45-11.45)