

1. **Vulnerable Families** — follow on discussion focusing on value added actions and solutions

Ann outlined some proposed actions since June SIM meeting

**Organisation of Family Support Link Day initial ideas**

Subject: Social Work Department & Community Groups Initial Family Support Link Day

AIM: To provide a forum where the social work team members and the community groups who provide family supports to network and further develop their working relationships. (possibly an initial CDP& FRC Network and Youth Service Focus)

Working Group Members: Angela Joy, Claire Cashman & Ann Ryan

Venue: Fire Station Clonmel

Date: End of October 2009-09-11 Time From 11am – 1pm finish with light lunch

Ideas / Plan

A follow on from the presentation to the SIM meeting in June re vulnerable families. The idea is to enable as many people to come and go as an information point and networking opportunity.

- Ask Social Work Department, Community Development Projects, Family Resource Centre and the Youth Service providers to have information stands
- Create / develop an opportunity for networking and gathering information – working on this idea.
- Have a presentation from the CDP/ FRC Network , Social work Dept and Youth services @ 12.15
- Discussion and focus on any outcomes/ value added moving forward
- Light Lunch at end
- Evaluation Sheet

Vulnerable families – 800 children on Social workers books in South Tipperary

There are two categories within Social Work Dept

1) Child Protection = where there is a need to protect a child through some intervention which can be varied depending on the situation.

2) Child Welfare = this is where additional support services are put in place for families like parenting skills etc. child welfare has 17 categories as follows:

1. Child with emotional / behavioural problems
2. Child abusing drugs / alcohol
3. Child involved in crime
4. Child pregnancy
5. Physical illness / disability in child
6. Mental health problems / intellectual disability in child
7. Homelessness
8. Unaccompanied minor
9. Parent unable to cope
10. Family member abusing drugs / alcohol
11. Family member involved in Crime
12. Domestic violence

13. Physical illness/disability in family member
14. Mental health problems / intellectual disability in family member
15. Family difficulty re. housing/finance
16. Parent separation / absence/ other disharmony in home
17. Asylum Seekers

Further discussion will be held with the Social Work Department regarding the analysis of the approximately 800 cases highlighted at the last SIM meeting by the HSE Childcare Manager to identify what community and other supports they or their families might be linked to.

### **Proposed Interreg Project – Family supports**

Margo Hayes leading up this project – Interreg office supporting the search for partner.

Currently seeking Welsh Partner – with a view to application being ready for early 2010 call

To strengthen families through home and community based services within the RAPID areas of Tipperary, Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir (an Welsh areas)

- Increase family support systems and stability and self-sufficiency within families
- Focus on physical and mental wellbeing of the family.
- Link families with formal and informal community resources.
- Provide parenting skills to improve techniques, trust and communication within the family
- Support positive parenting particularly where challenges exist such as addiction, separation, family breakdown, bereavement or children displaying challenging behaviours.
- Supporting parents under stress with the task of raising their children
- Reduce social isolation by linking the parents/families into their community
- Training for volunteers and community workers so that they are equipped to assist vulnerable families

**2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Programme** –Tess Collins gave an outline of a number of cases and the types of referrals (report attached) she outlined that there were 50 participants on the second chance programme. In the main they meet with the tenant and refer them to appropriate services where they exist.

Key points from the discussion on vulnerable families:

- Addiction is often a common denominator and there are not enough addiction /counselling services
- In the current climate it is unlikely there will be funding to expand services and the focus must be on retaining existing services
- It would be very useful to get some breakdown in terms of information on the 800 cases so that services could be targeted at families
- Prevention is the key – we will always be doing fire brigade work if preventative measures aren't developed – not always focusing on

winners – e.g. clubs to be encouraged to put out B team so that kids who don't make the A team get included.

**Actions:**

- Angela Joy to investigate where South Tipperary is at in terms of establishing the Childrens services Committee.
- Cora to investigate the interagency forum that operates like a interagency case conference in some other counties.
- Organisation of family support link day
- Work on Interreg application
- Angela to ask Social Work Department if they would be able to give us a breakdown of the 800 cases so that we know more about the target group and where to target services and what their community needs might be.