

South Tipperary Disability Action Plan 2007 – 2009, Report to SIM, April 2009. All actions appear to be going well with the possible exception of the following:

Theme	Proposed Action	Lead Agency	Required Output	Timeframe	KPI	National Policy link
1 Housing						
1.4	Networking and Information meeting LA, HSE, FAS , DSFA to attend	Local Authority	Information sharing so that all have better knowledge re accommodation issues	Before end September	No of meetings held	National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016
<i>Preliminary meeting held with HSE. HSE to identify key personnel to be involved.</i>						
Transport 3.1	Invite rep from Dept of Transport to subgroup of SIM to meet Disability reps to discuss actions to seek accessibility of service for both night and day activities	C+E invitation	Accessible transport provided	By end first quarter 2008	Meeting to take place	National Action Plan for social inclusion 2007-16, Disability Act 2005, 34, Towards 2016
Transport survey completed – promote sharing of resources						
4.2	All public bodies represented at SIM to provide a timeframe within which they will undertake an accessibility Audit and Accessibility Implementation Plan	HSE (agreed) Department of Education comment on right VEC (agreed) FAS (agreed) DSFA (agreed)	Accessibility Audit to be completed Implementation Plan drawn up and implemented	Report by mid-2008	Publication date supplied	Disability Act 2005, Part 3 Section 25 Access to Public Buildings Government Sectoral Plans
Update April 09	<i>County Council has reported, VEC has a programme of works re accessibility Co.Co (Pat Slattery) reports that a small number of works have been completed as part of ongoing maintenance works. The new housing development at Upper Abbey st. Cahir, has 19 units constructed for disabled and life long use. Pavements were designed for access and the overall design conforms with guidelines agreed as part of the access audit implementation plan Audit was completed in one HSE Health Centre – this information has already been captured in previous reports.</i>					
Update Sept 09	<i>County Council: Access Audit Complete. Implementation Plan Agreed and many of the works have started. 2008 – Parking and Footpaths in Clonmel, Tipperary Town, Cashel and Carrick complete. A Large proportion of works for County Hall has been completed and all works for County Hall will be completed by 2009. Work is commencing on any priority work re Cashel Civic Offices. Work on web site to make it more accessible has included installation of browsealoud software which lets clients hear the words on the web site. The 2009 plan includes carrying out works re footpaths and carparking in Clonmel, Kilcash, Cahir, Ardfinnan, Fethard, Tipperary and Cashel. Works have been notified to Gavin Cullen(Access Officer) who has notified Donal O'Hallorhan, South Tipperary Disability Forum. Works have also been identified for Clonmel Borough Council office for 09 and early 2010. Works on 3 Burial Grounds has been identified. Funding has been identified for all these projects in 09 and 2010.</i>					
4.3	Put in place a programme of works that ensures that all client communication and agency produced documents are provided in an accessible format	HSE agreed LA agreed VEC to consider DSFA agreed FAS to consider	All relevant documents in an accessible format	Report for next SIM meeting	Publication date supplied	Disability Act 2005, Part 3 Section 28, Access to Information. Government Sectoral Plans
<i>HSE and Council have reported, other agencies to report. South Tipperary County Council in conjunction with NCBI and Tipperary Institute are working on easy read version of Councils major policy documents. Work on web site to make it more accessible has included installation of browsealoud software which lets clients hear the words on the web site.</i>						

Employment 5.1	Carry out an audit of people with disabilities in the county	FAS	Set up an annual database that is easily accessible which updates the information in this area	Mid-2008	Completion date	Government Sectoral Plans National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016.
<i>This relates to an audit of those with disabilities in the county, not those with disabilities working in agencies</i>						
5.2	Reworded action: 'Public bodies in South Tipperary to report on what specific actions they are conducting to implement Part 5, Section 47 of the Disability Act 2005 in order to promote and support the employment of people with disabilities and to meet the 3% target.	VEC-IVEA to prepare	Guideline document in relation to the Employment of People with Disabilities to be completed	To report by first quarter of 2008	Publication of guidelines	Disability Act 2005 part 5 section 47 Public Service Employment 'Promote and support the employment of persons with disabilities'
<i>SIM meeting Nov 08 noted that current climate and recruitment pause may mean reduction on 3% target.</i>						
Health 6.						
6.1	Provide a programme of actions which identify how the "mental Health Policy "A Vision for Change" will be implemented in South Tipperary Currently in the adult Mental Health services there is a Services Development Group with responsibility for the roll out of this strategy document. Advocacy Groups have representation on this group	HSE,	Implementation programme prepared	Report by first quarter 2008		National Mental Health Policy
Update <i>Recent media discussions regarding St. Luke's Clonmel were discussed.</i>						
6.2	Investigate possibility of appointing a social inclusion officer in South Tipperary for people with mental health difficulties		Assessment of position completed and decision made	Report by first quarter 2008		Social Inclusion
Update It is not possible at this time (June 2009)						
7.2	All Statutory Bodies to provide or continue to provide Disability Awareness Training and Etiquette for their employees	LA agreed VEC agreed HSE agreed DSFA agreed	Disability Awareness Training to be provided to all staff within an agreed timeframe	Report on training programme by end 2008	No. of sessions held	Disability Act 2005 Government Sectoral Plans National Disability Strategy
Council and HSE have reported						
7.4	Investigate possibility of appropriate response mechanisms in emergency situations for those with a disability hearing/speech/sight etc)	999/112 phone service responders	PH to investigate	mid 2008	Investigation	Government Sectoral Plans Disability Act 2005
Update <i>The State's emergency (112/999) service tender has now been awarded to a consortium of BT and Conduit. Comreg will oversee service and price. Disability interests are apparently included in the contract but texting has not been accepted as a call out mechanism due to a 2% delay rate. SIM noted the above but queried the social inclusion value and requested further information from relevant user group.</i>						

The Disability group priorities for 2009 are to

1. progress all outstanding and blocked actions
2. begin work on identifying national-level issues (group was still working on local issues)

Gold Star Project - achievements to date Sept. 2009

- Logo Designed by young people – erected on all approach routes to the town
- Launch of Disability awareness cards – displayed locally – Chamber of Commerce printed the Do's and Don'ts on the back of letterhead paper
- Public Access Audits – South Tipperary County Council - STDGF consult
- UCC Diploma course running in Cashel – 28 graduates 08, 2008-2010 course commenced with 26 new participants
- People with disabilities trained to deliver GSDAT (Gold Star Disability Awareness Training) in the community – 130 local participants to date.
- Partnership between Tipp Institute, DFI, HSE and people with disabilities on GSDAT
- Promotion of www.accessireland.info website in Cashel
- Awareness programme designed by people with disabilities being delivered in local primary and secondary schools
- Gold Star Guidelines booklet being developed – Gradient award system being designed for Gold Star Status – (publication 2010)
- Transport survey – promote sharing of resources
- Photography competition – highlighting illegal use of accessible spaces and general universal access issues – Schools caption competition to be held as part of this project.
- Tourist access audit conducted with Irish Times Go Magazine 2009
- Sharing of resources/mainstreaming/Youth Service & Nagle Centre
- Invitations to other Town Councils and Family Resource Centers...etc have been received to deliver presentations on the Gold Star programme, including Galway City Council, Carlow CoCo, Hospital Family Resource Centre, Limerick.
- Engineer participating in 'wheel-about' with Gold Star volunteers
- 'A Day in The Life of Persons with Disabilities' – hosted at Halla na Feile
- Nagle Centre – participants working to design the boxes and install them in public buildings, shops, restaurants...etc
- Comhairle Na N'og: Children with disabilities included this year 2009 in partnership with South Tipp CoCo and TRYS and the Gold Star Programme – number of participative workshops being set up to help integrate the groups
- Winners of 2008 Community and Enterprise section of South Tipperary Entrepreneurial Awards

Future plans

- Publication of Guidelines booklet
- Initiation of Gold Star application process amongst service providers in the community
- Application for the Taoiseach Awards in October 2009
- Working with Junior Minister John Moloney, TD., to promote the programme nationally.
- Roll-out of Gold Star programme in other Towns in South Tipperary.
- On-going awareness raising and disability awareness training in the community & schools

Mental Health Update as part of disability Plan and Social Inclusion Audit (update April 09)

Further to your attendance at SMT meeting Wednesday last and response in respect of Action 6.1 South Tipperary Disability Action Plan 2007 – 2009 to the Social Inclusion Measure Group I wish to submit report for your attention.

The South Tipperary Social Inclusion Audit : Report 2 South Tipperary in Context includes a Review of Mental Health Services and Service Provision in South Tipperary, page 50 refers. The Report comments on management structures in the HSE and the need for strategic planning at local, regional and national level.

Management of Child & Adolescent and General Adult mental health services together with specialist services for Rehabilitation & Recovery and services for Older People are the responsibility of the Local Health Manager for South Tipperary Primary, Community and Continuing Care services. Other aspects of a comprehensive service have regional implications ,ie Intellectual Disability mental health services, Forensic services, Secure beds , Child & Adolescent beds and Addiction services.

The Report concludes that “mental health services in South Tipperary are far from addressing needs in a strategic and holistic manner.”

I set out hereunder the present position of South Tipperary Mental Health Services in respect of implementation of Vision for Change ,Report of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy 2006.

The Service Development Group produced the Five Year Plan for the Development of General Adult Mental Health Services in South Tipperary 2006 – 2010. It's content is informed by the Vision for Change document and the Health Service Reform Programme. The Plan sets out how the MH service intends to implement many of the recommendations of the Mental Health Commission and it's Inspectorate. Most of all, This Plan should be seen by service providers and users/carers as a road map for the development of services in South Tipperary. The Plan has two stated priorities which are co-dependent , one is development of community based services and the other is de-institutionalisation and the provision of alternative appropriate accommodation for the residents of St.Luke's Hospital.

At present St.Luke's Hospital has 106 beds in five wards, two wards have been closed during the past 15 months. The HSE South Service Plan 2009 includes a section on Service Reconfiguration in line with Vision for Change and specifically refers to the plan to close St.Luke's long stay facility by the end of 2010 and relocate all remaining residents to more appropriate community based settings. This is a priority objective for the HSE and a dedicated project manager has been appointed to work with the Clinical Director and senior management team in South Tipperary Mental Health Services to oversee full implementation.

Phase one of this plan is underway and in tandem with ward closure and resettlement programme for residents the community based infrastructure needed for development of services in the community is being planned and developed. Morton Street Day Centre , Clonmel is being renovated and extended and this project is scheduled for completion March 2009. Development of a Community Mental Health Centre for Clonmel on a site at Glenconnor Road is scheduled to commence in 2009 and will be completed in 2010 and will provide accommodation for three multidisciplinary teams to work in the community and day hospital facilities. Pending the development of this accommodation the one of the MDTs will move to interim accommodation in Clonmel.

This infrastructure is already developed in Cashel and Tipperary Town and community based services are at an advanced stage of development in both locations.

Phase two in 2010 includes the reconfiguration of the existing three mental health sectors into the Cashel and Clonmel Primary and Social Care networks so that mental health is fully integrated with primary care teams.

Provision of two new crisis houses , each with six places – one in each primary care network.

Provision of two High Support Residential Units, each with 12 beds to support the rehailiitation/recovery programme – one in each primary care network

Provision of three houses to accommodate the existing intellectual disability residents of St.Luke's

Provision of Community Nursing Unit in Clonmel to initially accommodate forty adults with enduring mental illness and facilitate the closure of St.Luke's Hospital by the end of 2010.

In addition a joint review of services which are provided in South Tipperary for residents of North Tipperary has been undertaken and is being considered by senior management with a view to care and treatment of North Tipperary residents being provided in their own catchment area/region.

The closure of wards will release resources for deployment to community based services and the development of services as recommended in Vision for Change and while substantial resources have already been deployed to the community further manpower planning is being undertaken to ensure that staff resources are provided to deliver a comprehensive mental health service going forward.