

Meeting notes of South Tipperary Social Inclusion Measures Group held on Monday June 20th, 2011 @ 2.15pm in Fire Station, Heywood Road, Clonmel

Present

Present: Margo Hayes, Angela Joy, Lisa Kavanagh, Jimmy Cass (substituting for Donal O'Halloran) Patricia Wall, Clare Cashman, Carmel Mckenna, Fionuala McGeever, Ruairi O'Caislain, Ann Ryan, Gerry Hickey(Chair)
Apologies: Clare Curley, Sinead Carr, Mark Ryan, Phil Shanahan, Kathleen Prendergast,

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – It was noted that Cllr Dennis Landy was resigning from SIM as he had been elected to the Seanad. His replacement would be the Chair of the Housing SPC but this position was not filled as yet.
2. **Change to agenda** – it was noted that Phil Shanahan was unable to attend the SIM meeting as Pobal Local Development Company plan was due to be in by end of week. The group agreed with Chair to have a discussion on Local Development Company Plan at this stage of the meeting before minutes and other agenda points. The SIM members outlined their concerns that there is very little room in the plan for Community Development or Social inclusion - target groups such as the elderly, people with disabilities will not be able to be supported in the new framework.

The meeting expressed serious concern on the future of social inclusion in the county. This arose mainly from an analysis of the new Pobal Local and Community Development framework for the South Tipperary Development Company social inclusion plan which is the same framework for the other development companies in the County, Tipperary Rural Traveller Project, Knockanrawley Resource Centre, Carrick on Suir Community Development Project.

The focus of the framework is on education and work readiness, with very little focus on community development. The programme has four goals;

1. Promote awareness, knowledge and uptake of a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community services; (10%)
2. Increase access to formal and informal educational, recreational and cultural development activities and resources; (40%)
3. Increase peoples' work readiness and employment prospects; (40%)
4. Promote active engagement with policy, practice and decision making processes on matters affecting local communities. (10%)

Depending on interpretation, it looks like there may be only 10% or 20% of the plan targeted towards social inclusion measures as we understand them. Also that there will be very little money for these actions. It seems that in the rush to get people back to work, and you may ask, what work, that other areas of social inclusion are being ignored, *the elderly, disability, travellers etc.* Concern was also expressed that South Tipperary Development Company seem to have become the main focus for facilitating job readiness in the county. Previously, this was the responsibility of the various FAS departments, Social Welfare and the VEC.

Questions from the meeting, included;

1. Is there duplication/triplication of funding here, STDC, FAS, LES, etc.
2. Under objective 2 of the framework, how are STDC able to increase access to formal and informal educational resources at a time when relevant programmes run by the VEC have not been enhanced to meet an increasing

demand.

The meeting also questioned whether our function and roles are being compromised by different government department initiatives which haven't any joined-up thinking. The role of Pobal in creating the new framework and who they are taking direction from, was questioned.

How can SIM co-ordinate initiatives at a local level when FAS\Dept of Education, FAS\Dept of Social Protection, Dept of Social Protection no longer attend at, or engage with SIM.

Action: It was agreed that a memo would be sent from SIM by the Chair re their concerns over the framework that the Local Development Companies have to develop their plans around. Members to feed into Gerry any additional points. The SIM group have asked the Chair, Gerry Hickey to bring their concerns about the pobal framework to the CDB to see if CDB will or give SIM permission to challenge Pobal and the relevant government Dept on the framework.

3. Notes of Previous Meeting (11thth April 2011) & Matters arising Notes were proposed by Patricia Wall and seconded by Angela Joy.

Matters arising:

Point 5.2 from April notes -Meeting of Sinead Carr and Ann Bradshaw re disability issues – as Sinead had given apologies it was agreed that there would be an update at the next meeting.

Point 5.6 from April notes : Angela Joy updated the group the establishment of STAN (South Tipperary Action Network – supporting mental health group) pointing out that a steering group was in place and a mental health service providers seminar/conference was being planned for Oct 10th World Mental Health Day at which service provider would be asked to become members of STAN. She pointed out that the hope would be that this group would be a sub group of SIM and that STAN would develop an interagency action plan around mental health

Point 7.1 from April notes – Update re Fethard – Angela noted that work in Fethard had included application for Tus Workers by the Community Council with support from Julie White. Two Meetings were also held in relation to establishing a Parent & Toddler Group in the area – this will be reviewed in September again as there was low attendance at the previous meeting.

Point 7.2 in April notes – Jimmy Cass raised the issue of lack of administrative support for the Disability Forum as Community organisations who had previously supported the Disability forum were no longer in position to do so due to funding cuts. Jimmy pointed out that it was critical for Disability Forum to have support to do meeting reports and updates etc The group discussed the issue again and it was agreed that Angela would discuss *with HSE Management the possibility of asking* Ann Bradshaw to support the group in the short term until the group had capacity themselves to do their own administrative support. Jimmy Cass pointed out that all the other reports coming to SIM were completed by paid workers. *Angela highlighted that Anne has additional duties to the Gold Star Project that are outside the disability area and was extremely busy.*

SIM Review: Membership, Roles, Operational Templates & Reporting Procedures – Ann circulated draft induction Pack which was discussed – members agreed to use templates and most of the discussion was focused on

**the membership- the membership going forward for SIM was agreed as follows
Draft SIM Membership Proposal – April 2011**

SIM GROUP MEMBERSHIP 2010/2011		
Person Nominated	Representing	Replacement person
Supt Pdraig Dunne	Garda Síochána	Superintendent Tom Duggan
Olive Forgarty (Ann to check)	Dept Social Protection/FAS	
Angela Joy	HSE	
Fionuala McGeever	VEC	Eileen Condon
Phil Shanahan	South Tipperary Development Co	
Sinead Carr	South Tipperary County Council	
Carmel McKenna	Community Development Projects	
Patricia Wall	Community & Voluntary Forum	Jimmy Cass
Gerry Hickey	County Childcare Committee	Clare Cashman
Chair of Housing SPC	Elected member who is a member of the County Development Board	
Clare Cashman	Family Resource Centres	
Each Rapid Co-ordinator Mark Ryan/Kathleen Prendergast/Margo Hayes	RAPID Programme	
Clare Cashman,	Elderly Services Group	
Donal O'Halloran	Disability Sub-Group	Jimmy Cass
Clare Curley	Traveller Interagency Committee	Ger Walsh
Mark Ryan	Safety and Security Partnership	
Lisa Kavanagh	Disconnected Youth Sub-Group	
Phil Shanahan	Unemployment / Social Inclusion Employment Strategy	
Ruairi O'Caisleain / Mark Ryan	Family Supports Sub-Group	
Ruairi O'Caisleain / Mark Ryan	Children's Services Cttee	
To be nominated	Probation & Welfare Service	Probation & Welfare Manager
To be nominated	Knockanrawley Resource Centre	Co-ordinator
To be nominated	Housing Section	Manager
To be nominated	Tipperary Regional Youth Service	CEO/Manager
To be nominated	Waterford & Tipperary Community Youth Service	CEO/Manager
To be nominated	Spafield Family Resource Centre	CEO/Manager
To be nominated	Millennium Family Resource Centre	CEO/Manager
To be nominated	Tipperary Rural Travellers Project	CEO/Manager

To be nominated	Three Drives Family Resource Centre	CEO/Manager
To be nominated	The Suir Community Development Project	CEO/Manager
To be nominated	Feroige	CEO/Manager
Other notes re membership		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cora Horgan and/or Fionuala McGeever to represent Drugs Task Force on SIM • STDC Social Inclusion networks to be considered for a place on SIM once they are established • Ann to check with any member if they have not been attending • Fionuala McGeever to feedback and to link to Dept of Education on behalf of SIM • Disability Sector seat is essential on SIM • Social Protection rep should be in position to encompass remit of community services and employment services • Some members are in position to represent a number of sub groups or nominating groups. • A member of SIM must be on each sub group 		

4. South Tipperary Development Company – Social Inclusion programme - Phil Shanahan – to be rescheduled until next meeting

5. Subgroup updates

Updated were taken as read and are attached.

The following points were noted:

Elderly services – Clare Cashman

- Need for organisation around the county to develop activities for positive ageing week
- Cashel Positive Ageing group is growing naturally into the county elderly services group

Family Support sub group – Rurairi O’Caislain

- Family support organisations to support referrals or introductions more to other services
- HSE Social Work dept to actively introduce non active case referrals to Barnardos
- Barnardos to see how the Limerick assessment of needs model could be introduced into Barnardos Family conference

Disconnected Youth Sub group – Lisa Kavanagh

- Likely to be greater drop outs due to cuts
- Lack of formal tracking system for early school leavers – could there be a role for STDC in this area
- Needs of early school leavers in current climate, workshop – on 21st June 2011

Traveller Interagency – Ann Ryan on behalf of Clare Curley

- Withdrawal of traveller support will have a serious impact especially in area of education

Community Safety Sub group Ann Ryan on behalf of Mark Ryan

- Key priorities for 2011 were outlined

6. Children’s Services Committee update – Ruairi gave an update on the childrens services committee which is currently being established. Ruairi outlined that a preliminary meeting was being organised for 30th June with key stakeholders : County Council, HSE, Gardai and the VEC

7. Comhairle na nÓg- Alan Ryan, Niamh O Brien & Jacqueline Ni Fhogrataigh gave a presentation on Comhairle na nOg in South Tipperary and showed a bullying DVD that was produced by the Comhairle group. The SIM members congratulated Comhairle members on their work. Angela said she would ask

Dr Meave Martin to have a look at the DVD and offer feedback to the Comhairle group.

8. AOB

Fionuala McGeever updated on the following

1. **Music Strategy** – Comprehensive application made for first bid – South Tipperary were shortlisted but unsuccessful – will be following up with a bid for second round in the Autumn
2. **Tipperary Women's Mini Marathon** – 18th September 10k- Clonmel <http://www.tippminimarathon.ie/>
3. **South Tipperary Sports Partnership Plan is now available** - Copies of the Strategic Plan are available from the South Tipperary Sports Partnership, Civic Offices, Cashel, Co. Tipperary. Tel: 062 64783 / 64737 – E-mail: info@stsp.ie.

The meeting Closed : Next SIM meeting 12th September at 2.15 pm

9.