

Meeting Notes of **South Tipperary Social Inclusion Group** held on 11th April 2011 in the Fire Station Building, Heywood Road, Clonmel.

Attendance:

Gerry Hickey, SIM Chair	(South Tipperary County Childcare Cttee)
Sinead Carr	(South Tipperary Co Co)
Clare Curley	(South Tipperary Co Co)
Supt Padraig Dunne	(An Garda Siochana)
Margo Hayes	(RAPID/ Community & Enterprise STCC)
Angela Joy	(HSE)
Lisa Kavanagh	(South Tipperary VEC)
Fionuala McGeever	(South Tipperary VEC)
Ruairi O'Caisleain	(HSE)
Donal O'Halloran	(South Tipperary Disability Group Forum)
Mark Ryan	(RAPID/ Community & Enterprise STCC)
Patrica Wall	(South Tipperary C & V Forum)

Guest Inputs:

Liam Kelly	(Muintir na Tire)
Philly Ryan	(Muintir na Tire)
Helen Halpin	(Junior Achievement Award, Ireland)
Lisa McKetterick	(Junior Achievement Award, Ireland)

Apologies:

Clare Cashman	(Millennium Family Resource Centre)
Kathleen Prendergast	(RAPID / Community & Enterprise STCC)
Cllr Denis Landy	(South Tipperary Co Co)
Carmel McKenna	(Suir CDP)
Phil Shanahan	(South Tipperary Development Company)

1. Introductions & Notes of Last Meeting

The Chair, Gerry Hickey, opened the meeting and the notes of the last Meeting (June 30th) were adopted.

2. Matters Arising

- 2.1) Mark Ryan passed on apologies from Phil Shanahan who had been misinformed of the Meeting date and time.

2.2) Fionuala McGeever told the Meeting that the South Tipperary Music Partnership application, led by the VEC, had been shortlisted by the Dept.

3. Project Briefing - Muintir na Tire "Celtic Links" Interreg Project (Liam Kelly & Philly Ryan)

Liam Kelly and Philly gave an in-depth briefing on behalf of Muintir regarding aspects of their successful application to the Interreg EU funding programme application and the opportunities for Funding and for Community Development work under this initiative. The Interreg programme is an EU Community programme that aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion by promoting international and cross-border co-operation between regions, in this case - Celtic Links - between Ireland and Wales. This strand, covering 2007-2013 has an overall aim of addressing issues relating to innovation, entrepreneurship, the knowledge economy, climate change and community regeneration between both countries. The steps in developing a project application were identified as: Identifying a partner project in Wales, Declaration of Interest, meet Managing Body Staff (South East Regional Authority), Nominate a Lead Partner, Source Matched Funding, Submit Project Application Form.

As part of the Briefing the input also referenced the European Anti-Poverty Network which is a valuable resource to identify EU funding-lines on Social and Community Development. The Youth in Action Programme was specifically mentioned as a significant funding source with €885 million available for projects across the EU.

In relation to the Celtic Links project the Meeting was told that South Tipperary and Waterford County were the agreed territories for the Ireland-Wales effort under this venture. The project will focus on developing and supporting local community efforts in many parts of the rural county areas without existing support structures, using the Muintir na Tire Model of Community Development in the local area. In particular to identify gaps in service and information provision in the project target areas and improving the competitive advantage of these rural areas and mobilising communities' own expertise and resources, stimulating social and economic development.

Both Sinead Carr and Clare Curley were particularly keen to follow up with Muintir na Tire on the proposals as outlined by Liam and Philly.

4. Project Briefing - Junior Achievement Awards, Ireland (Helen Halpin & Lisa McKetterick)

Margo Hayes, Carrick-on-Suir RAPID Co-Ordinator, gave a comprehensive overview of the Education initiative provided by the Junior Achievement Awards programme. This venture was funded under the Dormant Accounts Fund and ran over a 12 month period to develop broader

skills into the school curriculum. The *Enterprise Challenge* element of the programme targets young people in areas of economic and social disadvantage who are at high risk of falling into anti-social behaviour and dropping out of school prematurely. This project took place in the Carrick-on-Suir RAPID area and immerses the young people in a dynamic and innovative enterprise programme that will help them set realistic goals and encourage them to reach their full potential.

The overall project aims are to:

- Improve the life skills of disadvantaged young people and prepare them for a successful transition from education to work or further training.
- Persuade at-risk teenagers to stay in school and realise their full potential.
- Provide positive role models from the business sector to encourage young people in danger of social exclusion to raise their aspirations and plan for their futures.

Helen Halpin and Lisa McKetterick provided additional back-up information on the Programme. Feedback from course participants was very positive with a higher level of awareness of career choices and 3rd level opportunities as a result of the Programme.

Fionuala McGeever gave her approval and support to the Junior Achievement Awards and would explore how it may be incorporated further into the VEC Schools in the County. Mark Ryan also expressed an interest in rolling-it out in Tipperary Town, in conjunction with the existing School Completion Programme and would follow-up on this as an option, in the absence of a new round of Dormant Accounts Funds.

5. Sub-Group Updates

Sub-Group Updates were presented as follows:

5.1 Disconnected Youth Sub-Group

Lisa Kavanagh of the VEC presented a verbal Update Report on the Disconnected Youth Sub-Group. The Early School Leavers document was currently being updated and there was a specific need to expand the Sub-Group membership as there had been a drop-off on Agency and Project participation - notably Dept of Education, FAS and the Pathways Early-School Leavers project as there was no longer funding to employ a Project Worker. Sinead Carr informed the Meeting that the absence of reps from the Dept of Education and FAS was a direct result of existing re-structuring within those particular agencies and extended beyond the Sub-Group to all other committees at the present time.

5.2 Disability

Donal O'Halloran of the South Tipperary Disability Groups Forum presented a verbal Update Report on the Disability Forum concern that this Sub-Group be retained in its own right and not to be subsumed or integrated across other Sub-Groups as had been previously suggested at a previous Meeting. Donal told the Meeting that there was a strong case for retaining that particular Sub-Group on the basis of providing a direct focus for the wider Disability Sector to input at County level and that Forum was working through a 2011-2013 Workplan of Actions.

In response Sinead Carr outlined that the alternative proposal was to offer the opportunity for integrating disability issues across all other Sub-Group and as a result all other Sub-Groups would be compelled to have Disability-proof Plans in place, thereby strengthening the Disability agenda in the County.

Patrica Wall gave a commitment that the South Tipperary Development Company would also seek to support the Disability Forum to develop its current Workplan.

It was agreed that Sinead Carr and Donal O'Halloran would meet with Anne Bradshaw of the HSE to look at the best option for enhancing and promoting Disability Issues.

5.3 Traveller Interagency Group

Clare Curley, South Tipperary County Council, repeated the ongoing issue of the absence of a Dept of Education and FAS rep on the Inter Agency group as impacting on the strategic development of Traveller Issues. There were also concerns about the withdrawal by the Dept of Education of Special Travellers Education Programmes from Sept 2011 across the Country, with implications for South Tipperary.

Fionuala McGeever also highlighted her concerns from a VEC perspective, as the Traveller Education Programmes were a key Education support in South Tipperary.

5.4 Safety & Security Partnership

Mark Ryan, South Tipperary County Council, gave a verbal Update Report on the South Tipperary Community Safety Strategy as at the final stage of Consultation, before it can be finally approved by the South Tipperary Joint Policing Committee. He added that an extra Action had been included as part of the final Draft through the proposal to develop Restorative Justice Projects in South Tipperary. This Action would be led by the Probation and Welfare Service as an alternative to custodial sentencing, through a process of Mediation and Community Service Orders.

5.5 Family Supports Sub-Group

Ruairi O'Caisleain of the HSE presented a verbal Update on the forthcoming Family Supports Conference on May 6th, focusing on specific Models of Integrated Family Supports Services. Guest Speakers would outline a variety of Models identified by front-line staff as possible measures in South Tipperary. these included ION Model in Sligo, LANS Model in Limerick, Barnardos Family Support Conferences and a specific focus on Drugs issues facing Families by the Family Support Network.

5.6 Mental Health

Angela Joy of the HSE outlined that the Mental Health and Wellbeing issue was being developed through a South Tipperary Mental Health Forum, in conjunction with the South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum and she would produce a further Update in the near future. It was agreed that Mark Ryan did not need to prepare a Scoping Document on Mental Health Wellbeing until the Mental Health Forum had been convened.

6. SIM Review: Membership, Operational Templates & Reporting Procedures

Sinead Carr and Mark Ryan jointly introduced the SIM Review issues that had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. It was agreed by the Chair Gerry Hickey that the matters for discussion, including approval of Templates and proposals for extended membership should be deferred to the next SIM in order to have a thorough and detailed opportunity to consider the future arrangement of SIM. It was agreed that the next SIM Meeting, in June, would be specifically devoted to this issue.

7. AOB

7.1 Angela Joy of the HSE raised concerns about the need for a particular focus on enhancing projects and facilities in the Fethard area of the County. There was particular need for developing a local Parent & Toddler Group and there was a strong pattern of Anti-Social Behaviour among older children and teens in the Town. Angela highlighted the role of Catherine Andrews, Community Liaison Officer with the County Council, the Public Health Nurse and members of the local Garda Siochana for their efforts and stressed the need for a particular Inter-Agency intervention in the area.

Patrica Wall supported this concern and proposed that the existing groups in Fethard be facilitated to link in and Network outside of the area to identify Models of Good practice elsewhere in the County.

Lisa Kavanagh pointed out that the lack of a local Youth worker in the area was having a serious impact there. She told the Meeting that there was no funding for Youth Work in

the area and was dependent on Volunteer Leaders to carry this effort.

The Meeting felt that there was a demonstrable gap in both Resources and Service Delivery in the area and this matter could be a project under the South Tipperary Development Company budget.

- 7.2 Sinead Carr raised the issue of the Dept of the Environment cut in funding to the South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum and invited suggestions on how to resource the Forum as an essential process in the County. She emphasised that the funding cut was instigated by the Dept and that the County Council could not carry the burden at this time.

Donal O'Halloran pointed out that this cut should be appealed on the basis that each individual volunteer's time and effort can be measured at €15 per hour and this should be factored-in by the Government when addressing the cuts.

Fionuala McGeever recommended that the issue be raised as a possible project under the South Tipperary Development Company.

SIM Chair, Gerry Hickey, asked if the matter could be presented to the County Development Board and Sinead Carr replied that this would be done under the Local Agenda 21 input at the next CDB meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting of SIM will take place on June 20th at 2.15pm.