

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group
Meeting notes of 7th April 2009
Held at Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Summary:

- Working group plans were reviewed
- Draft Teenspace strategy was reviewed and approved
- A County Data unit proposal is being progressed
- A CDB Executive is being set up
- A rep. to Traveller Interagency Committee would be assigned by Dept of Ed.& Science. High level representation would be followed up.
- The County Development Company will be asked to convene an initial stakeholders meeting re Elderly services and the General Manager, HSE will be asked to nominate a staff member to attend.
- A Safety and Security recommendation that the level of English be assessed when people are applying for PPN numbers was not accepted by SIM but a request that English language training be included in training for the unemployed was.
- The issue of transport for disconnected youth would be considered by the DOS etc
- Angela Joy agreed to seek to set up a meeting between educational and psychiatric interests to discuss joint issues.

Present: Sinead Carr, DoS, Breda Corr Pobal, Angela Joy HSE, Cora Horgan TRYS, Bridget O’Keeffe, Fionuala McGeever VEC, Phil Shanahan STDC, Sheila Comerford SCP, Patricia Wall C+VF, Clare Cashman MFRC, Eileen Horgan C+E, Gerry Hickey STCCC, Siobhan Madden AGS, Community Policing Unit, Dan Fox IFA, Antje Hogan TIS, Gráinne de Stafford Spafield FRC, Marie Boland Tipperary Libraries, John C. Devane, STDC, Julie White C+VF, Eileen Condon Adult Ed. VEC, Olive Fogarty, D SFA, Andrew McMahon Welfare Dept HSE, Marie McMahon, South Tipperary County Museum, Kathleen Prendergast Clonmel RAPID, Ger. Walsh Housing Section, South Tipperary County Council, Jarlath Fallon, DES, Liam O’Brien FÁS.

Apologies: Margo Hayes, Mark Ryan RAPID coordinators, Sean McSweeney Knockanrawley, Billy Doyle, Clonmel Borough Council.

Chairperson: Jimmy Cass, Comm. + Vol. Forum

Agenda item 1: Members were introduced and the secretary thanked for his contribution to the work of the SIM since 2003. Ann Ryan was welcomed as the new SIM secretary. The meeting report of the previous meeting were proposed by Gerry Hickey and seconded by Eileen Condon.

Agenda Item 2: Progress of 2009 Work Programme

Traveller Interagency Committee

- Forum has continued to meet on a regular basis:3 meetings held since last progress report in November 2008
 - 10th December 2008
 - 19th February 2009
 - 12th March 2009
- Next meeting is scheduled for 13th May 2009

- Attendance by Agencies is reasonable, however, it is critical that there is consistency in the level of attendances by all Agencies and in any event that each Agency ensures that a Representative attends all meetings.
- Ongoing progress being reported by each Agency in relation to their objectives and any obstacles are highlighted for follow up to SIM.
- To date; 6 objectives completed of which 2 are ongoing; 30 in progress, 9 not commenced due to lack of funding. It is noted that the Forum continues to develop and a number of objectives have been amended/replaced by relevant Agency having regard to their work with the Travelling Community.

Success to date

- Traveller Accommodation Plan 2009 – 2013 adopted after extensive consultation.
- Manure composting project in progress
- All Ireland Health Census completed by Traveller Employees with H.S.E.
- 30 week health related fitness programme completed in Cashel
- Men's health & literacy programme commenced in Cashel
- Substance Misuse Team established a drop in centre in Peter Street, Clonmel for Travellers.
- Funding approved by Pobal for a Traveller Men's Development Project for €116,000 over a 2 year period.
 - Lead Agency will be Tipperary Rural Traveller Project.
 - Objective to engage with Traveller men that will lead them into more structured training and learning opportunities.
 - Areas of engagement will include handball, boxing, literacy and computers, soccer, horse care, gym and swimming, driver theory test, health and fitness.
- Clonmel Traveller Horse Project - feasibility study completed
- Facilitator to be appointed in South Tipperary in Department of Social and Family Affairs.
- Issue re: training for local MABS personnel in Traveller Specific issues has been addressed by National MABS.

Concerns/Issues

Replacement of Visiting Teacher in South Tipperary and need for Representative from Department of Education and Science to attend meetings in the interim.

Matters Arising:

- In response to the issue of the Visiting Teacher Jarlath Fallon noted that their case load was being shared out among adjoining teachers and this process was in hand.

- A representative to the Interagency Committee would be assigned by the Dept. Ed and Science
- The local authority were thanked for their support to the Mens Development project.
- With regard to the need for high-level representatives to the Traveller Interagency committee, Sinead Carr and Clare Cashman, chair, agreed to follow this matter up.

Disability Plan Process

The list of issues which might not be proceeding was reviewed and updated and is attached as an appendix to this meeting report. A Disability Forum representative would soon be elected to the SIM.

Elderly

Tipperary Information Services had undertaken preparatory work for the stakeholders meeting. It was agreed to

- request the Co. Development Company to convene the initial stakeholders meeting and to
- request the General Manager, HSE to nominate a staff member to attend the stakeholders meeting re: the elderly care brief.

Safety and Security:

The report (already) circulated was discussed and in particular two actions recommended by the group to SIM

1	Recommendation that the level of English proficiency of migrants be assessed, on a non-personal data basis, when people are applying for PPN numbers or unemployment benefit be sent to SIM and CDB for national discussion
2	Recommendation that any FAS or other training scheme for the unemployed include provision for English language training, this recommendation be sent to SIM and CDB for national discussion

SIM response

1. SIM agreed that this request was not administratively possible and that English classes were available throughout the county. The HSE undertook to display data regarding such English classes in their clinics throughout the county.
2. Liam O Brien agreed to forward this recommendation to the relevant authorities in FAS.

Agenda item 3: Disconnected Youth

Jarlath Fallon, Chair, Disconnected Youth Working Group presented a short report on the main issues identified by the working group :

- a) A need for ways in which young people could study for the Leaving Cert. outside of the mainstream schools.
- b) Lack of sufficient alternative/further training provision
- c) Transport to the few alternative services in the county

- d) Need for data on issue outside Suir Valley (being worked on at present)
- e) Pathways-type service outside Suir Valley
- f) Psychological services including anger management
- g) Service ‘black spots’ including the Fethard Electoral Area and to the south-west of Cahir and the north-west of the county.
- h) Reported reluctance of the HSE to discuss issues relating to any issues arising in an educational context as it has ‘no educational remit’.

Discussion/Actions arising

- 1) The issue of Transport and possible use of the Ringalink service would be considered by the Director and Ann Ryan.
- 2) The HSE were to provide a speaker on Anger Management to the group
- 3) Angela Joy agreed to seek to set up a meeting between the educational and psychiatric interests to discuss joint issues.

Agenda Item 4: Teenspace Strategy:

Sinead Carr and Marie McMahon presented the draft Teenspace strategy:

- Programme for Government 2002 committed to developing a National Play & Recreational Policy to ensure that all children have access to a minimum standard of play and recreational facilities
- National Policy “Ready Steady Play” was published in 2004 and was designed for children of a primary school age
- Based on this STCC developed a Playground Policy document and set a target of 3 playgrounds in each of the electoral areas. This has been exceeded and is now being reviewed
- A 2nd Gov Publication “Teen-space – National Recreational Policy for Young People” (Sept 2007) targeted the needs of teenagers

Teen-space Document identified 7 core aims

- Give young people a voice in the design of recreational policy and facilities
- Promote organised activity for young people
- Develop youth friendly safe environments
- Maximise the range of recreational opportunities for marginalised or disadvantaged young people
- Promote relevant qualifications/standards in the provision of recreational activities
- Develop a partnership approach in developing/funding recreational opportunities across the statutory sector, community and voluntary sectors
- Improve information and monitor recreational provision for young people

Purpose of this document is to give local effect to the objectives of this national document and to draw up an integrated strategy focussed on LA activity as phase 1
The ultimate aim is to incorporate and co-ordinate LA activity with other relevant stakeholders and service providers once the structures are in place to allow this to happen (VEC and Youth Service Providers).

Document is divided into 6 sections

- Section 1 provides a statistical overview

- Section 2 provides an overview of the existing facilities and service providers
- Section 3 deals with the level of activity and diversity of activity that the LA is currently engaged with in youth area
- Section 4 outlines the Councils Youth strategy based on the 7 core principles
- Section 5 outlines the Action Plan for 2009 onwards
- Section 6 outlines the process for monitoring and reviewing the activities of the LA's in this area

South Tipperary Local Authorities Integrated Teen-space Strategy

This is a consultation exercise seeking feedback and direction from SIM. The active engagement and feedback from Comhairle na nOg has also been sought and they will be asked to attend relevant SPC to have their input. It would be hoped that SIM, with whatever amendments are made would seek to build on this and strive to achieve an overall county strategy involving all of the stakeholders thereby ensuring that tight resources are used in a manner that will provide best value to this particular cohort.

Section 1 – Statistical Overview

The sources used for this included

- reference to the study carried out by Tipperary Institute for the Youth Service Providers in 2006
- Youth Needs and Service Provision in Fethard – Tipperary Institute 2005
- CSO 2006
- South Tipperary County Development Plan 2009 – 2015
- STDC Response to the call for the submission of proposals to implement the Rural Development programme Axes 3 and 4
- South Tipperary Social Inclusion Audit (Community Consultants for CCP 2008)

The overall conclusions identified by the various studies and the statistical information carried out conclude that

- Activities and programmes need to be centred around the main towns as this is where the bulk of the youth population exist
- Adequate outreach facilities need to be provided/facilitated in the more rural locations, particularly around Fethard, Killenaule and Cahir
- Specific provision to be mindful of the special categories such as disabled, marginalised/disengaged youths, migrants and travellers
- Collaboration and co-ordination to be actively undertaken with other service providers in order to leverage maximum value to the client base

Section 2 – Overview of Facilities and Service providers in the County

The information in this section is sourced from the TI 2006 Document . This document provides an outline of the facilities and resources available to the County for those in the age group 13 – 19. This document is updated by the Youth Facilities Audit undertaken by the VEC in their role as co-ordinator of youth service providers. The purpose of this information is to provide sources for those personnel in the LA who are working on programmes and activities focussed on those in their teenage years. It should assist in identifying appropriate partners for relevant projects and will assist in identifying where

additional leverage and value can be added in relation to the LA's own teen based programme

Section 3 – Existing LA Youth Centred Activities

LA already undertakes a significant level of activity with the cohort concerned. This section details the level of resources which the Council has at its disposal which has a recreational interest. This covers both personnel and facilities. It provides the opportunities even within the organisation for joint activity between sections. Covers areas such as swimming pool attendants, librarians, tenant liaison officers, soccer development officer; sports co-ordinator; heritage officer, arts officer, Public Awareness officer etc. A number of key strategies developed in-house will also inform the implementation of this document – The Arts Strategy; The Museum Strategy; The Heritage Plan, the Sports Strategy, The Libraries Strategy and the County Development Plan

Section 4 – Integrated Teen Recreational Strategy

This section is framed within the context of the findings of the previous 3 sections and in particular with reference to

- the 7 core objectives of the National Teen-space Strategy
- Encouraging linkages with other organisations and stakeholders
- Working together in-house to create linkages and maximise value
- Delivering programmes in an inclusive manner without stigmatising the marginalised
- Being mindful of the geographic spread of the youth cohort and ensure programmes are based not only in the key towns but also in the more isolated areas where access to services and youth facilities is poor

Monitoring

- An annual review of the achievement of the objectives in this strategy to be carried out
- Annual activity plans to be drawn up
- Assessment of the review will be carried out in tandem with Comhairle na nOg and through the auspices of the Cultural SPC

South Tipperary Local Authorities Integrated Teen-space Strategy -

- LA is involved in a number of areas which is not always fully appreciated even in-house
- It is hoped that this will act as a template going forward for a full integrated county plan to be drawn up that will co-ordinate all providers

Marie McMahon then gave a presentation showing how each section of the County Council had an involvement in youth services.

Discussion Points arising:

1. SIM members agreed that this was an important document
2. While it was important to service the main population centres, it was equally important not to forget rural areas

3. Broad-based community facilities should include and allow youth activities
4. the term ‘youth café’ is now becoming a cliché and what is required is a youth-friendly space
5. Child protection training is needed in the county
6. Comments on the draft are very welcome
7. The youth service audit needs to be updated
8. the youth consultation model may have to be updated to take account of their daily lives etc
9. The youth services can provide best practice guidelines re consultation
10. SIM agreed that other agencies could be included in the Strategy
11. Clare Cashman urged the provision of services in the Fethard Electoral area.

Agenda item 5

The RAPID plans had been endorsed by the SIM sub-committee.

Agenda item 6: A.O.B.

County Data Unit: Sinead Carr noted that a proposal re a County Data Unit was being progressed. Tipperary Institute and Tipperary Information Service were thanked for their assistance and it was hoped to have further information by next meeting.

CDB Executive: The CDB executive, consisting of the chairs of the Programme Management groups, the Director and Council Cathaoirleach would be set up shortly.

Dates of meetings in 2009:

<p>Tuesday 9th June 09, 2.00-4.30 Park Hotel</p>	<p>Draft agenda ? Social Inclusion in South Tipperary/Cohesion Process, Drugs Task Force Report Cut backs and Social Inclusion, verbal reports and discussion</p>
<p>Monday 14th Sept. 09 2.00-4.30 Venue to be determined</p>	<p>Review of working groups plus standing issues</p>
<p>Monday 9th Nov 09 2.00-4.30 Venue to be determined</p>	<p>Review meeting re year’s actions and plan for 2010 RAPID NMC reports</p>

Standing items to include updates on inter-agency plans/working groups and RAPID topics, plus occasional items.

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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 2007-2010
	<i>Work in progress</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
	<i>Ann Bradshaw working on this, hoping to meet Minister of State and FAS</i>					
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 Section 25 Access to Public Building Government Sectoral Plan
)	<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</i>					

	Centre – this information has already been captured in previous reports.					
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 Section 28, Access to Information. Government Sectoral Plan
	<i>HSE and Council have reported, other agencies to report.</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 Plan National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2010
	<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	HSE,	Implementation programme prepared	Report by first quarter 2008		National Mental Health Policy

	on this group					
<i>Update</i>	<i>Recent media discussions regarding St. Luke's Clonmel were discussed. See longer report below</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	Decision	Social Inclusion
<i>Update</i>	<i>General Mgr HSE now has this responsibility See longer report below</i>					
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 Plan National Disability Strate
	<p><i>Council has reported</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability Training 2008 HSE Staff: Deaf Hear Awareness Training – 28th Feb 2008 Social Care Leader, Tipperary Community Services Social Care Manager, Tipperary Community Services Deaf Hear Awareness Training – 14th May 2008 PHN, Tipperary Community Services Social Work Team Leader, Tipperary Community Services Community Development Worker / Disabilities, Tipperary Community Services Social Care Worker, Tipperary Community Services Disability Awareness Training – 1st Oct 2007 Functional Officer, Tipperary Community Services Grade V, Tipperary Community Services Clerical Officer, Tipperary Community 					

	Services Grade VII, Tipperary Community Services					
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 Plan 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>					

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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)

Mental Health Update as part of disability Plan and Social Inclusion Audit

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 rehailitiation/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.