

## Meeting Notes of South Tipperary Social Inclusion Measures Group held in Fire Station, Heywood Road on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Present: Tess Collins – Community Liaison Officer, Mark Ryan- Rapid Tipperary Town, Paul Martin – Homestart, John Devane- Tipperary Development Company, Phil Shanahan – Tipperary Development Company, Sheila Comerford – School Completion project, Pat Holland – C&E, Geraldine Mullane – Cuan Saor, Marie Boland –Libraries, Cora Horgan – Tipperary Regional Youth Services, Bridget O’Keeffe – Nano Nagle Resource Centre, Patricia Wall – Community & Voluntary Forum, Dan Fox – Farming Pillar, Eileen Condon – Adult Education Co-ordinator – VEC, Donal O’Hallorhan –South Tipperary Disability Forum, Sean McSweeney – Knockanrawley Resource Centre, Antje Hogan – Co Tipperary Citizens Information Service, Clare Cashman- Family Resource Centres, Angela Joy – HSE, Margo Hayes – Rapid Carrick on Suir, Carol McDonnell – Barnardos, Sinead Carr – South Tipp Co Co, Jimmy Cass (Chair), Kathleen Prendergast- Rapid Clonmel, Grainne De Stafford- Spafield Family Resource Centre, Carmel McKenna- Suir Community Development Project, Fionnuala McGeever- South Tipp VEC, Jarlath Fallon, Dept of Education, Jim Gibson - HSE.

Apologies: Liam O’Brien, Gerry Hickey

1. Introductions, Adoption of Minutes and Matters Arising  
Minutes were agreed. Proposed: Bridget O’Keeffe, Seconded: Antje Hogan

Matters Arising:

- 1.1. **Data Unit** – Sinead gave an update on the data unit and informed members that 3 submissions had been received and were currently being assessed. She said she would be in touch with individual agencies as decisions needed to be made if agencies were in our out and in a position to contribute funding as a decision need to be made on the data unit by October 09 if possible
- 1.2. Sinead raised the **Social Inclusion Employment Strategy**. Phil Shanahan informed the group that the strategy was developed and the Tipperary Development Company was looking at resourcing the implementation of it at present. She also outlined that there had been additional cutbacks from Pobal on funding.
- 1.3. **Breeda Corr resignation** - South Tipperary will be with the South West region under the new POBAL: structures and the POBAL person in the region will be Padraig de Burca – [pdeburca@pobal.ie](mailto:pdeburca@pobal.ie)
- 1.4. **HSE Elderly Contact persons:**
  - Community Services – Bridget Farrell Tel: 052 – 88292 Email: [Bridget.Farrell1@hse.ie](mailto:Bridget.Farrell1@hse.ie)
  - Hospital Services – Michael Boland Tel: 052 – 77473 Email: [Michael.Boland@hse.ie](mailto:Michael.Boland@hse.ie)
- 1.5. **Action 6.2 in the Disability Plan**. HSE response “*Investigate the possibility of appointing a social inclusion officer in South*

*Tipperary for people with mental health difficulties.” – This is not possible at this time.*

- 1.6. **The Traveller Inter-Agency Group** requested a Senior Management Person (decision maker, aware of budget) to attend the meetings. The system in place within the HSE for this is; the Traveller Public Health Nurse attends to represent the HSE, the Senior Community Development Worker is a link and support to the PHN regarding community development areas of work, the support and link regarding budgets and decision making of the Regional Social Inclusion Officer (Liam Keane – the PHN has a strategic link with Liam).

## **2. Elderly services sub group report**

Phil Shanahan gave an update on work of Elderly services sub group.

HSE confirmed Bridget Farell as HSE rep for Elderly – Bridget is now on the sub group.

Seminar being organised : ‘Elderly Services – Managing change in a challenging Environment’ to be held during positive ageing week – possibly **Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> October.**

Target audience :service providers in the South Tipperary both statutory and voluntary.

The seminar will highlight best practice models of elderly service provision – possible speakers might include some of the following:

1. Presentation on review of Elderly services in South Tipperary
2. Befriending project – Tipperary Town
3. Newcastle – Good Morning South Tipperary
4. Homecare package - Sligo
5. speaker from Day Care Centre
6. speaker from Active Retirement group
7. Elderly services – HSE
8. Muintir na Tire – National Coordinator for Community Alert
9. The National Council for Older People

Services to have stands at seminar

Currently seeking key note speaker

Funding of seminar – low cost seminar – to be held in community space - Cappawhite Resource Center – may seek funding from Development Company.

3. **Cora Hogan - Drugs Task Force Report** – Cora talked through the report. It was pointed out that in the climate of tightening budgets it was very important to see how each agency/organisation could build the actions of the plan into their own area of work. Cora asked member to complete the template circulated outlining how they could participate in implementing the actions within their own work plans.

**Action:** Document to be circulated by Ann and replies to be sent to Cora.  
Document Attached

## **South Tipperary Social Inclusion Group – Focusing on Vulnerable Families**

4. Vulnerable Families – the following gave presentations on the topic.
  - a. HSE services and support for vulnerable families -Angela Joy
  - b. Barnardos Family Support Services- Carol McDonnell
  - c. Family resource centres – Clare Cashman, Millennium Resource Centre
  - d. The Teen years - Cora Hogan
  - e. 2<sup>nd</sup> chance programme - Tess Collins
  - f. Community Development Project – family supports – Sean McSweeney, Knockanrawley Resource Centre
  - g. Home Start programme- Paul Martin of Homestart

A short discussion was held following the presentation but it was agreed that the topic would be given additional space at the next meeting. The following points were raised:

- Gaps may get wider due to the changing environment
- Angela Joy informed the group she is hoping to co-ordinate a day with family support services and the Social Work Department – hopefully in September/October.
- The impacts on families when people lose jobs( social and mental health) was discussed – need to put services in place before families get into crisis. Social inclusion Employment Strategy might include programme to keep people occupied until they get the next job. Volunteering Centre should also be a positive outlet to occupy people while unemployed and gives them an opportunity to develop new skills.
- Geraldine Mullane encouraged agencies to refer to Cuan Saor – most referrals come from other family members and not through agencies
- Older children who have lost jobs are returning home to live with parents and its causing a lot of pressure on families
- Grandparents issue – many grandparents looking after children and families and need to be supported
- Substance misuse is a key factor in many vulnerable families – no of detox beds nationally is very limited

### **Action:**

- Further discussion focusing on gaps and solutions at next meeting.
- Angela to investigate possibility of bringing family support organisations and Social Work dept together.

5. **South Tipperary Development Company – Rural Development Programme - Social Inclusion funding opportunities** – John Devane gave an outline of the new Rural Development Programme – presentation attached. He outlined that there were opportunities for social inclusion type projects under the measures – projects should show an economic outcome – e.g. projects enhancing peoples

opportunities to get skills /work which might include support of groups or individuals around training.

**Action:** Any organisation with ideas to contact South Tipperary Development Company Office – 062 33360

6. Impact of cutbacks on member organisations – members update – deferred until next meeting due to time pressure
7. Integration of Education Services – Jarlath Fallon gave an outline of the proposal to integrate education services into a single coordinated School Support Programme involving the Home School Community Liaison Scheme (HSCL), the School Completion Programme (SCP) and the Visiting Teachers Service for Travellers (VTST) which will be integrated under the National Education Welfare Board. Jarlath outlined that currently protocols were being developed and the hope would be that a better service would be in place.

Clare Curley raised the issue of visiting teacher for the travelling community which still remains vacant. Jarlath outlined that the case load of visiting teacher was to be shared but that the issues was not resolved yet.

**Action:** Jarlath to follow up

8. Rapid – Kathleen Prendergast circulated a more updated report. The 3 Rapid National Monitoring Committee Reports were endorsed.

Proposed: John Devane

Seconded: Jimmy Cass

9. Guidelines for Social Inclusion Measures Group 2009

**Action:** It was agreed that a sub group would be established to identify issues for SIM in South Tipperary and would come back to SIM at next meeting with recommendations.

**Members of Sub group:**

Cora Horgan

Grainne de Stafford

Carmel Mckenna

Jimmy Cass

Angela Joy

Vec Rep

Phil Shanahan

Ann Ryan

The meeting closed. Next meeting Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 09.