

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group
Meeting notes of 4th February, 2008
Held at Minella Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Summary

1. SIM has agreed that the key providers in the youth area should be brought together to create a five year action plan
2. The Safety and Security Partnership plan and the SIM priorities for 2008 were agreed

Present: Antje Hogan, CIS, Sinead Carr, C+E, Phil Shanahan CCP, John Neville, Youthreach Cappawhite, Gráinne de Stafford Spafield FRC, Siobhán Clifford NYP Carrick-on-Suir, Martin Hayes Suir Valley Community Based Drugs Initiative, Jimmy Cass South Tipperary Disability Groups Forum, Patricia Wall, C+VF, Anne Howard Carrick-on-Suir Neighbourhood Youth Project, Lisa Kavenagh VEC, Fionuala McGeever CEO VEC, Maria Buckley Pathways, Tess Collins TLO, County Council, Tadg Browne WRYS, Sean O'Halloran WRYS, Fr. Paul Murphy WRYS, Ann Ryan C+E, Clare Cashman Millennium FRC, John Lonergan JLO, AGS, Jarlath Fallon, Dept of Education and Science, Julia Tarrant, DSFA, Denis Shanahan Respond, Eoin O'Neill, WRYS, Sheila Comerford SCP, Eleanor Mason Community Care Psychology Service, Bridget O'Keeffe, Nano Nagle CRC, Carrick-on-Suir, Marie Boland Tipperary Libraries, Eileen Horgan CDB, Luke Murtagh TRYS, Stuart Moloney TRYS, Olivia Lynch Social Work Dept. HSE Clonmel, Angela Joy HSE community development dept., M.G. Lazarus Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Service HSE, Mark Ryan Tipperary RAPID, Tina Kennedy SCP, Annette Fleming Foróige, Carmel McKenna Suir CDP, Carol Waldron TLO South Tipperary County Council, Cora Horgan TRYS

Apologies: Billy Doyle, Town Clerk, Clonmel Borough Council, Eileen Condon Adult Education Officer, VEC.

Chairperson: Dan Fox.

Amendment to minutes of meeting of 5th November, Add Patricia Wall to attendees list.

Agenda items 1: The meeting report of the last meeting was adopted and the Agenda agreed (proposed Antje Hogan, seconded Phil Shanahan).

2 Workshop on Teenspace policy and youth services in the county.

The facilitated workshop was preceded by short presentations

Fionuala McGeever spoke re the traditional involvement of the VEC in youth matters and their new role which was to create a plan and implement standards for youth service in the county

Sinead Carr spoke re: the Teenspace policy for youth facilities which included provision for increased local authority activities including an enhanced role for Comhairle na nÓg and the provision of dedicated programmes and facilities. A partnership approach and the creation of an inter-agency recreation strategy for youth was required and is seen as a key priority for CDB activity

Lisa Kavanagh spoke about the implementation of the Youthwork Act, the registration of youth service providers and an audit of facilities.

A summary of results of a questionnaire was presented

Workshop: summary results of consultation

Vision

1. A vision is needed before proceeding with identifying youth actions
2. The national vision that starts with rescue/prevent/respond to youth needs to move away from this desperation and move to energy/lead/provide
3. Need to look to mainstreaming youth initiatives. Youth development funding is bedevilled by 'disadvantage'. Social Inclusion is important, but is not all. If there

are mainstreamed youth initiatives it gives more alternatives for including disadvantaged youth in mainstream activities.

Facilities/resources

4. Lack of resourced services and centres
5. Nobody driving for resources like they are in Waterford
6. lobbying is needed in the climate of likely cutbacks – Tipperary is behind already and will not be able to catch up if resources are being cut
7. Address sectoral funding, needs to be mainstreamed
8. Provision of community based centres to hangout, open on a seven day basis.
9. At local level, we need to be up to speed with the NDP and target funding that can be accessed. Lobbying to have an input in mainstreaming and development of programmes would be one of the actions. This needs a coordinated and agreed approach so that there is one clear voice from the county and no space for not delivering at national level.
10. Need for an increase in programme funding
11. More youth cafes

Staffing

12. Limited staff resources in the county, also human resources issue – lack of volunteers – fear of litigation
13. Youth workers on the ground more important than physical resources – focus on human resources
14. How do we get more people involved?
15. Need at least one youth worker in each of electoral areas
16. Youth organisations should work with volunteer support service
17. resources need to be improved
18. Gender balance – more males in staff
19. More volunteers
20. Identify and incorporate the role/non role of parents in organising and support of youth activity. If there is no role for parents in youth work, there is the aspect of parents encouraging youth to become involved in youth activities. In this area it was felt that if the ‘disadvantaged’ label is attached to youth activity, there is a reluctance for parents to encourage or allow their children to participate.

Consultation

21. Voice of youth – need youth council from beginning – to input at early stages and to be an key stakeholders in development of plan – not just be consulted
22. Existing Comhairle na nÓg under funded, not represented in some parts of the county
23. Do we know what they (youth) want? Ask young people what are their priorities – young people out there who are disengaged.
24. Involve youth in planning services
25. Stakeholder involvement – e.g. Parents
26. Need activities to be youth led
27. At the moment it is funding led
28. Support needed to help youth organise themselves
29. Bring fora to the youth
30. Youth need to be involved on Boards of Management

31. Voluntary youth council and Comhairle na nÓg need more support to progress and expand their excellent work.

Environment

32. Environmental factors changing for youth – drugs/anti social behaviour/ alcohol misuse
33. To sort out youth issue must look at whole family and community services

Access/Transport

34. rural groups have no access to services
35. Rural transport and access an issue – need more buses and late night services

Services

36. No activities for age 12s
37. need for services in rural areas
38. After school programmes for secondary schools need to be developed
39. need opportunities that are attractive/ focus on areas of interest e.g. music maybe not a ‘youth club’ focus works all the time which is quite broad
40. Link into existing cultural activities – encourage cultural facilities to build up a youth audience maybe by Bebo sites e.g. Carlow volunteer centre set up a very successful Bebo volunteering site to attract youth participation in volunteering
41. link between primary activities and move onto youth services ?
42. Provision of social/health/emotional information/education. E.g. Drugs awareness, mental health.
43. Dedicated counsellor for youth in neutral settings
44. Specialised training for staff
45. Suicide awareness programme
46. Broaden to mainstreaming – not just disadvantaged targets
47. The youth programme needs a framework of progression where youth can progress in their activities, culture, leadership, volunteering and social skill development. This would be alongside the opportunity to just participate in activities which is all that some youth would want.
48. Should service provision be linked to the number of young people in an area?

Co-ordination

49. No cross departmental co-ordination – eight government depts. dealing with youth
50. Youth Committee of VEC needs to be established immediately – to support co-ordination and to drive applications
51. Co-ordination is especially needed in Clonmel
52. Key youth providers should meet as soon as possible to examine area coverage in the county and identify duplication and gaps – map of services needed
53. Need for a co-ordinated county youth plan which promotes co-ordination and collaboration, ensure it is youth centred and ensure input by youth groups
54. Need holistic service – HSE need to be involved – there is no supports for families at risk or young people at risk
55. Networking of providers
56. More co-ordination between services
57. The three youth services/organisations in the county need to be integrated/coordinated or at least communicate with each other.

The discussion after the facilitated sessions agreed that the key providers should be brought together by Community and Enterprise under the auspices of the CDB, to create a five-year action plan.

3 Any Other Business:

SIM Work Plan

The SIM work plan and Priorities for 2008 was agreed, proposed by Fionuala McGeever and seconded by Brigid O Keeffe. The SIM chairman, Dan Fox, would meet the chair of the CDB in advance of the next meeting to discuss our work plan and issues. Sinead Carr, Director of Service outlined the review of the CDB working methods carried out by the CDB and the increased role of the PMGs. She also noted the significant question mark over the creation of the social inclusion unit within the local authority.

Safety and Security Partnership Plan: agreed, proposed Claire Cashman and Jimmy Cass

Cohesion Board-SIM links subcommittee: Phil Shanahan reported on the work of a sub-committee which had examined the possible links between the new Cohesion Board and the existing CDB bodies. Fundamentally the new company should work with the CDB and SIM in the same way as the existing three companies. The main area of uncertainty is how the social inclusion sub-committee of the Cohesion Board will work with the SIM.

Ballingarry Community Council: the thanks of Ballingarry Community Council for the endorsement and assistance of SIM in relation to its childcare project was formally acknowledged

The forthcoming launch of the Sports Strategy was noted

Date of next meeting: Monday 7th April at 2.15pm, Venue to be announced.