

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group
Meeting notes of 1st September 2008
Held at Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Summary:

Youth: premises are no longer an issue but they are either under-staffed or not staffed

Travellers: Inter-Agency Action plan reviewed

Disability: Inter-Agency Action Plan reviewed

Data on possible funding cuts collected and reviewed

Present: Catherine Anderson (Dept. of Education and Science for Jarlath Fallon), Gavin Cullen (for Pat Slattery), Bridget O'Keeffe, Carmel McKenna, Grainne de Stafford, Jimmy Cass, Eileen Horgan, Marie Boland, Gerry Hickey, Julia Tarrant, Margo Hayes, John Murphy, Clare Curley, Billy Doyle, John O Mahoney, Lisa Kavanagh, Patricia Wall, Clare Cashman, Mark Ryan, Tina Kennedy.

Apologies: Dan Fox, Chairperson, Sinead Carr, Phil. Shanahan, Antje Hogan, Cora Horgan, Chris Monahan, Liam O'Brien, Jarlath Fallon, Pat Slattery, Martin Maher and Marie Boland, John Devane, Breeda Corr.

Chairperson: Fionuala McGeever

Agenda items 1, 2: The meeting report of the last meeting was adopted (proposed Antje Hogan, seconded Jimmy Cass) and the Agenda agreed.

Correction to report of last meeting: Phil Shanahan to be noted as present.

Agenda item 3:

Youthwork Services in the County: a preliminary overview' presentation by Lisa Kavanagh, Youth Officer, VEC (attached). Issues raised :

- In some ways we are not as badly off as we thought.
- Rural coverage is good but only up to age 14
- Youth projects and cafes intended to cover ages of 14+
- Springboard project has started
- Barnardos projects have started and might make a presentation to next SIM

Main Issues are

- Staffing: premises are either understaffed or not staffed
- Premises: are generally no longer an issue
- Reliance on volunteers
- Youth clubs are doing better in some areas than others

Youth matters are now being grouped under the new County Children Committee in four pilot counties as per the Lifestages model.

Agenda item 4:

Traveller Plan : An update (attached) on the progress of actions in the Traveller Action Plan was outlined by Clare Curley, DoS. Issues raised include

- Blocks on access to sporting facilities
- Need for a men's development worker and possible sources of funding for same
- The county Inter-Agency committee would be meeting more often

- The Library would assist the Travelling Teacher
- Provision of acupuncture in one action and the need to follow national guidelines was noted

Disability Plan: A report on action updates in the Disability Plan (attached) was given by Pat Holland. Additional information provided at the meeting and a change of action wording are included in the report. Missing updates are to be requested.

Agenda item 5

Stakeholder Brief re: Regional Drugs Task Force by John Murphy, Chair

The Regional Drugs Task Forces were set up in 2001. There is a regional group and county sub-committees. Both statutory and local interests are represented. There are four main pillars of work: education, supply and demand measures, treatment and research. A review of the plan, 2001-2008 is now underway in preparation for a new plan. Part of the new plan may be to upgrade the county committees to allow them to draw down funds directly. Under the current plan, €712,000 has come into the county. It is used for measures such as treatment/rehabilitation in places such as Aireiri. A Drugs Councillor has been appointed to service rural towns, a move which has been seen as innovative. Aisling in Ballyragget treats young people and also has a residential centre for parents and courses in parenting. There is an awareness programme in all Clonmel schools. Publicans have been supported in the formulation of a code of practice etc. Funding has also been provided for youth premises in Tipperary town and Cahir and various small grants are available for once-off events. Two new initiatives are Dial a Drug campaign where members of the public can provide information and an education programme re cocaine for front line staff. A FAS-assisted rehabilitation programme is beginning to show good results. While South Tipperary has got a good share of funds, it needs to become more proactive in future. The Regional Drugs Task force can be contacted at Farranshoneen Youth and Community Centre, Upper Grange, Waterford City. Ph 051.841144 and email mel.serdtf@gmail.com

Agenda item 6A Updates on implications of possible cuts: the following points were made.

- Local Authorities and other public bodies had been directed to make a 3% cut on payroll in 2009 and to make all other possible savings
- VEC: actions outside the approved core programme will be under pressure and so community education, literacy and youth matters will be under threat
- The School Completion programme will have to reduce payroll and actions by 3%. This will impact on homework clubs and behaviour management interventions. School Completion partnerships will be under threat
- Live Register figures for South Tipperary have increased by 49% since end August 2007.
- Due to increased workload and lack of resources, DSFA is no longer in a position to provide a rep to County Childcare and other committees in the county. However, if a DSFA specific item is on the agenda and DSFA input is requested then they will try to provide a rep for that issue.

- The filling of the Jobs Facilitator post for Clonmel has been deferred to 2009 due to budgetary constraints. It is hoped to put in place a more limited but continuous service in the coming weeks.
- Due to increased workload and lack of resources DSFA is no longer in a position to provide outreach services at present.
- A subvention for meals for the elderly project in MFRC, €3,500, is being withdrawn
- County Childcare Committee: For infrastructure and quality improvement we received €1.7 million in capital funding in 2008. This was €1.15 million short of what we required for projects in hand in 2008. There are no indications so far, as to what we will get for 2009 but large scale capital projects will not be considered in 2009.
Operational: Staffing, administration and action plan: Word from Pobal is that our budget for 2009 will be the same as 2008 but with potential for a 3% cut. Based on the wage increases in 2008 alone, there should be a 4.5% increase in budget for 2009. This doesn't take into account the larger increase in administration and fuel bills. Add a further 3% cut to this and the shortfall will be closer to 10%. As social inclusion underpins all our actions, the shortfall will limit the number and scope of our actions in the 2009 plan. There are some specific actions under the social inclusion heading, dealing with Traveller and Foreign-national childcare
- Citizens Information Service: Unknown at this point. Budget proposals for 2009 have been submitted to the CIB, but will not be approved until February 2009. We would expect to be able to maintain existing service/staffing levels. Funding for the CSP project will cease in December 2009. Implications are that the research and publications unit will close unless alternative, local funding is put in place.
- WRYS: The initial answer to this question is that to date there has been no alteration to funding for any of the projects. However there are a number of worrying signals and each project is different; consequently each is likely to be affected to varying degrees. As the vast majority of the projects are single worker projects there is little room if any for cutbacks. Some indications to date:
- Youth Diversion Projects have increased staffing levels, with almost all projects getting second workers. Budgets are in line with the previous year.
- Youth project in Clonmel funded via the Dept. of Education are and have been underfunded for a number of years. A strong case for more youth workers has been made over a number of years for Clonmel, but to no avail. In the present economic climate standing still will bring hardships as all domestic services, such as light, heat are increasing dramatically. Wage increases (T-16 and Point scale increases) and increased domestic charges is already eating into programme costs, resulting in projects having to fund raise to supplement programmes, resulting in an extra burden on staff.
- F.A.S. have had a number of meetings and are indicating some cutbacks , but budgets for 2009 have not been agreed. Budget changes in FÁS area might affect Pathways and the Saor programme, as well as C.E. numbers, nothing is known as yet.
- Finally budget restraints are likely to affect the staffing of the Cahir Community and Youth Centre, which was recently granted funding from the Regional Youth Premises Initiative under the Regional Drug Task Force Funding. While it is envisaged that the

premises will be used by some existing staff currently working in the various projects and local groups, we would also have hoped for extra staffing to service the needs of the community in that area. The bottom line is that it is still too early to call how projects will be affected.

- Knockanrawley: As yet we have not been informed of any changes to our budget so cannot really comment on how our target groups will be effected. However, we are very concerned for the future of our Parent Support Programme as the initial funding for this programme is due to finish in a couple of months. We had hoped that an Agency such as the HSE might be able to provide mainstream funding to secure the future of the programme but this may not be possible now because of cutbacks in the HSE. Approximately 200 parents and children have benefitted from this programme to date.
- RAPID: The RAPID Programme has not suffered any adverse impact as a result of recent Govt. Dept. cutbacks. The Programme continues to be supported by DCRGA and has secured budgets under the Leverage Fund and the Dormant Account Fund. The focus of the Programme remains fixed on three towns in South Tipperary, and the Seven Strategic Themes. At this point in time, the three RAPID AIT's are developing their new Plans to 2012.

Issues

- All the most vulnerable in society are being affected.
- The Towards 2016 and NDP are threatened by these cuts
- We have a duty of care to our projects and the vulnerable in society

SIM agreed that further concrete data needs to be collected and disseminated to all groups in the county, Government Departments, Cllrs. and Oireachtas members, Drugs Task Force, HSE etc by the CDB ASAP.

Agenda Item 6B:

RAPID: endorsement by SIM of RAPID plans may be necessary before the next SIM meeting and if so, a sub-committee composed, as before, of the Chairperson, Sinead Carr, Carmel McKenna and Antje Hogan would consider the plans. If this was not necessary the plans would be part of the agenda of the next SIM meeting.

Cohesion: The new directors had been appointed to the company and a meeting on the 16th of September would make the next steps clearer. The Rural Development Plan had been submitted.

Agenda Item 7: Chairperson, SIM

A number of members had indicated that they were willing to serve as Chair of SIM. The meeting agreed that they should be requested to consider a term of one year, with another prospective chair acting as vice-chair as necessary and the previous chair also being available.

Date of next meeting: November 3rd, 2.15-4.45, Park Hotel, preceded by tea/coffee

Appendix 1 (available also as PowerPoint presentation)

Youth Work Services, Preliminary Overview **Lisa Kavanagh, Youth Officer, South Tipperary VEC**

Demographic Profile

- The proportion of young people as part of the overall population in South Tipperary is higher than the national average (11.9%)
- The actual number of young people in the county is comparatively low by national standards

Demographic Profile

- The proportion of young people in South Tipperary's urban centres is notably below the county average (12.8%)
- Almost 30% of young people enumerated in the county live in Clonmel (19.3%) or just outside Clonmel (10.6%)

Demographic Profile

- 44% of young people live in rural areas
- 18.3% live in rural electoral divisions bordering the urban centres
- 37.7% live in the five towns
- The number and proportion of young people in South Tipperary has decreased between 2002 and 2006, while the overall population has grown.
- It is expected that the youth population will increase by up to 9% by 2021
- The proportion of young people as part of the overall population will decrease as life expectancy continues to increase

Educational Attainment

- Less than 2% of young people under 25 have only completed primary level education
- Almost 13% of young people under the age of 25 leave school before completion of upper second level
- Males are at twice the risk of leaving school early compared to females
- Young men between the ages of 15 – 17 are at 4 times the risk of leaving school early
- There would appear to be a positive trend in respect of early school leaving - the number of early school leavers is decreasing with age in the group of 15 – 24 year olds

Young Parents

- Approximately 1% of annual births are to mothers under the age of 18
- Births to mothers under the age of 20 in South Tipperary fell by 28% to 37 in 2006
- Almost 85% of children born to mothers aged under 25 are born out of marriage (compared to 36% in all age groups)

Young People with a Disability

- 754 children under the age of 15 living with disabilities
- 611 young people between 15 – 24 living with disabilities
- Suggests that approximately 5% of children and young people in South Tipperary have a disability

Young People from Ethnic Backgrounds

- The DES estimates that an average 3% of second level students in the South East region of Ireland are pupils for whom neither English nor Irish is a first language
- Of the non-Irish population in South Tipperary
 - 40% are UK-nationals
 - 30.7% are EU citizens (apart from the UK)
 - Approx. 17.4% are citizens of other countries

Young Travellers

- South Tipperary's young Traveller population is close to the national average.
- 1.2% of the population under 18 are members of the Traveller community
- 128 Travellers aged 10 – 24 years are living in South Tipperary – almost half are living in towns (CSO 2006)
- Travellers represent 0.7% of the overall population aged 10 – 24 years.
- 0.55% of second level students in the South Eastern region are members of the Traveller community – below national average 1.09%

Youth Unemployment

- June 2008 – indicates a sharp rise in the proportion rather than the number of young people on the Live Register
- 1,060 persons under 25 were on the Live Register (2/3's male)
- Constituting 24.7% of all people in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance/Benefit
- This compares to 20.5% (1,091 people) under 25 in December 2006

Youth Service Providers

- Foroige, TRYS, WRYS, CCP
- 9 Youth Projects – i.e. staffed by at least one professional youth worker
 - 3 Special Projects for Youth (SPY)
 - Funded by the Youth Affairs Section, Dept. of Education
 - 3 Juvenile Diversion Projects
 - Funded by the Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform
 - 2 Neighbourhood Youth Projects
 - Funded by the HSE
 - 1 Project for RAPID Youth (PRY)
 - Funded by Dormant Accounts

Youth Work Services

Youth Information Projects / Centres

- Tipperary Town
 - Managed by Tipperary Regional Youth Service
- Clonmel / Carrick on Suir
 - Managed by Waterford Regional Youth Service

Youth Cafés

- Cashel (TRYs)
- Carrick on Suir (WRYS)
- Cahir (WRYS – being refurbished)
- Tipperary Town (TRYs – being refurbished)
- Killenaule (VEC – being refurbished)
- Fethard (Community Council – being refurbished)

Voluntary Youth Clubs / Groups

Youth Clubs (approx. 36)

- Foroige
- Irish Girl Guides
- Irish Red Cross
- Macra na Feirme
- Order of Malta
- Scouting Ireland
- Tipperary Regional Youth Service
- Waterford Regional Youth Service
- Independent Clubs

Voluntary Leaders

- 58% clubs registered to date
- Of these;

Involvement of Young People

Youth Service Provision

Youth Facilities

SPY Applications 2008

- All existing projects – 2.5% increase
- New Projects
 - Fethard – unsuccessful
 - Cahir – unsuccessful
- Up-grade to 2 youth workers
 - Tipperary Town
 - Tipperary Rural Outreach
 - Clonmel

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Traveller Inter-Agency Traveller Plan, September, 2008 Update

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| 4.5 | .Provide training and employment for Traveller men and women. | Traveller Development Project- Julie Fleming Marie Motherway | In Progress | <p>MEN Currently setting up a FAS Local training initiative for Traveller men in Clonmel. The focus of this will be health and fitness studies, leading to employment opportunities, e.g. boxing and handball coaching. The course will also have a connected horsemanship element which is new to Travellers and is a marketable skill. Individual literacy support is ongoing.</p> <p>WOMEN The greatest barrier to participation for women is unmet childcare needs. An application is being prepared for the next strand of Equality for Women funding (enterprise strand) which has a strong childcare component. This aims to enable Traveller women to set up and run a Traveller friendly-childcare facility. The 3 year course will also cover hairdressing/beautician studies. Traveller women will shortly commence sewing lessons and alternative therapies training (acupuncture and reiki). TDP has supported one woman to gain employment as a professional development worker.</p> |
| 4.6 | Develop a Women's Group in Clonmel. | Traveller Development Project- Julie Fleming Marie Motherway | In Progress | The women's group is up and running with strong participation. To date they have agreed to undertake a family histories project (genealogy), have taken part in an alternative therapies taster group, taken part in two outings, attended a workshop facilitated by the Irish Traveller Movement on rights and informed TDP on Traveller's needs and issues. Activity was suspended for the summer but is about to recommence. |
| 4.7 | Develop a men's group in Clonmel | Traveller Development Project-Julie Fleming Marie Motherway | In Progress | The men of Clonmel's Travelling community have unanimously agreed to form their own handball club. This is a complex task which, with support from TDP, South Tipp. Sports Partnership and GAA., they have enthusiastically engaged in. Levels of co-operation |

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| | | | | are excellent and commitment is strong. They have also worked together on the feasibility study for the horse project, visiting an existing facility in Dublin and researching possibilities together. Communication is improving through mutually beneficial action and a stronger sense of community is emerging. |
| 4.8 | Establish health needs of Traveller men. | Health Service Executive –Eleanor Kelly | Not Commenced | The all Ireland traveller health study commissioned by the hse and contracted to UCD will commence on October 14 th 2008. This will be a study undertaken by both the public health nurse working with travellers and the traveller community health workers (employed by the hse) along with community development workers (employed by the traveller organisation) at local level. This is hoped to identify the health status of Irish travellers and its findings will impact on all supporting agencies once completed. Work is currently in progress. |
| 4.9 | Provide health education programme for Traveller men. | Health Service Executive-Eleanor Kelly | Not Commenced | Funding provided by the HSE to the mens development network to employ a community development person to work with traveller men in South Tipperary. A 30 week health related fitness programme has been completed in Cashel. |
| 4.10 | Provide health education programme for Traveller men and women. | Health Service Executive-Eleanor Kelly | In Progress | The primary health care programme is on-going in Cashel , educating traveller women on a three year programme due to finish in May 2008. This is in collaboration with the other supporting agencies such as TRTP, FAS, Social and Family Affairs, and VEC and County Councils. This was completed in June 2008 |
| 4.11 | Encourage participants on Traveller Health Programmes to secure employment. | Health Service Executive-Eleanor Kelly | In Progress | Funding has been secured and FAS along with supporting agencies, have agreed to run an LTI programme (local training initiative) for 6 months with the participants of the primary health care course with a view to engaging in employment. This is due to start in September 2008 |
| ''' | Facilitate the process whereby participants on Traveller Health Programmes gain employment. | Health Service Executive-Eleanor Kelly | | |

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| 4.13 | Identify accommodation needs of Travelling Community. | Local Authority-STCC | In Progress | <p>A new approach identified as follows: Meeting all the Families individually and going through in detail (picture format as well as verbally) the implications of each proposed accommodation option.</p> <p>On opting for a particular unit, the implications of this choice are teased through in detail with the family in terms of its impact from a social, educational, health and practical perspective.</p> <p>The different needs of the families are also teased through in terms of this choice and its possible impact on them.</p> <p>Finally, the constraints under which such accommodation could be provided is explained in detail (i.e., planning policy, time delay for certain choices, etc.). Once the family as a unit are satisfied with their choice, it is signed off by them.</p> <p>The PHN and Visiting Teachers also work through the options with the families and identify if there is an issue that has not been picked up on and which could have implications from an accommodation viewpoint.</p> <p>It should be also noted that an objective of the Council's recently prepared Interagency Traveller Strategic Plan also incorporates the above policy procedure in assessing traveller Families accommodation requirements.</p> |

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| 4.14 | Promote better understanding between Traveller and settled community regarding stand alone accommodation. | Local Authority-STCC | In Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop style Forum employed by Council. • Separate Workshops held with both Communities. • List of issues identified and solutions proposed. • Reps. from settled Community meet with appointed Traveller Family. • Liaison Committee forward to monitor situation. |
| 4.15 | Undertaking the feasibility of providing a Horse Project within the Clonmel Area to engage Traveller men having regard to their attachment with horses. | Local Authority-STCC | In Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility Study which is being prepared by TSA Consultancy is due to be completed by end of 2008. • Report on main findings from consultation process of the Traveller horse project and recommendations received from TSA Consultancy. |
| 4.16 | Provide relevant pre-tenancy training to the Travelling Community in relation to halting sites and group housing and agree arrangement for the Management of all sites. | Local Authority-STCC | In Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-tenancy training being provided in advance of occupation of dwelling/site. • Draft licensing agreements re: Residential Halting Sites currently being reviewed. |
| 4.17 | Provide services or co-operation to the various departments involved in the Interagency Traveller Action Plan, through our network of branch libraries. | Tipperary Library Service – Marie Boland | Completed & on going. In Progress In Progress | New collections of books and materials ordered for stock. Books & materials supplied to Visiting Teachers. Co-operation with V T to engage pre-school children eg provide on site Story times. Relevant adult education and adult literacy books & materials on order. |
| 4.18 | Help to promote a better understanding between Traveller and settled communities by providing stocks of relevant material | Tipperary Library Service – Marie Boland | Completed for 2007 Completed in 2007 & | Further collections of books and materials on order for 2008 A successful module on Traveller Culture included in July 2008 Multi-cultural Workshops for children. |

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| | in each library and by presenting a module on our annual, 6 week, multi-cultural workshops with children in July. | | In Planning stages for 2008 | |
| 4.19 | To arrange basic email and internet classes for Travellers. | Tipperary Library Service – Marie Boland | Not commenced | To be arranged on appointment of Traveller Community Development worker |
| 4.20 | Provide adult and further education classes to Travelling Community (i.e. Adult Literacy; Youthreach; Back to Education Initiative; Community Education). | Dept. Education and Science – V.E.C. – Mary Roche | <p>Complete:</p> <p>In progress:</p> <p>In progress:</p> <p>Complete:</p> | <p>Adult Literacy intensive tuition (18 hours per week) for participants of the 3 year Primary Healthcare Project in Cashel.</p> <p>South Tipp VEC has committed to provide intensive literacy tuition, including family learning programmes and accredited learning for 26 weeks as a partner in the FAS Local Training Initiative in Cashel. The Adult Literacy Organiser was on the interview panel for participants and the initiative will commence on September 22nd 2008. South Tipperary VEC has devised the education programmes, assessment and evaluation methods.</p> <p>Adult literacy providing 1:1 and group tuition for members of the Traveller community in Tipperary Town, Clonmel, Cashel and Cahir. Issue: Sporadic attendance</p> <p>BTEI has completed a 30 week Health Related Fitness programme with Traveller men in Cashel. Issue: Sporadic attendance - this programme could be further developed if there was a support worker in place that would continuously encourage and support attendance.</p> <p>Community Education provided evening Drama classes for Traveller</p> |

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| | | | <p>Complete:</p> <p>In progress:</p> <p>Complete:</p> <p>In progress:</p> <p>In progress:</p> <p>In progress:</p> <p>In progress:</p> | <p>women in Clonmel. Supporting agencies CCP and TDP contributed support and premises to make this happen. Issue: Sporadic attendance Youthreach Cappawhite is providing FETAC Level 3 Certificate education to 2 members of the Traveller Community.</p> <p>Adult literacy partnered with FAS for the Return to Education Programme, a 25 week intensive adult basic education programme for CE Scheme workers. One Traveller man on a CE Scheme attended these classes and successfully completed the programme.</p> <p>The VEC Adult Guidance in Education Service was involved with supporting the Cashel Primary Health Care Project and will be supporting the LTI participants during that 26 week programme..</p> <p>The Adult Education Guidance Coordinator is a member of STAMP (South Tipperary Area Mens Project). One of the three priorities of STAMP is to engage with Traveller Projects in Tipp Town and Clonmel and the Adult Education Guidance Service will have input into addressing some of the needs.</p> <p>BTEI – Approximately 10 Traveller men and women interspersed in programmes throughout South Tipperary. They are participating in Care in the Home, Maths and other courses as integrated learners – they apply as individuals and participate accordingly.</p> <p>The Traveller Community Health Workers are attending adult education classes to support them in their professional roles.</p> |
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| 4.21 | Achieve improved literacy and numeracy skills of 8 Traveller men within the Clonmel Area. | Dept. Education and Science – V.E.C. – Mary Roche | Not Commenced | <p>This specific initiative was one part of a Community Services Programme submitted to Pobal by Clonmel Community Partnership. We were unsuccessful with this application. The Interagency group submitted a proposal to FAS for a Special Initiative for Travellers. We were unsuccessful with our application.</p> <p>Issue: Funding - at this stage in the men’s progression, a programme like those outlined in the two unsuccessful funding applications would need to be put in place. From our experience, the most attractive type of educational programme for this group is part-time and combines class-based learning with practical workshops. Our recommendation would be a programme like the FAS Local Training Initiative, which we would support with tuition hours.</p> |
| 4.22 | Provide driver theory and preparation for road test classes. | Dept. Education and Science – V.E.C. Mary Roche | In Progress | Adult Literacy providing ongoing Driver Theory and road test preparation classes in Tipperary Town and Clonmel. |
| 4.23 | Provide homework support. | Dept. Education and Science – Visiting Teachers, Grace Barry, Carmel O’ Connor | In Progress | Homework support is being actively accessed where possible : through the Schools Completion Programme, through Youth Clubs and privately through partial funding by charitable organizations. There is still a great need in this area. Some families, who really wish to seek assistance in enabling their children to progress through regular completed homework, are unable to do so at present. This needs to be addressed urgently and will require funding. |
| 4.24 | Identify potential sources of funding to support third level participation | Dept. Education and Science – Visiting Teachers Grace Barry, Carmel O’ Connor | Not Commenced | |

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| 4.25 | Raise awareness of value of Early Childhood Education. | Dept. Education and Science – Visiting Teachers Grace Barry, Carmel O’ Connor | In Progress | Raising awareness of the value of Early Children Education is a slow gradual process. Suitable books, supplied by the Library Services, have helped. Uptake of Pre-school places would be the desired outcome and this is happening. However, in particular areas, there is a lack of available places in community-run Pre-schools and privately-run Pre-schools are quite expensive. It would be very helpful if partial funding was readily available to allow Pre-school children to participate fully in Pre-school Education. |
| 4.26 | Establish need of young people (Travellers). | Dept. of Education/Justice -Tipperary Regional Youth Service – Cora Horgan | In progress | This is taking place on an ongoing basis – young travellers have similar needs as other young people at risk with some additional factors. The Youth Workers work individually with young travellers and through group work to establish need and identify appropriate supports. The fact that need changes, and varies from child, family and location makes it inappropriate to establish a ‘blanket’ approach. Needs are documented through our service delivery. It can be challenging to establish needs of young people (travellers) who are not settled. |
| 4.27 | Deliver Anger Management Programme | Dept. of Education/Justice -Tipperary Regional Youth Service – Cora Horgan | Not Commenced | This is to take place in conjunction with the Rural Traveller Project. Due to personnel limitations (maternity leave) in that project, this programme has not yet been delivered, although meetings have been held between TRYS Staff and the Rural Traveller Project Staff. Individual young male travellers are being targeted through another programme (Copping on) through our Youth Diversion Project, and through our SPY project. |
| 4.28 | Implement Integrated Sporting, Social and Educational Activities. | Dept. of Education/Justice -Tipperary Regional Youth Service – Cora Horgan | In progress | This is on going, with youth travellers participating in our homework support clubs, and our youth projects. |

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| 4.29 | Reduce dependency within Travelling Community on Social Welfare. | Dept. of Social and Family Affairs – Regional Office – Julia Tarrant | In Progress | |
| 4.30 | Identify suitable job opportunities. | Dept. of Social and Family Affairs- Regional Office – Julia Tarrant | In Progress | |
| 4.31 | Document reason why financially it is not attainable for members of Travelling Community to take up employment / education / training. | Dept. of Social and Family Affairs- Regional Office – Julia Tarrant | Not Commenced | |
| 4.32 | Provide money advice and budgeting service to members of the Travelling Community. | Dept. of Social and Family Affairs M.A.B.S. Grainne Ryan | In Progress | Providing educational talks to travelling groups as requested. Education is done on a one to one basis. |
| 4.33 | Finalise budgeting / financial advice module. | Dept. of Social and Family Affairs M.A.B.S. Grainne Ryan | Not Commenced | Working with National Traveller MABS on same. Hope to achieve in the next few months. |

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| 4.34 | Establish network of agencies who will deliver a module on budgeting and financial services. | Dept. of Social and Family Affairs M.A.B.S. Grainne Ryan | Not commenced | |
| 4.35 | Talks on Road Safety to be delivered through Traveller Development Project and Tipperary Rural Travellers Project. | Dept of Justice and Law Reform Gardai in Tipperary Town, Cahir and Clonmel | In Progress | Talk on 6 th May 2008 re: Road Safety. Traffic Corps Member to give talk with the assistance of V.E.C. |
| 4.36 | Provide talks to increase awareness in relation to issues of domestic violence. | Dept of Justice and Law Reform Gardai in Tipperary, Town, Cahir and Clonmel | In Progress | Trying to arrange talk on Drugs and Violence with Cuan Saor and HSE |
| 4.37 | Provide awareness programmes of the Garda Juvenile Liaison Scheme. | Dept of Justice and Law Reform Gardai in Tipp, Cahir and Clonmel | Not Commenced | On going talks with Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer and Co-Coordinator of Youth Diversion Programme in Tipperary Town. |
| 4.38 | To reduce the number of Traveller Youth engaged in crime through engagement with the Gardai Youth Diversion Project. | Dept of Justice and Law Reform Gardai in Tipperary, Town, Cahir and Clonmel | Not Commenced | On going talks with Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer and Coordinator of Youth Diversion Programme in Tipperary Town, Carrick-on-Suir and Clonmel. |
| 4.39 | Establish skills Analysis Training needs of the Travelling Community with a view to developing training programmes to address these deficits. | Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment – F.A.S.- Deirdre Clancy | In Progress | A Local Training Initiative is to commence in September. |

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| 4.40 | Provide funding for training programmes developed in conjunction with other agencies. | Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment – F.A.S -Deirdre Clancy | In Progress | Currently funding the Primary Healthcare Project in Cashel |
| 4.41 | Identify sponsors to provide work based training and employment. Provide information on options available to Travellers interested in entering the workforce. | Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment – F.A.S -Deirdre Clancy | In Progress | A Local Training Initiative is to commence in September. One of the modules of this training is Work Experience |
| 4.42 | Provide mens worker and child education worker in Cashel Area | Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment – F.A.S -Deirdre Clancy | Not commenced | |
| 4.43 | To provide a worker for male travellers | Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment – F.A.S -Deirdre Clancy | Not commenced | |
| 4.44 | Improve literacy/numeracy skills of Travelling Community aged between 15 - 25 | Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment – Clonmel Youth Training Enterprises – Ellen O'Donnell | In Progress | Got extra 1;1 support from VEC through CCP, Six learners engaged on programme, 3girls and 3 boys between 15- 18yrs |

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| 4.45 | Provide suitable vocational training and education modules. | Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment – Clonmel Youth Training Enterprises – Ellen O'Donnell | In Progress | Vocational modules in progress with all 6 |
| 4.46 | Prepare traveller participants to understand the world of work | Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment CYTE– Ellen O'Donnell | Not Commenced | One girl progressed into work experience in crèche but subsequently left tracking 1 male to engage in pathways prep for work programme. Programme set up to start in April for pathways no commitment from participant as yet |
| 4.47 | Identify work experience placements for the Travelling Community, participants engaging on the CYTE programme between the ages of 15 - 25 years | Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment CYTEnterprises – Ellen O'Donnell | In Progress | As need arises this is actioned through our Advocate and work experience |
| 4.48 | Establish and identify the childcare needs of the Travelling Community | Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment – South Tipperary County Childcare Committee -Gerry Hickey | In progress | Working group being set up to inform how the needs will be determined. STCCC have included a proposal for a survey in their 2008 Action Plan. STCCC have been unable to get a date for the next Inter-Agency meeting where their proposal will need to be discussed. |
| 4.49 | Subsidised Childcare Training & Social Care | Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment – South Tipperary County Childcare Committee -Gerry Hickey | In progress | The fund is in place and has been advertised. Seventeen applications have been dealt with. There were no applications from members of the Travelling Community. |

- South Tipperary Disability Action Plan 2007 – 2009, Report to SIM, Sept , 2008

Proposed actions with action reports as supplied by lead agencies.

| Theme | Proposed Action | Lead Agency | Required Output | Timeframe | KPI | National Policy link |
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| 1 Housing | | | | | | |
| Disabled persons grants 1.1 | Introduction of new disabled persons grant scheme | Local Authority (Housing Section) | Introduction of new Scheme | January 1 st 2008 | No of individuals who have received grant | National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016 |
| Update (CC) | <i>31st of October 2007 was the cut off point for Disabled Persons Grant Scheme. 90 grants have been paid to date with 60 old scheme applications on hand at present. Re:the new Scheme, 18 appliance applications have been paid and 14 housing adaptation grants paid.</i> | | | | | |
| 1.2 | Establish a Forward Demand register for those with a disability who require social and/or affordable housing in a manner which meets their needs. | Local Authority (Housing Section) | List of potential applicants | ongoing | No of applicants with a disability that have been accommodated as a % of the whole | National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016, Disability Act 2005, section 36, parts D, E. |
| Update (CC) | <i>- Record being kept of applicants who apply for re-housing on medical grounds and who require accommodation to be adapted to meet their needs. This issue has now been discussed with HSE at a recent meeting</i> | | | | | |
| 1.3 | Housing Section Co. Co. and HSE Disability Services to reconvene meetings twice a year to discuss | First meeting: Claire Curley Second meeting | Shared knowledge Actions to improve service | Two meetings a year | No of meetings held | National Action Plan for Social |

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| | joint concerns and service to public Information on nos. of individuals on databases requiring housing will be required for planning purposes | Carol Moore and rotate onwards | | | | | | | | Inclusion 2007-2016 Disability Act 2005, part 3, section 32, (D) and Section 36, (D) and (E). |
| Update (CC CoCo) | <i>First meeting has taken place, and a second scheduled for October.</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 2007-2016 |
| Update (CC) | <i>1.4 - No network meeting or information meeting has been held to date. Will look at convening meeting shortly, Housing Needs Assessment having been completed and returned.</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| Education 2.1 | Provide a Visiting Teacher Service for those children with visually impaired children | Department of Education | Provision of service in South Tipperary | As and when required | | | | No of additional children provided with services | | |
| | J Cass indicated that an individual has now been appointed and this action is therefore complete | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1.1 | Local case issues relating to the provision of hardware and software educational appliances to be examined | Dept of Education and Science | All visually impaired children have full access to relevant IT facilities which meets their needs | On going | | | | Number of cases dealt with, if raised. | | National Disability Strategy |
| | J Cass indicated that he is not aware of any new cases raised which have not been dealt with. This action is | | | | | | | | | |

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| | progressing | | | | | |
| Transport 3.1 | Invite rep. from Dept. of Transport to sub-group 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 2007-2016. Disability Act 2005, Section 34. Towards 2016 |
| Per Ann Bradshaw | Following representations to Dept. M. McGrath who requested details of specific issues, a meeting will take place at Clonmel Community Partnership on Tuesday Sept 16 th from 11.00 to 1.00 pm to identify issues of concern. | | | | | |
| Accessibility 4.1 | Undertake an access Audit of all public buildings and public places under control of LA and implement in accordance with Implementation Plan | Local Authority (Corporate and Cultural Section) | Accessibility Audit Completed Implementation Plan Drawn up Actions under Implementation Plan underway | June 2007 August 2007 End of 2007 and on-going | Accessibility Audit Completed Implementation Plan Drawn up Actions under Implementation Plan underway | Disability Act 2005 Government Sectoral Plans National Disability Strategy |
| Update (GC) | | Local Authority | Preliminary Accessibility Audit Complete DRAFT IP Reviewed | December 2007 April 2008 | Initial Accessibility Audit Undertaken DRAFT IP | |

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| | | | Supplementary Accessibility Audits Complete Third revision of Draft IP Public Consultation & Confirmation of IP Action Programme i.t.o. IP | May 2008 May 2008 June 2008 August – October 2008 November 2008 | Version 2 Drawn up | |
| 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 3 Section 25 Access to Public Buildings Government Sectoral Plans |
| Updates (BF, HSE) | Co. Co. proceeding on audit, other agencies to be reported on (J Cass) All audits completed. Draft implementation plan agreed. Training organized, some already done, for staff responsible for | | | | | |

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| | carrying out works. Work programme for between now and end of 2008 being put in place (JOM) VEC has provided accessible footpaths, lift and railings in Cahir | | | | | |
| 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 3 Section 28, Access to Information. Government Sectoral Plans |
| Update (BF, HSE) Co Co. | <i>New HSE website addresses accessibility issues. All National HSE documents are available on request in Braille, audio, screen readable or in translated language.</i> O'Mahoney, John: some work done on website. Further audit of site to be done Sept/Oct and work to be progressed on most frequently used sites/documents. Training arranged for frontline staff in Oct/Nov re various types of access issues, visual/hearing/physical/plain english etc. Policies to be drafted around accessible information and equal status. VEC reviewing its website | | | | | |
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| 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 Plans National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016. |
| Update BF HSE | <i>HSE staff being audited at present. (local Authority staff being audited also at present) FAS to provide data</i> | | | | | |
| 5.2 | Relevant Government Agencies to prepare and develop a guideline document for the Employment of People with Disabilities (3% total) (similar to the HSE document) | 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' |
| | Following re-wording, proposed by Jimmy Cass to be discussed by SIM for approval | | | | | |

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| | <p>or not: '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.</p> <p>This change of wording was accepted by SIM on the 1st of September, 2008 but it was noted that cuts in payroll will make it unlikely that new vacancies will occur in the near future</p> | | | | | |
| Health 6. | | | | | | |
| 6.1 | <p>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 on this group</p> | HSE, | Implementation programme prepared | Report by first quarter 2008 | | National Mental Health Policy |
| Update | | | | | | |
| 6.2 | <p>Investigate possibility of appointing a social inclusion officer in South Tipperary for people with mental health difficulties</p> | HSE Carol Moore | Assessment of position completed and decision made | Report by first quarter 2008 | Decision | Social Inclusion |
| Update | | | | | | |
| 6.3 | <p>Provide a discussion forum re: how core funding could be provided on a more stable basis for health related CE schemes to be mainstreamed</p> | SIM (C+E) | Stable funding basis provided | End 2008 | Discussion happens and actions (if any) agreed | Mainstreaming |
| | <p>Indicated by J Cass that this initiative was happening at Departmental level at this point in time and it would be more</p> | | | | | |

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| | appropriate to leave this at that level for the foreseeable future | | | | | |
| 6.4 | Continue the implementation of the action to ensure the full implementation of the "Cashel Gold Star" project | HSE, agreed County Council and Cashel Town Council | Cashel designated as a Gold Standard Accessible Town | Progress report by first quarter 2008 | Actions undertaken | South Tipperary SIM/CDB initiative |
| Update AB HSE | <i>See progress report at end of this document</i> | | | | | |
| General 7.1 | Make provision for suitable reporting back arrangements to the CDB (or sub-groups as deemed appropriate by the Board) | Director of C&E | Progress and Issues report to be made at least twice a year to the SIM as agreed by the Board | Sept 07 | Being placed on agenda X number of times on agenda (SC) | Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Circular LG02/07 |
| | Agreed that this is happening through the monitoring role of SIM (which will designate Disability as an item on the Agenda in at least 2 meetings per annum) | | | | | |
| 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 Plans National Disability Strategy |
| Update BF HSE | [O'Mahoney, John] .Disability training as referred to above being organised for | | | | | |

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| | autumn 2008.Awareness training already provided to management team,approx. 60 senior staff and approx 10 area and other engineering staff VEC also providing disability training | | | | | |
| 7.3 | All Agencies to commit to maintaining open links with the Disability Forum , particularly in relation to updates on the implementation of the content of the Disability Act, Drawing up of Sectoral Plans and any policies and/or guidelines that will be drawn up which may affect the disability | HSE agreed LA agreed VEC agreed | Commitment provided by all agencies and commitment implemented in a practical manner | Autumn 2007 | No of meetings held | Government Sectoral Plans Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Circular LG02/07 |
| Update PS. Co Co | From Pat Slattery, DoS Following a good discussion with the disability Forum it was agreed that two courses of action would be pursued: 1. A joint South Tipperary Co Co and South Tipperary Disability Forum conference/workshop would take place in October 2008 . This would be aimed at Sectoral interests such as HSE, VEC, Transport providers, etc as well as the various users of services and interest groups. The conference/workshop would be designed to give an overview of the Council's progress to date on the audit and implementation programme. This | | | | | |

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| | <p>would enable other public service providers to learn from our experience to date, as they will be required to follow a similar programme in the near future. It would also enable use to give an overview of progress to date to all other stakeholders and interest groups.</p> <p>2. An advertising campaign in late September 2008. This would include newspaper advertisement and press releases. It should also include live radio interviews and radio adverts.</p> <p>I will be on leave on the 1st September, but I will ask Gavin Cullen to attend SIM and brief the group on the proposed workshop in October.</p> <p>At this stage we have agreed to set up a working group between the Disability Forum and ourselves. This group will meet in September with a view to organizing the workshop. It is anticipated that Capita Symons will make a presentation as will someone from South Tipp coco and the disability forum/community forum.</p> | | | | | |
| 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 | Gov/Sect Plans Disability Act 2005 |
| Update | <i>The State's emergency (112/999) service tender has now been awarded to a consortium of BT and Conduit. The tender process calls for greater</i> | | | | | |

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| | <p><i>capabilities for the service including location information of caller and, I presume, greater accessibility for the disabled. I am investigating the latter question</i></p> | | | | |
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With regard to update on Cashel Gold Star the following is an account of progress to date:

1. In June 2008, the STDGF, in support of the Cashel Gold Star project, hosted a Disability awareness and information day in Cashel. The Gold Star Task Group launched a set of 8 Disability Awareness cards on this day, highlighting the do's and don'ts of disability. Each card has a picture and caption alerting people to physical and sensory disability issues and local businesses and service providers are displaying them on their premises. There has been a very positive response to the cards and many calls to re-run a set of cards to include such areas as intellectual disability and other hidden disabilities. This will be considered pending available funding.
2. 26 students have completed a 2 Year Diploma in Disability Studies from UCC which was supported by the HSE and hosted at the Nagle Centre in Cashel. They are due to graduate in UCC in October. Applications for the programme are now being processed at UCC for the coming academic year 2008-2010. The Diploma will be run in Cashel again, hosted by the Spafield Family Resource Centre, pending on at least 20 applications being received.
3. A Disability Awareness Training programme has been devised for the Gold Star project and delivery will commence in September to staff of all local business and service providers and to members of the local community in general. Funding for delivery of the course by people with disabilities themselves has been secured under the Adult Education Department of the VEC. A training for trainers course focusing on presentation skills will be delivered to the participants by the Tipperary Institute in September.
4. Cashel Chamber of Commerce has printed the 1 to 8 of the do's and don'ts of disability (as per awareness cards mentioned above) on the flip side of its official letterhead paper in support of the Gold Star initiative.
5. Representations on behalf of the local community highlighting accessibility issues will be made to the Town Engineer at the September meeting of the Gold Star Task Group.
6. A map of accessible areas, services and venues in the Town is being designed and will be made available on the Tourism and Heritage website. Use of local media has been made to highlight the ongoing project in the Town

In addition Millennium Family Resource Centre is in negotiation with the Nagle Centre for a pilot project to relocate the training Nagle Centre clients and their training staff back to MFRC. This integrated model will cater for eight participants and should allow for better social integration of people with their own local area. This was commented by SIM as a brave and worthwhile proposal.