

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group
Meeting notes of 5th February, 2007
Held at Minella Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Summary

1. SIM agreed to seek discretionary funding and authority for agreed actions
2. SIM agreed to support applications for Tipperary Pathways project
3. Draft Inter-Agency Traveller Strategic Plan endorsed
4. Action 2.2.7 is successfully completed

Present: Sinead Carr, Director of Service, Breda Carr Pobal, Margo Hayes RAPID, Ruth Smith, Tipperary Women's Network, Mick Cummins, DSFA, Cora Horgan TRYS, Martin Maher Co. Librarian, Carmel McKenna Suir CDP, Antje Hogan CIS, Bridget O'Keeffe, Dan Fox Farming Pillar, Eileen Condon VEC, Tina Kennedy SCP, Phil Shanahan CCP, Sean McSweeney Knockanrawley, John Murphy Probation Service, Eileen Horgan C+E, Mary Egan Spafield FRC, Declan Rice BNS, Jarlath Fallon Dept. of Education and Science, Clare Curley Director of Service, South Tipperary County Council, Mark Ryan RAPID.

Apologies: Liam Kilbride, Eoin O'Neill, Kathleen Prendergast, Sheila Collins HSE,

Chairperson: Fionuala McGeever (Tipperary S.R. VEC),

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

2 Presentation on 'Towards 2016' and its implications for CDB/SIM (circulated)
This presentation looked at the implications for the CDB/SIM of the recent Ten-Year Framework Social Partnership Agreement 2006-2015.

The implications/references to CDB include:

- Proposed new County Children's Committee, to be chaired by the HSE, on a multi-agency basis and to be established within the CDB
- The introduction of a new Lifecycle framework within which to address social challenges
- The lack of appropriate data as a barrier to evaluating progress
- The need for data strategies at local level
- More intensive level of co-operation at local level
- CDBs to be strengthened to facilitate an integrated approach
- Role of SIM to be prioritised and supported at national level
- Social Inclusion units to extend to 50% of county/city councils by end 2008
- SIM to consider and agree priorities from this document and identify a lead agency for each action with targets, outputs and timeframes.

Discussion Points:

- Social Inclusion units were to be awarded by competition
- They might be concerned with research or outreach or both
- They would work on a cross-agency basis
- The creation of Social Inclusion unit in the county was commended

- There was also a request to ensure that any children's committee would not create duplication or overlaps.

3 Progress of 2007 Work Programme:

Safety and Security: This created a forum for partners to discuss matters of concern and was having an important impact. The recent meeting on Bonfire night was an example of targeted intervention which would reduce costs and damage. All agencies were playing their part and the community reps. were also present and gaining a benefit. The community would be formalised at some stage in the future following evaluation of the pilot committees introduced by the Minister. Recent discussions had looked at the roles of the media in relation to the local communities (John Murphy, Probation Service)

The way forward for this committee was to identify key issues and seek to move them forward by inter-agency discussion and examination.

Elderly Working Group: The group was meeting quarterly and was awaiting details of the NDP rollout. A meeting of Day Care Centres had taken place and several issues/actions arose. A national scheme for house insulation is to be investigated. A review at every second SIM meeting was agreed (Mark Ryan).

Early School Leaving group

Fionuala McGeever, Chair, outlined the situation regarding **disengaged youth**. There are believed to be c 100-150 of these in the county who had left school early and who were not attending meaningful employment, apprenticeship or further education. There is a lack both of hard data and of a support/monitoring system. The group was proposing a dedicated mentoring programme similar to the Waterford 'Pathways' programme but could only raise a portion of the cost from the discretionary funds of its members.

Responses included

- Support for this project
- The possibility of intellectual disability among these disengaged youth
- Schools need to be more progressive in adapting to children's needs or more successful in retaining them
- The warning signs of early school leaving are visible from an early age
- Which agency should be concerned with this group, FAS?
- We need a single-focus approach to such target groups
- There is a similar funding need for a Barnardos project in Carrick-on-Suir.
- Both the Tipperary Pathways and the Barnardos project would assist areas where there is currently no agency working, where a real gap has been identified and where significant long term costs to society and the exchequer could be reduced

The discussion then broadened out to a general discussion of the role of SIM and CDB. They were both restricted in their freedom to respond to issues. Both have reviewed their work, reviewed targets and objectives in their action plans and have agreed to try to move to the next level of collaboration so as to try to effectively tackle the real issues of social exclusion in the county. However both are severely constrained by a lack of flexibility and discretionary funding.

Agreed actions:

1. SIM to press for each agency to have the ability to ring fence a certain proportion of their budget for CDB purposes with the flexibility to allocate this wherever it thinks best (within the ambit of the County Strategy and the approval of the Board)
2. SIM to press for more devolved authority for local agency representatives so that the CDB and SIM can carry out the work that is required of them to address critical issues.
3. SIM to press for funding for the Tipperary 'Pathways' project
4. FAS to be asked to provide representatives to the Disengaged Youth working group (new title).

4 Stakeholder presentation: Jarlath Fallon, Dept. of Education and Science

5 Project Endorsement: Clare Curley, Director of Service, presented the Inter-Agency Traveller Draft Strategic Plan which was endorsed by the SIM, proposed by Alan Price, seconded by Declan Rice.

Points raised:

- FAS involvement was required
- There was a need for co-ordination re: a Traveller Men development project
- Such a project should include an economic employment basis
- The HSE was seeking to employ community development workers in this area

6. Project Updates: Brigid O'Keeffe, for the Nano Nagle Community Resource Centre reported that Social action no. 2.2.7: *Create Plan to deliver an integrated family service in Carrick-on-Suir* had been successfully completed.

7 A.O.B

- Lisa Kavenagh has taken up the position of Youth Officer with the VEC
- Renovation work on the VEC premises in Cahir to house the Cahir Youth Project would start shortly
- Discussions have commenced regarding a proposed Community Education/Youth Centre in the old VEC school, Killenaule.

8: Date of next meeting: Monday 16th April (**note this is not the first Monday of the month**) at 2.15pm in Minella Hotel, Clonmel.

Appendix

Interagency Traveller Draft Strategic Plan

S.M.A.R.T Objectives to be stated as:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specific, 2. Measurable, 3. Achievable 4. Realistic, 5. Timed
Inputs Initial Intermediate		Outputs Intermediate Final
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget (Staff) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance • Participation

High Level Aims of Parent Department	
Department	Aims
Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve accommodation status • Implement Traveller Accommodation Programme. • Achieve accommodation targets.
Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve health status of Travellers. • Work with Travellers to review current health needs. • Increase life expectancy & decrease infant mortality
Department of Social & Family Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve life conditions of all Travellers. • Greater flexibility in Social Welfare payments that are connected to employment. • Increased participation in employment/training with decreased level of supports.
Department of Justice & Law Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect Life & Property. • Implement recommendations of research on Travellers/Ethnic groups. • Increase satisfaction with Gardai Service.
Department of Education & Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide meaningful education. • Better Networking. • Increase levels of attainment.
Traveller Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide better accommodation. • Work alongside the Local Authority. • Increase level of satisfaction with

	Traveller accommodation.	
Department of Community, Rural & Gealtacht Affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the participation of Travellers in Society. • Greater Self-Representation. 	
Department of Community, Rural & Family Affairs		
Community Development Project		
	Actions	Supporting Agencies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Education/Training for Agencies that work with the Travelling Community • Work with County Council in a partnership approach • Educate & Empower (Training Programme) the Travelling Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clonmel Youth Training Enterprise • South Tipperary County Council • Dept. of Social & Family Affairs • Gardai • Health Service Executive
Traveller Development Project		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Training & Employment for Traveller Men & Women. • Develop a Traveller Women's Group in Clonmel. • Support long term Traveller participation on the management committee of the C.D.P. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • V.E.C. • Health Service Executive. • FAS • Dept. of Social & Family Affairs
Department of Health & Children		
Health Service Executive		
	Actions	Supporting Agencies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish health needs of Traveller Men. • Provide health education programme for Traveller Men. • Ensure that Participants on Traveller Health Programme gain employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traveller Development Programmes • County Council • V.E.C. • Visiting Teachers
Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government		
Local Authority		
	Actions	Supporting Agencies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree arrangements with Travelling Community for management of all sites • Promote better understanding between Traveller and settled communities re new stand alone accommodation • Identify accommodation needs of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Service Executive • Visiting Teachers • Clonmel Community Partnership • Traveller Groups • C.D.P.

Travelling Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote better understanding between Traveller & Settled communities regarding new stand-alone accommodation 		
Department of Education and Science		
VEC		
Actions	Supporting Agencies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish education needs of Travelling community Achieve Educational Outcomes of Barrel Top Wagon Project Deliver classes to Men's Health Education Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traveller Development Project Tipperary Rural Traveller Project Health Service Executive Department of Social and Family Affairs County Council Visiting Teachers Gardai 	
Visiting Teacher		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide homework support Identify potential sources of funding to support third level participation Raise awareness of value of Early Childhood Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clonmel Youth Training Enterprise Family Resource Centres Health Service Executive 	
Tipperary Regional Youth Service		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish needs of young people (Travellers) Deliver Anger Management Programme Implement Integrated Sporting, Social and Educational Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traveller C.D.P.'s Health Service Executive Visiting Teachers VEC County Council Gardai 	

Department of Social and Family Affairs		
Regional Office		
Actions	Supporting Agencies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce dependency within Travelling community on Social Welfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAS County Council Community Development 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify suitable job opportunities • Document reasons why financially it is not attainable for members of Travelling Community to take up employment/education/training 	<p>Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Service Executive.
MABS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide money advice and budgeting service to members of the Travelling Community • Finalise budgeting / financial advice module • Establish network of agencies who will deliver a module on budgeting and financial services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting Teachers • VEC • County Council • Traveller C.D.P.'s

Department of Justice and Law Reform	
Local Garda Division	
Actions	Supporting Agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talks on Road Safety to be delivered through Clonmel Community Partnership and Tipperary Rural Travellers Project • Increase reporting of incidents of domestic violence • Provide awareness programmes of the Garda Juvenile Liaison Scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clonmel Community Partnership • Tipperary Rural Travellers Project • County Council • Health Service Executive • Clonmel Youth Training Enterprise • VEC

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	
Clonmel Training Centre	
Actions	Supporting Agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify work experience placements for the Travelling Community • Improve literacy / numeracy skills of Travelling Community • Improve attendance of Third Level Access Officers at locations where Travellers are present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC • Town Councils

SOCIAL INCLUSION MEASURES GROUP

Fix dates for operational planning

- WHO WILL DO WHAT AND WHEN?
- HOW, BY WHEN WILL IT BE INCLUDED IN YOUR AGENCY'S WORKPLAN?
- HOW AND BY WHEN WILL IT HAVE A BUDGET LINE

ACTIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY EACH AGENCY

1. Action Plan to be discussed at S.I.M.
2. Each Agency leading an action will include it in it's Corporate Action Plan
3. Each Agency leading an action will include it in it's next Budget where necessary.
4. It was agreed that the Housing Section of the Local Authority would circulate the objectives and actions prior to the S.I.M. meeting of the 5th of February 2007.

Agencies	Current Input			
	Full Time	Part Time	Contact	Total
South Tipperary County Council	2	7 x ½	√	5 ½
Health Service Executive	3	5 x ½	√	5 ½
Community Development	2	2 x ½	√	3
Spafield Family Resource Centre		2 x ½	√	1
V.E.C.			√	
Dept. of Education & Science Visiting Teachers	1			1
Classroom Assistants			√	
F.A.S.			√	
Dept. of Social & Family Affairs			√	
Clonmel Youth Training Enterprise			√	