

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group
Meeting notes of 6th November, 2007
Held at Minella Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Summary

1. SIM agreed to set up a working group to examine links between the Cohesion Board and SIM
2. A number of blocks to progress on SIM actions were noted
3. RAPID plans, Tipperary Technology park proposal and Disability Plan were all endorsed.

Present: Sinead Carr, D.o.S., Mark Ryan, Margo Hayes, Julia Tarrant DSFA, Jimmy Cass, Disability Groups, C+VForum, Phyllis Naughton, Disability rep. C+V Forum, Bridget O’Keeffe, Carmel McKenna, Network of CDPs/FRCs, Martin Maher, Co. Librarian, Antje Hogan, Co. Tipperary CIS, Angela Joy, HSE, Sean McSweeney, Knockanrawley, Eileen Condon VEC, Jarlath Fallon, Dept of Ed. and Science, Liam O’Brien FAS, Phil Shanahan, CCP, Eileen Horgan, Ann Ryan, Sean Cuddy AGS, Kieran O’Regan, Dominic Sullivan, Dept. of Ed. and Science, Kathleen Prendergast

Apologies: Billy Doyle, Clonmel Borough Council, Fionuala McGeever (Tipperary S.R. VEC), Gerry Hickey, County Childcare Committee,

Chairperson: Daniel Fox Farming Pillar,

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

Matters arising:

- Jarlath Fallon informed the meeting that knowledge of Irish was not a barrier in the employment of special needs assistants
- Antje Hogan noted that an extension had been granted to the CIS information project and discussions regarding the longer term were ongoing.
- Phil Shanahan reported on the success of an application for funding for development work with migrant workers

2 Review of SIM working methods

The Chair, Dan Fox, presented a document on the working methods, plan and effectiveness of SIM which was accepted with the following additional points:

- Endorsement should be more rigorous
- SIM needs to have an impact on national policy
- Its role in relation to Cohesion needs to be clarified. The new Cohesion Board will have funds and authority, what will SIM have?
- There is significant value in networking and meeting members
- A submission re SIM impact on national policy has already been submitted
- The New Plans template should focus more on endorsement
- An Indecon report on the roles of the CDB/SIM is expected
- New plan reports should come before the plan is ‘set in stone’
- There are agencies such as Transport missing from the SIM table
- RAPID can make direct recommendations to Depts. on issues (but there is a mechanism to follow that up).
- SIM needs the top-level group at Departmental level reinstated.

- If CDB is the over-arching structure in the county why is it being cut down?
- The Disability Plan process was good, it involved real issues being brought to SIM

Action agreed: a working group of Phil Shanahan, Angela Joy, Jimmy Cass, Bridget O'Keeffe, Julia Tarrant and P. Holland would examine possible links between the Cohesion Board and SIM/CDB.

3 Review of Progress on 2007 Targets

The following blocks to progress on 2007 Targets were identified:

- Data: we may know we have problems but can we prove it?
- Boundaries: we have different agencies with different boundaries which can inhibit projects
- Plan implementation, who is leading on actions and who is reporting
- Policy: we need to be able to effect change from below
- Plans etc coming to SIM need to be put in the national context, NDP, national policies etc
- Actions: only if the lead agency agrees can an action be put into a plan. But what happens if we have a very good action but no agency wants to lead it?
- Structures: we do not have county structures or a single agency dealing with all S. I groups e.g. Elderly
- Victories: we need to praise and publicise our victories more (for example funding had been provided for an ESL project in part of the county and FAS were funding 45 linked work experience placements at present in the county).
- How do we measure networking and meeting?
- We need a focus locally and a national structure to join to

4 SIM Work Programme for 2008

A possible SIM work programme for 2008 was outlined. Possible additional tasks were mentioned including Suicide awareness/prevention, Poverty, Homelessness, Primary Care Teams, Mental Health and Social Economy groups with allowance for unexpected topics. It was agreed that Early School Leaving was an issue but it should be reviewed after sufficient data had been gathered. Front line issues should be examined with champions of the issue present at meetings. There was a need to increase the rate of change and to create and celebrate small wins. It was agreed that a draft programme would be worked on for the next meeting.

5 AOB

Presentation of Dept. of Education and Science

Jarlath Fallon and Dominic Sullivan outlined the regional structure of the Dept. of Education and Science, the aims of the Deis programme. A current action of the Deis programme, under Chapter 7, is an examination of all funding, from whatever source, which is directed towards educational disadvantage.

Cohesion

The current position, as outlined by Eileen Horgan, was noted

RAPID

The RAPID plans were accepted (proposed Phil Shanahan, seconded Liam O'Brien) with the withdrawal, for further consideration, of a proposal that State Agencies should be eligible to draw down Dormant Account funding. A funding proposal to Pobal re: Tipperary Technology Park was endorsed, proposed Liam O'Brien.

Disability plan

The South Tipperary SIM Disability Plan was endorsed with some final additions (proposed Phil Shanahan, seconded Brigid O'Keeffe). National policy issues would be dealt with separately.

Date of next meeting: Monday 4th February, 2.00 pm in Minella Hotel, Clonmel.

Please note the slightly earlier time to accommodate a launch of a document, which is being prepared for publication at present. Further details and confirmation later.