

**Social Inclusion Measures Working Group**  
**Meeting notes of 3rd July, 2006**  
**Held at Minella Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary**

**Summary**

1. Inter-Agency Traveller Committee to create new agenda etc
2. Tipperary Town Garda Diversion project application endorsed
3. Future direction of SIM to be discussed at next meeting.
4. VEC proposals for English for Speakers of other Languages endorsed

**Present:** Martin Maher, Co. Libraries, Pat. Holland, C+E, Mark Ryan, RAPID co-ordinators, Eileen Horgan, Community and Enterprise, Ruth Smith Tipperary Women's Network, Margaret Casey Tipperary Rural Travellers Project, Mick Cummins DFSA, Mary Foxtan Tipperary Citizens Information Services, Carmel McKenna Suir CDP, Phyllis Naughton, South Tipperary Disability Forum, Declan Rice BNS, Andrew McMahon Community Welfare HSE, Ger Walsh Housing Section, South Tipperary Co. Council, Mary Egan Spafield SPC, Isabel Cambie, Tipperary LEADER, Clare Cashman Millennium FRC, Oliver Clancy FAS, Cllr. Mattie McGrath, Dan Fox IFA, Eileen Condon VEC, Lavinia English VEC ESOL Co-ordinator, Phil Shanahan CCP, Bernadette Phillips CCP-TIME project.

**Apologies** Fionuala McGeever (Tipperary S.R. VEC), Billy Doyle, Clonmel Borough Council, Hilda O'Neill Health Promotion, HSE, Breda Corr, RAPID Liaison Office, Pobal, Antje Hogan, Citizens Information Service, Kathleen Prendergast, Sean McSweeney, Knockanrawley, Deidre Hennessey Tipperary Youth Service.

**Chairperson:** Alan Price, HSE.

**1 and 2** The meeting report of the last meeting was adopted subject to the changes below from BNS:

1. The organisation BNS will merge with in Kilkenny is Castlecomer District Community Development Network.
2. Point 4 should begin 'BNS is not convinced that the proposed model is right or finally settled', proposed replacing the term 'current'.

Agenda agreed.

**3 "Rural Isolation"**

The reports circulated were discussed with the following additional points

1. Rural isolation is not only a modern phenomenon
2. The Ballyhoura idea of a helpline should be extended
3. Transport and access are crucial inputs
4. Rural isolation is not always synonymous with poverty
5. There are cultural differences in rural areas
6. Rural Ireland is very quiet during the day now
7. Could LEADER support outreach services
8. The Rural Social Scheme could be of great assistance
9. Human contact is an important need the elderly
10. The HSE assists with home helps
11. Elderly abuse is an issue also
12. Access to services is a crucial issue, larger than social inclusion on its own as we sometimes accept service restrictions in rural areas which would not be accepted in a major city
13. Approaches to those who may be isolated need to be done at local personal level

14. Community resources such as pubs and post offices are closing down and people are becoming isolated
15. The countryside is not a national park, it is a working area.
16. There are already existing locations which can be used for local education and adult education projects
17. There is a need for an insurance scheme to cover community events
18. A locally based geographical approach is the way to go
19. Lots of work is being done but we need to see evidence-based analysis of the results
20. Who will support the rural helpline idea?
21. A new way of measuring rural deprivation is being researched

It was agreed to discuss this issue further at our next meeting in the context of setting priorities for SIM.

## **4 Reports**

### **.1 Elderly Services Working Group**

The work plan, as circulated was presented and accepted and the working group commended for their activity. Alan Price noted that he would be examining ways by which the HSE would engage more effectively with various SIM working groups.

### **.2 Inter-Agency co-operation re: Services to Traveller Community**

In Co. Waterford, one of the pilot areas, the inter-agency committee was very wide in membership and a convener had been appointed in each area to drive the process. South Tipperary already has an inter-agency committee, set up in 2002 by SIM, which was set up to help achieve housing targets but which could fulfil the aims expressed in the Taoiseach's letter. The Tipperary Traveller Project has specific concerns regarding information re: specific families discussed at meetings. It was agreed that Traveller representatives should be on the committee. Legal opinion would appear to be that groups that are not subject to the Data Protection Act are not eligible to discuss individual family circumstances, in effect, because they cannot share data. It was agreed to continue with the existing group on a 'clean sheet' basis where the group would create its own agenda, membership criteria and policy. The committee would report back to SIM on this process. Ger Walsh, Director of Housing would act as the lead agency in this process and would proceed to arrange a suitable meeting date to commence the project

### **.3A Garda Diversion Project application, Tipperary town: endorsed**

**.3B Vacant Community Development posts, HSE.** Alan Price noted that a post recently vacated would be filled shortly.

**.4 Cohesion Process:** Eileen Horgan reported that we were awaiting a letter from the Minister giving the Development Companies his decision re this process.

**.5 TIME project:** Bernadette Phillips reported on this project (copy attached). The need for continued support and mainstreaming was noted. The VEC were involved in the project evaluation.

## TIME Report to SIM July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006

### Project Overview.

The TIME Project is managed by Clonmel Community Partnership Ltd. as lead agency. It is delivered as part of the Equality for Women Measure out of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, with delivery in the South Tipperary RAPID areas of Carrick- on- Suir, Clonmel and Tipperary Town. These individual town projects are supported by the Town Council in Carrick on Suir, Knockanrawley Resource Centre in Tipperary Town and by Clonmel Community Partnership in Clonmel. The project also works with Tipperary Womens' Network. The TIME Project will run up to March 2007.

### Overall Objectives:

- ❖ Improve access to education, training and employment opportunities.
- ❖ Increase the numbers of women participating in decision-making structures.

### Progress to date:

The overall Project has delivered a number of programmes and courses, both accredited and non- accredited to support women to access education, training and employment. This has been directed by the needs of individual women through the provision of a one to one mentoring service.

The project operates through three levels of engagement with three central themes: Personal, Family and Community.

### PLA Research:

15 women from Carrick, Clonmel and Tipperary Town were trained in PLA methodology – (Participatory Learning and Action) - to carry out a comprehensive needs analysis to identify the supports required by women in the target communities of their respective areas.

Subsequent research was conducted in Clonmel and Tipperary Town. Unfortunately due to mitigating circumstances, no research was undertaken in Carrick on Suir.

As part of the research, focus groups were held with all relevant stakeholders to inform the project of the issues and needs experiences by women at the grass roots. The collation of this research piece is nearing completion and will inform the planning of programmes and training for women along with informing the design of Equality Awareness Training and greater collaboration with statutory agencies.

Key areas identified:

The key areas identified so far through programme evaluation are as follows:

1. An increased value on education and training for women
2. The provision of an access route to further and higher education opportunities.
3. An increased involvement of women in community activism.
4. The establishment of a coherent voice for women
5. The establishment of a forum to highlight the issues/needs of women in the RAPID areas of South Tipperary.

In line with the principles of Community Development, there are 3 integral parts to the TIME Project.

1. Support
2. Involvement
3. Partnership

These 3 elements of the Project are intrinsically linked.

Strategies and Initiatives:

The TIME Project has carried out an internal review that will outline proposed strategies going forward to March 2007. This review is in line with the TIME Project commitment to ongoing evaluation and was also commissioned to respond to the issues that emerged in moving from formulation to implementation of the Project. The core strategies proposed going forward fall into 2 areas of work:

1. Support
2. Representation

Support:

To assist the development of service delivery to women in the RAPID areas of South Tipperary through:

- ❖ 1:1 mentoring
- ❖ Provision of access to education and training opportunities.
- ❖ Provision of contribution towards social care and transport.
- ❖ Provision of a forum for debate and discussion around the needs and issues of women.

- ❖ Involvement of women in the decision-making process
- ❖ Enhanced communication with other service providers

**Representation:**

Effecting social change which will have a meaningful and positive impact for women and their families through:

- ❖ Supporting women to be involved in community activism.
- ❖ Effective engagement with the wider community via the media to:
  - 1) Highlight the inequalities experience by women, in particular those experiencing poverty and exclusion.
  - 2) Promotion of social change that will endeavour to address all forms of inequality experienced by women.
  - 3) Supporting women affected by inequality and social exclusion to have a clear and strong voice through the provision of coherent links with policy and decision makers.

**5 Future Direction of SIM**

It was agreed that the September SIM meeting would review progress of Social Inclusion actions and refocus on inter-agency actions among the forty-one actions in the NDP submission by means of a tabulated plan highlighting inter-agency working.

**6 Any Other Business.**

1. **VEC English for Speakers of other Languages Project:** SIM agreed and supported VEC as the strategic co-ordinator of ESOL as per proposal submitted. (Note: Lavinia English is the VEC ESOL co-ordinator, Old VEC building, Cahir, 052.26269 [adulted@tippsouthvec.ie](mailto:adulted@tippsouthvec.ie))
2. **Millennium Fun Learning Together Project:** This pilot project was aimed at family activity as a tool or medium for relationship development and social education. Currently being evaluated, a proposal for mainstreaming funding was being prepared.

**7 Date of next meeting**

**4<sup>th</sup> of September 2006, 2.00 –4.45pm, Minella Hotel**