

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group
Meeting notes of 6th November, 2006
Held at Minella Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Summary

1. Concerns were expressed about several aspects of the Cohesion Board proposal
2. Working group work plans were approved
3. Endorsed: Millennium FRC Fun Learning Learning together and the VEC WRITE project

Present: Alan Price HSE, Phil Shanahan CCP, Mick Cummins DFSA, John Devane, LEADER, Clare Curley, Director of Service, South Tipperary County Council, Ann Ryan, Eileen Horgan, Pat. Holland C+E, Mary Roche VEC, Dan Fox, Farming Pillar, Tracey Costello, County Childcare Committee, Carmel McKenna Suir CDP, Billy Doyle, Clonmel Borough Council, Phylis Naughton Disability Forum, Eoin O Neill, WRYS, Jarlath Fallon, Dept of Ed. and Science, Bridget O’Keeffe CoS Community Resource Centre, Mary Egan, Spafield FRC, Mark Ryan, Margo Hayes RAPID co-ordinator, Declan Rice BNS, Clare Cashman MFRC

Apologies: Cllr. Denis Landy, Sinead Carr, Director of Service, South Tipperary County Council, Liam Kilbride CoS Education Network, Martin Maher, Co. Libraries, Sean McSweeney, Knockanrawley, Liam O’Brien FAS, Tina Kennedy School Completion Programme, Eileen Condon VEC,

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

Agenda items 1: The meeting report of the last meeting was adopted (proposed Phil Shanahan, seconded Bridget O’Keeffe) and the revised Agenda agreed. It was also agreed that meetings would start at 2.15pm henceforth.

2 Consideration of Cohesion Board Proposals:

The meeting considered the proposals re: cohesion ‘boards’ recently received from the Dept. of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The following points were raised:

1. The consultation time was inadequate.
While the recognition of social inclusion and rural development was welcome there were points of concern
2. **Consultation:** The new structures are seen as proscriptive and 'top down' and the question was asked 'Why did we not get a general direction on principles such as parity of esteem and then let us decide ourselves with this model as a default position?
3. **Existing Structures:** It is not clear how the new structure will fit into the existing ones (SIM and CDB). There does not appear to be any linkages with the existing CDB and SIM which will create duplication and confusion. One member noted that the new Board will appear as a 'CDB-lite'. Several members noted that they will have to attend more meetings with the same people to the same broad purpose as the SIM. The use of the term Board to designate the new cohesion structures is itself a source of confusion.
4. It is not clear how this new cohesion structure will integrate with the existing local development companies. It is significant to note that in this county, some 18 months ago, we had worked out an agreed model of social inclusion provision incorporating all the local development companies. This has had to be put to one side and will now have to be re-negotiated and re-formed.

5. **Board Membership.** There are concerns within the Board as to how the existing expertise within BNS and Tipperary LEADER can be carried forward. There is also concern about the number of reps. allocated to the rural development sector in comparison to those from urban interests and the number of issue representatives in comparison to those from statutory agencies. The different skills required of community representatives from social inclusion groups and rural development interests was also noted.
6. **Board aims and procedures:** The question as to the role and vision of the Board was discussed. As it stands the number of Board members is quite large and as noted, sub-committees will have to be formed to discuss projects, applications etc. These sub-committees have not been defined other than a mention and there are no terms of reference, definitions or roles for the Board or the sub-committees.

It was agreed that any further comments would be collated by the secretary and sent on to the Department.

3 Progress of 2007 Work Programme:

Three working group plans were discussed and adopted (a summary document of all SIM working plans will follow).

A Safety and Security Partnership (the value of the committee to the community was noted as was the success of a recent Bonfires discussion meeting)

B Elderly working group (the need for HSE representation and a business plan for a new service in West Tipperary were discussed as were the IT needs of the elderly)

C The Inter-agency Committee re Delivery of Services and Supports to the Travelling Community (A timescale of submitting the final plan to SIM in February was mentioned as was the need for full inter-agency representation).

D The plans of the Early School Leaving working group were also noted. While Migrant workers had not been made the subject of a working group, there were a number of networks active on this topic and the Cultural Providers and the VEC were active in this area also.

All working groups were asked to keep in mind the possibility of availability of funds under the new cohesion framework 2007-13.

4 New Collaborative Actions: Millennium FRC Fun Learning Together

<i>What is the issue?</i>	Out-reach and engagement with families at risk or no experience or engagement within the community or area: Slieveardagh
<i>What action are you suggesting?</i>	A three year pilot “Fun Learning Together” has just been completed and evaluated. Copy of the funding proposal available on ‘WWW.mfrc.ie
<i>Target group?</i>	Families with young children with no history of engagement
<i>Proposed outcomes:</i>	A new way of successfully engaging with those least likely to participate in development and learning opportunities.
<i>Stakeholders to be involved?</i>	MFRC, VEC, FAS, HSE, Dept. of Education, Social & family Affairs, Health & children. FSA
<i>Funds/resources required</i>	Total funding required for 3 year project: €193,000 Year 1 requirement €68,000
<i>What time-scale?</i>	3 year programme commencing January 07
<i>What performance indicators?</i>	1 increased use of mainstream education 2 increased social engagement of parents 3 better child/parent relationship

Project proposed by Declan Rice and seconded by Bridget O’Keefe

5 Stakeholder brief (Waterford and Tipperary Regional Youth Services)

<p>1. <i>Introduction: What is your agency/project/group?</i></p> <p>Tipperary Regional Youth Service: Tipperary Regional Youth Service aims to support the social, personal and educational development of young people by giving them opportunities to try out new activities, make decisions and exercise responsibility. We are a local voluntary organization operating in South and North Tipperary, and part of East Limerick.</p> <p>Waterford Regional Youth Service: Waterford Regional Youth Service, the name will be changing to incorporate South Tipperary. The area covered by the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore.</p>
<p>2. <i>What are your main functions and roles?</i></p> <p>Tipperary Regional Youth Service: Working in a predominantly rural area, we engage with local communities to address local youth needs through quality youth work programmes, activities and events with a strong voluntary input. We operate on the ground through Community Youth Projects for Disadvantaged Youth, through local Youth Clubs, and with youth groups targeting specific disadvantage. In our</p>

centres in Cashel and Tipperary Town, we host a number of projects, as well as youth cafes in each town.

Our main functions include:

- Youth club support
- Youth projects (particularly to marginalised young people)
- Youth Information provision
- Community Drugs Awareness

Waterford Regional Youth Service: Coordinators and organisers of various youth services and youth provision. Manage projects that are funded by different government departments

3. *What can your agency do and not do?*

Tipperary Regional Youth Service can:

- provide youth workers to assist communities to establish youth clubs, programmes and groups
- provide assistance, training and support to voluntary leaders
- provide a safe environment through our cafes for young people, particularly disadvantaged, marginalised and rural young people
- provide an information service to young people and their families in support them in making decisions that will shape their lives
- support schools and community centres to deliver programmes and projects in which young people and their communities are the primary beneficiaries
- deliver and facilitate training on a number of youth / parenting programmes
- work with communities to increase awareness of drugs, alcohol and other issues

We cannot:

- provide funding for programmes. We can however create the linkages and routes for communities / groups to access funding
- duplicate the efforts of other similar agencies. However we can work with such agencies to create value for money and a more effective service for young people in Co Tipperary

Waterford Regional Youth Service:

Expertise in the following areas: Young people, community youth projects, Garda youth diversion projects, Community drugs projects, drugs outreach projects, early school leavers projects, youth information services, outdoor pursuits, homelessness, training (leadership and child protection, obtaining funding, development of premises

Limited if no funding strand is available

4. *What is the background/context of your work?*

Tipperary Regional Youth Service:

The membership of Tipperary Regional Youth Service is comprised of three constituent groups:

- - young people engaged in TRYS programmes and their families

- - volunteers engaged in TRYS Programmes
- - Communities in which TRYS programmes or projects are based.

We are affiliated to Youth Work Ireland and work closely in partnership with a number of agencies, including the VEC, the HSE and Pobal. We also work with WRYS to ensure a consistent delivery of service to young people across the county.

Waterford Regional Youth Service:

Voluntary organisation, set up as a limited company, focus on working with and in local communities. Strong focus on delivering services

5. *What are your budgets and staff in the county?*

Tipperary Regional Youth Service:

€179375 = grant income

Staff numbers = 3 full time posts, 2 part time posts, 6 CE / Link / RSS workers

Waterford Regional Youth Service:

DES YSGS 30% -Regional Director 20,640

CYRC	full time	60,957
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YIS	sessional	<u>8,500</u>
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90,097

DJELR 91,000

HSE 119,000 Clonmel and Carrick

Co Council 2000 Cahir

5 Fulltime and three part-time sessional workers

RDTF 55,000

6. *What is your client base in the county?*

Tipperary Regional Youth Service: Young people in the towns of Cashel, Tipperary and the rural environs.

Waterford Regional Youth Service: young people, communities of interest, (early school leavers, young people involved in crime, drug users, etc) Adults and Community groups/organisations/priority local authority estates.

7. *What actions in the county strategy are you working on?*

Tipperary Regional Youth Service: Tackling early school leaving in the county

Waterford Regional Youth Service: Attracting funding for Clonmel, a Garda project for Carrick-on-Suir and a second project for Clonmel.

A second worker or project for Elm Park in Clonmel

A Neighbourhood youth project for Clonmel

Facilities in Carrick-on-Suir, Cahir, Clonmel.

8. *What working groups is your agency represented on?*

Tipperary Regional Youth Service:

Early School Leavers Sub Committee

County Youth Forum

South Tipperary Voluntary Youth Council

Waterford Regional Youth Service: Crime and Safety, Community Development, Local Development, Early School Leaving, Rapid and Clan Og, South Tipperary Voluntary youth council, local drugs committee

9 *What feedback structures are there within your organisation in relation to SIM matters?*

Tipperary Regional Youth Service:

Chief Executive's Report to Board of Management

Waterford Regional Youth Service: Board of Directors get a monthly report except for July and August. Staff are briefed at staff meeting.

6 New Plans, no data received

7 Project Endorsement:

<p><i>Name of Project/Group:</i> WRITE Project (Women's Rural Integrated Training and Education)</p>
<p><i>Aim of Project/Group:</i> This proposal has been submitted by South Tipperary VEC under the Equality for Women Measure for funding for educating women in the CLAR regions of the southeast and northeast of South Tipperary.</p>
<p><i>Target group:</i> Women in CLAR regions surrounding Cappawhite , Glen of Aherlow, and Newcastle</p>
<p><i>Proposed outcomes:</i> To give women in these areas access to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult educational guidance • Adult basic education, e.g. community education and adult/family literacy • Progression options for upskilling to become leaders in their own communities • Greater awareness of important services of other relevant stakeholders
<p><i>Stakeholders involved:</i> South Tipperary VEC Adult Education Service Tipperary Women's Network Newcastle Community Resource Centre Other appropriate stakeholders in future in an advisory capacity</p>
<p><i>Funds/resources committed:</i> VEC = €5,000</p>
<p><i>What is the current position?</i> Application for €185,000 has been submitted and acknowledged by POBAL.</p>
<p><i>What are your recommendations?</i> Keeping fellow SIM members informed of this proposal and raising awareness as to potential developments in these areas.</p>

Agreed, proposed by Tracey Costello and seconded by Phil. Shanahan. A similar project has been prepared by BNS.

8 Project Updates:

Current ESOL Provision in South Tipperary

Town/Centre	Type of Class	Financed
Clonmel CTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginner x2 • Improver • Intermediate/Advanced 	Self Financed
Clonmel SuperValu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginner • FETAC Communications Level 3 	Funded by the FAS Skills for Work Programme.
Cahir Collaiste Dun Iascaigh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed Level • Starting on Monday 6th November 	Self Financed
Cahir SAP Nurseries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginner x2 	Funded by the FAS Skills for Work Programme.
Tipperary Town O'Dwyer Steel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FETAC Communications Level 3 	Funded by the FAS Skills for Work Programme
Tipperary Town Knockanrawley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Support Programme 	Funded through the VEC
Tipperary Town St. Albie's Secondary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be arranged. (Has been re advertised) 	Self financing
Cashel Spafield Resource Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Mixed Levels) Parents of school going children. 	Part funded through Community Education/part funded by learners.
Carrick on Suir Comeragh College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be arranged (has been re advertised) 	Self financed
Carrick on Suir Bridgewater House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginner FETAC ESOL Level 3 • Communications Level 3 	Funded through BTEI

An update on the work of the ESOL Coordinator

Materials Development

Developed an ESOL syllabus for the beginner, and improver groups. This syllabus is currently being used in Clonmel, Cashel, and Cahir (Class starting in Cahir on Monday 6th November), 15 groups in total.

Resources

Have ordered books which will support the syllabus.

Is in the process of compiling folders for tutors with a variety of lessons and worksheets to compliment the syllabus.

Training

Have made all tutors aware of the NALA tutor training on offer. Have answered enquiries about other accredited tutor training in Ireland.

On-going Support and Guidance for Tutors

Have provided on going support to tutors in regards to the syllabus, class plans, and materials. Have provided support for tutors whose students are working towards FETAC accreditation. Tutors are channeling ideas, concerns

Written Placement Test

Have piloted a written placement test (at Comeragh College). The written placement test will become standard practice from now on. It will be used as a tool for placing learners into suitable groups.

Database of Learners

Have maintained a data base of learners. This has led to the setting up of fee paying classes in Clonmel, Cahir and Cashel. (Part funded) As yet we don't have sufficient numbers to set up fee-paying classes in Tipperary or Carrick on Suir.

Networking

Have worked closely with the AEO and ALO.

Have attended the Education Network in Tipperary town. Gave a brief overview and contact details to all interested parties there.

Have met with the Foreign Minorities Association in Clonmel to let them know what we do and to give contact details.

Have visited the Spawell Resource centre in Cashel.

Have attended Foreign Minorities Association meetings in Carrick on Suir again to network with interested parties.

Have met with some school principals in the area.

Have met with the FAS skills for work coordinator.

Am available as a contact person, within the VEC, for ESOL enquiries.

Deal with Enquiries from Students

Have been the main person to deal with all enquiries form learners. This involves phoning, writing to, emailing and texting, often through a third person.

Advertising

Have advertised classes in Polish in South Tipp Today. Have had business cards printed to ensure as many people as possible have access to the service.

9 A.O.B.

1. The good news re the approval of a Springboard project for Clonmel was welcomed. This had been part of the points in the original Social Inclusion plan for the county as prepared by the local development companies network.
2. WRYS has secured a CE programme for drug users with seven places in South Tipperary
3. The HSE was moving forward to create primary care teams in Clonmel after the creation of a pilot team in Cashel
4. Mick Cummins noted that services of the DFSA would be managed from the Mid-West. The county would get its own job facilitator and staff members had been appointed to the three RAPID AITs (Clonmel David O'Donnell, Tipperary Margaret Egan, Carrick-on-Suir, Bill Murphy)
5. A RAPID soccer officer was being appointed and a Sports Partnership had been approved for the county.

Date of next meeting:

5th of February 2007, 2.15 –4.45pm, Minella Hotel