

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group
Meeting notes of 4th April, 2005
Held at Hotel Minella, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Summary

1. Clonmel and South Tipperary Youth Fora to be founded.
2. Action owners are to be asked to propose indicators (of progress)
3. The project collecting data on the mental health of children in Clonmel was supported
4. Topic of next meeting: The Elderly, 4th of July.

Present: John Quinn, Eoin O'Neill (Waterford Youth Service), Phyllis Naughton (Disability Group of the Community and Voluntary Forum), Kathleen Prendergast, RAPID, Eileen Condon (Tipperary S.R. VEC), Bridget O'Keeffe, Maeve Martin Psychology Dept. HE, Billy Doyle (Clonmel Borough Council), Ronan Mulhall (Dept. of Ed and Science), Deirdre Hennessy (Tipperary Regional Youth Service), Denis Leamy ADM, Mick Cummins, Dept of Social and Family Affairs, Ruth Smith, Tipperary Womens Network, Carmel McKenna CDP/FRC Network, Phil Shanahan CCP, Antje Hogan Citizens Information Service, Dan Fox, Farming Pillar, Mark Ryan, RAPID, Eileen Horgan Community and Enterprise, Margo Hayes RAPID, Sinead Carr, County Council, Tina Kennedy School Completion Project.

Apologies: Fionuala McGeever (Tipperary S.R. VEC), Oliver Clancy FAS, Liam Kilbride, Carrick on Suir Education Network, Sean McSweeney Community and Voluntary Forum,

Chairperson: Alan Price, SEHB

1 and 2 The meeting report of the last meeting was adopted (proposed Eoin O'Neill and Eileen Condon.

3 Matters Arising:

Men's Development Network: The previous meeting had agreed that their plan would be circulated and that it would be regarded as endorsed if there were no points or issues raised. This was the case

Recommendations from Comhairle na nOg (see meeting report of last meeting):

No Name Clubs: There was one in Clonmel and another was proposed in Carrick-on-Suir. Lack of volunteers was often the issue.

Action: Carrick-on-Suir Club to be followed up and a club to be proposed to the Tipperary Youth Forum

Security Staff: A statutory agency for security staff has been established and Knockenrawley had provided training courses.

Street Safety: This issue is to be referred to the Safety and Security Partnership.

Youth Consultation: Eoin O'Neill presented his paper on Young People in Local Democracy which proposed three actions

1. Establishment of a South Tipperary Youth Forum, to meet 3-4 times a year, to plan the local Comhairle na nOg and elect representatives for Dail na nOg.
2. Provide training opportunities for young people in skills appropriate for decision making processes and structures
3. Establishment of a Clonmel Youth Forum

Responses: These proposals were welcomed, as would be costings for action 2 (training for young people). The LA 21 recommendations for greater public participation in policy making would support the proposals also.

Ending Child Poverty:

There were no moves on medical cards for all aged under 18 but more cards in general were being issued

There is no hostel at present in the county but both a men's and a women's hostel were planned for Clonmel. Data on the extent of the problem locally is required (SEHB and SIMON have done some research). Liam Keane of HE to be asked for any data available.

Education issues

These will be relayed by Ronan Mulhall of the Dept. of Education and Science to national bodies.

4 Action Plan, 2006-2008 (briefing document supplied)

Reports on Actions

2.2.1: Early School Leaving: Ronan Mulhall noted that a Directory of Services was underway and a briefing day was being considered

2.2.2: The post of a development officer to prepare a strategic plan to meeting the needs of people with physical disability has been advertised.

2.3.5: A Directory of Services for the Travelling Community had been compiled and an output plan agreed. Accommodation is a key and primary need while the relationships between the settled and traveller communities are a fundamental issue. Some progress has been made on this action but much remains to be done. A new model of interaction between these two parts of the community needs to be explored.

2.3.5: Eoin O'Neill presented the second part of his report 'A Strategic Youth Plan for South Tipperary' which aimed to collect data and information in advance of a strategic youth plan for the county. The VECs would be the lead agency at county level. Proposals for youth facilities in Clonmel, Cahir and Carrick-on-Suir were being worked on.

2.3.2 Playgrounds: A joint meeting of SPCs would take place shortly to discuss this issue. There had been a number of playground applications to the Scheme of Capital Grants for Recreational and Community Facilities and Amenities.

2.3.7 The work of the Safety and Security Partnership was proceeding by examining a number of issues such as youth facilities and homelessness. A number of actions had been implemented or were progressing

Indicators

John Quinn noted the need for indicators. Critical issues were now also becoming apparent such the relationship between the settled community and the travelling community. Action owners would be asked to nominate their specific indicators. There was also the issue of delays in the effects of outputs (work now on Early School Leaving would have an effect in four years time).

5 RAPID Endorsements

It was agreed that the Housing Liaison proposals would be considered as having been endorsed by SIM if they were endorsed by their respective AIT meetings

The RAPID co-ordinators were congratulated on the success of the application for funding for Equality for Women measure and Carrick-on-Suir was commended on the new playground and the opening of the Resource Centre.

6 Presentations

Maeve Martin presented her report (previously attached) on the Mental Health of Children in Clonmel. The issues are linked with other socio-economic issues. Data is vital for the project and 24% (of children having mental health issues) is thought to be an accurate figure. Follow-up is essential as is a drop-in-centre and a mental health programme. €30,000 is required for phase two and various funding possibilities were suggested (Dormant Accounts, Irish Youth Foundation, AIB Better Ireland and VEC grants scheme).

Eoin O'Neill's presentation had been dealt with earlier in the meeting. Liam Bolger's presentation on the Men's Development Network proposal was deferred to the next meeting.

7 Any Other Business

Citizens Information: Antje Hogan noted that they were willing to do research for state and semi-state bodies

Inter-Agency co-operation: Eoin O'Neill noted that, in his opinion, inter-agency co-operation was increasing in the county

Topic of next meeting:

It was agreed that the Elderly would be the topic of the next meeting (4th July) followed by Migrant Workers (Sept.) and Rural Isolation (November) for subsequent meetings. Project work programmes should be sent into Community and Enterprise Section for July.

8 Date of next meeting

Monday 4th of July, 2005, 2.00 –4.45pm, Minella Hotel