

**Social Inclusion Measures Working Group**  
**Meeting notes of 5<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2005**  
**Held at NTDI, Western Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary**

**Summary**

1. County RAPID report endorsed
2. Springboard project application for Clonmel endorsed
3. Disability Issue Watch reviewed, several actions listed
4. Draft report of Local Development Companies re Social Inclusion post-2006 noted and discussed
5. Date of next meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> of November, 2005.
6. Topics of next meeting to include: Migrant Workers and reports of Elderly Strategic Working Group and Local Development Network

**Present:** Eoin O'Neill (Waterford Youth Service), Phyllis Naughton (Disability Group of the Community and Voluntary Forum), Deirdre Hennessy (Tipperary Regional Youth Service), Ronan Mulhall (Dept. of Ed and Science), Antje Hogan, Citizens Information Service, John Quinn, Community and Enterprise, Alan Price, HSE-SE, Jimmy Cass, Supported Employment Project, Eileen Condon (Tipperary S.R. VEC), Phil Shanahan CCP, Tracey Costello (County Childcare Committee), Mary FitzGerald, AGS, Carol Moore, HSE Disability Services, Liam Murphy, Dept of Social and Family Affairs, Bridget O'Keeffe, Sean McSweeney Community and Voluntary Forum, Kathleen Prendergast, RAPID, Margo Hayes RAPID, Mark Ryan, RAPID, Gavin Cullen, South Tipperary County Council, Ronnie Corbett, Cluain Training and Enterprise Centre, Dan Fox, Farming Pillar, Phyllis Naughton South Tipperary Disability Group, Susanne McLoughlin, CCP+ South Tipperary Disability Group, Oliver Clancy FAS, Eileen Horgan, Community and Enterprise, Ann Ryan, Community and Enterprise, Carmel McKenna CDP/FRC Network, John Quinn, Sinead Carr, South Tipperary County Council, Declan Rice, BNS.

**Apologies:** Billy Doyle (Clonmel Borough Council), Mick Cummins, Dept of Social and Family Affairs, Liam Kilbride Carrick-on-Suir Education Network, Donal Danaher, Tipperary Centre for Independent Living, Tina Kennedy, School Completion Project, Claire Cashman, CDP/FRC Network, Ruth Smith, Tipperary Women's Network.

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

**1 and 2** The meeting report of the last meeting was adopted (proposed Eileen Condon and seconded Ronan Mulhall). Agenda agreed.

**3 Endorsements/RAPID**

- (A) The county RAPID report to the National Monitoring Committee was adopted (proposed Tracey Costello, seconded Phil. Shanahan) with one emendation.
- (B) An application for a Springboard project in Clonmel was endorsed (proposed Deirdre Hennessy, seconded Eoin O'Neill). The chairperson would sign the letter of endorsement. The application was currently being considered by the HSE and the Dept. of Health and a reply was expected in early 2006. Barnardos would operate within the context of a service level agreement with the HE-SE. and it was hoped that funding would be continued after the initial phase. The assistance of CCP and Barnardos in drafting the application, which was based on case studies rather than statistics, was noted.

#### **4 Review of Disability Issue Watch:**

Matters Arising from Issue Watch, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2004

##### *A 'The Benefit Trap':*

1. Carol Moore of the HE had met Mick Cummins re this issue and it was noted that a medical card could be retained if a person went on a training scheme.
2. The issue, including the fear, needs to be addressed at a national level
3. There is one scheme which provides for continued benefits
4. The new GP medical card scheme should bring benefits to those having the card.
5. Community Welfare officers will take all circumstances into account.

##### *B Inter-agency group, Housing section, County Council and HSE*

1. This inter-agency meeting had taken place and agreed to share information twice yearly to facilitate a better service to the public
2. The existing situation of several grants being available for housing needs relating to disability from different agencies should be examined. The grant process in the Council was now streamlined and more efficient but there was an apparent shortage of contractors willing to take the work on. This creates a budgetary implication for the H.E. where occupational therapists have to issue equipment.
3. Local development companies and agencies might consider how this shortage of resources might be addressed. There is a possible model in north Kilkenny.
4. Some applicants also find it difficult to deal with the administration of the scheme application process.
5. If the Council were given details of local housing needs in relation to the disabled, then it would be possible to issue detailed specifications for new houses (affordable houses, Part V process) in advance.

Matters arising from South Tipperary Disability Group Submission

##### *Community Employment Scheme*

1. CE schemes dealing with health were supposed to be mainstreamed but the estimated cost of this is very high and there has been no progress on this issue thought such schemes have been ring-fenced.
2. The main-streaming and long term continuity of personal assistants is a crucial one for those availing of them. Personal assistants in schools have been main-streamed.

3. The CORI model of CE scheme has not been continued and may not be resumed due to anomalies arising from it.

*Employment Levels (3% target)*

1. South Tipperary County Council: 3.15%
2. In 2003, 34 officers employed in the Dept. of Ed. and Science nationally with a disability. This relates to Dept. only and not to teachers etc.
3. Current statistics for FAS nationally averages about 3.3%. Local stats not available
4. VEC figure in the county is .8%
5. DSFA does not have anyone in the county employed under the 3% employment target. Civil service recruitment controlled centrally.
6. Issues:
  - a. no definition of disability (but see Disability Act)
  - b. very few applications received from those with disabilities
  - c. very little local control over recruitment
  - d. Some people with disabilities do not disclose them
  - e. Is a quota-based approach ideal in a policy aiming at mainstreaming disability
  - f. There are FAS grants available for costs incurred in the employment of persons with disability.
  - g. Guidance is needed at national level on this issue

*Physical and Sensory Centre –Re Nua, Cashel*

The issue of the opening of this facility is tied in with a High Court Action and the larger issue of Cashel and Clonmel hospital services. It is hoped to have the issue resolved and the unit open for the purpose it was built by the end of the year.

*Accessible Transport*

The SIM endorsed an application to the Dept. of C. R and G for a grant of €10,000 for research into rural disability transport needs.

A report on the following issues was requested.

*South Tipperary Barcelona Declaration Committee*

For information on the Declaration see data attached at end meeting report.

*Travel Passes (not eligible for some transport providers)*

There are also a number of other issues in the Disability Group's submission (attached)

Actions arising from discussion::

| <b>Issue</b>   | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Target Group</b>                       | <b>Lead Agency</b>   | <b>Indicator</b>  |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| Fear of 'benefits trap'  | Create 'social guarantee' of no loss of benefits while on training (based on Educational Guarantee concept) | Disabled                                  | CDB  | ? proposal to be made to relevant body                                    |
| Lack of resources to take up tenders for disabled persons grants.        |   | Disabled                                  | Housing Policy and Social Development<br>SPC to discuss in November  | SPC action proposed   |
| Assistance for those applying for disabled persons grants                |   | Disabled                                  | Housing Policy and Social Development<br>SPC to discuss in November, | SPC action proposed   |
| Barcelona Declaration  | Report on progress  | Disabled and local authority staff etc    | John Quinn to report.  | Information SIM members   |
| Information to Housing Section, Co core needs of disabled in new housing | Meeting of Disability group and County Council Housing section  | Disabled awaiting local authority housing | County Council Housing section                                       | Information provided to Council well in advance of construction of houses |

### **5 Social Inclusion in South Tipperary:**

The draft report of the Local Development Companies was presented and discussed:

Points raised:

1. The LDC was complimented on their work in preparing the draft plan
2. The Local Development Companies have a significant role in growing the capacity of the Travelling Community to engage in dialogue re change and the responsibilities of all stakeholders

3. There are very few local development companies, and a small total budget in the county.
4. We are looking for better coverage in the most effective and efficient way
5. Are we confident of funding post-2006?
6. There are two opposing possibilities: consolidation under one agency within the county or respecting local agencies and delivery. Would one organisation maximise benefit faster than a network of several groups?
7. Disability should be included in the list of target groups
8. The Dept. of CRaG has been working on the post-2006 plan for several months and the term of the plan has been set at 2007-2013.
9. SIM needs the practical details of how we will get overall coverage, 'who will do what and where', budgets and plans.
10. Cross-cutting themes should first be focused on rather than individual groups
11. How will the LDC decide on the prioritisation of group needs?
12. There needs to be comparisons and standardisation across groups
13. Agencies will need to have details of their post-2006 'bids' into the CDB by November so that they can all be compiled, together with the community input, into a county plan
14. The SIM will consider and endorse a county post-2006 plan at the February meeting and can consider the matter at the November meeting also.

## **6 Any Other Business.**

- a. Eoin O'Neill noted that two recent sets of grants (Youth and Drugs initiatives) had both seen South Tipperary come out with low levels of funding. While there was a possibility of a secondary funding round, South Tipperary projects needed to be more substantial for long term funding.

### **Topic of next meeting:**

It was agreed that the next meeting would discuss Migrant Workers in the county. The Report of the Elderly Strategic Working Group and the Local Development Network (post-2006 plan) will also be reviewed. The February SIM meeting will be crucial as it will consider the final Social Inclusion plan post-2006.

### **8 Date of next meeting**

**Monday 7th of November, 2005, 2.00 –4.45pm, Minella Hotel**

Adopting the Barcelona Declaration obliges the Local Authorities to:

1. Promotion

Promote disability awareness and ensure the rights of people with disabilities to be different and their right to receive personal attention

## 2. Policies and Measures

Develop policies and an equality/disability proof decision-making process

## 3. Consultative process

Develop a consultative process

## 4. Inclusion and accessibility

Provide people with disabilities access to the social and physical environments as well as services

## 5. Training

Provide training programmes dealing with equality/disability issues

## 6. Analysis and Assessment

Develop monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment procedures for actions, projects and policies regarding equality/disability issues.

### *Actions derived from the Agreements:*

- Promotion of disability awareness; Ensure right to be different; Ensure right to personal attention.
- Integration with social and physical environment; Access to information (via technology).
- Access to participation in sport, culture and social activities. Development of support services; Prevent institutionalisation in health care homes.
- Provision of monitoring, analysis and evaluation of inclusion, integration and accessibility.
- Establishing policy review system.consultation and cooperation with disability advocates.

Organisation of training programmes for Local Authority personnel.

- Development of impact assessment procedures.

*Projects derived from the Agreements:*

- Promotion of disability awareness campaign through visual means: posters, website, media and press.
- Interactive public information service (IT).
- Improve legibility of information signage.
- Access within the built environment.
- Housing for people with disabilities in accordance with their economic circumstances.
- Access to transport; Barrier free mobility.

To date, [97 councils](#) have adopted the Declaration in Ireland.

## **South Tipperary Disability Group's Forum**

(Supported by Sth. Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum & Clonmel Community Partnership)

**SUBMISSION TO S.I.M. MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> 2005**

### **Employment Issues**

- **Benefits Trap** for People with Disabilities seeking employment. This issue was raised at the July 2004 S.I.M. Meeting. Action from July 2004: HSE and Dept. of S.F.A. to meet locally. Need FAS involved in this process also. **Action requested: Update needed from this meeting.**
- This Forum wish to request all public agencies involved in the South Tipperary to commit to surpassing the **3% Employment Target** of People with Disabilities. **Action requested: Can current data be supplied to the Disability Forum as requested last year?**
- **Research employment levels.** No data available of people with disabilities working in state services and private sector in South Tipperary. This Disability forum has a sub-committee looking at employment issues and hope to apply to Combat Poverty Agency or Comhairle for Research/Information Grant. **Action requested: Co. Tipperary Information Service and the Disability Forum will need help from other agencies if they are to undertake this research.**

### **Disability Services**

- **Workforce in Disability Services.** FAS has provided many of the workforce in centres & service providers for people with disabilities in South Tipperary. Although these “places” are sometimes protected or prioritised, the individual workers are not, therefore workers are lost reducing the capacity of these services, leading to lack of continuity for client and services. Need to

- mainstream these jobs via HSE Funding. **Action requested: Will S.I.M. support this at national policy level?**
- **Review of Autism Services.** A review of Autism Services was conducted up to December 2004. The report has been delayed several times and a planned approach assessment, diagnosis and care of pre-school, school-going and adults with Autism is needed immediately. **Action requested: When will this report be available?**
  - **Physical & Sensory Centre – Re Nua, Cashel.** This new centre was completed in July 2004 but is still not opened 14 months later. It has 12 units available for Respite Care and 25 day places and will offer various therapies to its clients. It is the Forum's understanding that funding has already been allocated. **Action requested: When is opening date?**

### Housing Issues

- **Housing Grants** for people with disabilities. Raised at July 2004 S.I.M. Meeting. Sth. Tipp. Co. Council (Sinead Carr) & HSE to meet locally – Need update. **Action requested: Need update**
- On-going need for either housing alterations or new wheelchair accessible local authority or voluntary housing at present.
- **Actions requested:**
  - **Disabled Persons Grant – What is the current criteria/process to obtain this?**
  - **What is the current availability of social & affordable housing for people with disabilities in South Tipperary?**
  - **The Forum would like to create a consultative process on this item.**

### Advocacy Services

- **Advocacy.** Co. Tipperary Information Service have failed in their application for an Advocacy Service. South East of Ireland Centre of Independent Living has got 1 worker to serve over 5 counties including Sth. Tipperary. Action: Advocacy service needed for South Tipperary. **Action requested: How can this need be best met in South Tipperary?**

### Accessibility & Disability Awareness Issues

- Implementation Team for Barcelona Accord needs to be established with the community and disability sector representation and relevant local authority officials on the Team. **Action requested: Set up a meeting before end of October including structure of its membership.**
- **Departmental Sectoral Plan – Action requested: The Forum request information on submission details sent to the Department in March 2005 & subsequent allocation with a view to identifying immediate**

**actions. E.g. Access Audit for South Tipperary to be completed in 6-9 months.**

- Customer relations training and disability awareness in all South Tipp public service agencies. **Action requested: Has this been conducted or what plans are in place?**

**Transport Issues**

- Travel Pass not eligible for some transport providers like Tipperary C.I.L. **Action requested: How can this issue be addressed?**

**Accessible Transport.**

- Still Shortage of accessible transport services in South Tipperary. Centre of Independent Living cannot meet customer demand. **Action requested: Need S.I.M backing for Disability Transport Group/Forum to receive research grant from Department of CRAGA.**
- The South Tipperary Disability Groups Forum recognises the role of S.I.M. in the support of the Social Inclusion Measure in South Tipperary and the forum would like to reaffirm our commitment to working in partnership with S.I.M., local authorities & other statutory agencies to progress these actions & any other actions.
- The Forum request that Disability issues be on the S.I.M. agenda for each meeting. Phyllis Naughton is the appointed Disability Group Forum representative on the S.I.M. committee.