

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group
Meeting notes of 29th March, 2004
Held at Minella Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Summary

1. SIM has agreed that the Friedman method of Results-based accountability should be used for one project in each AIT.
2. An issue working group for unemployment will be set up to identify target groups and positive interagency moves to assist them
3. **Date of next meeting Monday, 5th July, 2.00pm, Minella Hotel.**
Probable agenda topics to include Disability, Carrick-on-Suir RAPID plan and 'Proposals for Improved Cohesion'

Present: Mick Cummins (Dept of Social and Family Affairs), Ruth Smith (Tipperary Women's Network), Mary FitzGerald (Garda Siochana), Bridget O'Keeffe (Carrick on Suir Resource Centre), Oliver Clancy (FAS), Sean McSweeney (South Tipperary Community and Voluntary Forum), Fionuala McGeever (Tipperary S.R. VEC), Billy Doyle (Clonmel Town Council), Kathleen Prendergast (Clonmel Rapid), Pat. Holland (CDB), Eileen Horgan (CDB), Sinead Carr, South Tipperary Co. Co., John Quinn, County Development Board, Jo Conroy, (County Childcare Committee), Carmel McKenna (Network of Comm. Development Projects), Ann Ryan (CDB), Mary Wixted (Regional Authority), Ray O'Dwyer, South Tipperary Co. Co., Caroline O'Reilly (Tipperary Institute).

Apologies: Bernard Lennon, Tommy Cooke, Liam Kilbride, Tina Kennedy, John Devane, Darragh Murphy, Betty Coughlan.

Chairperson: Seamus Moore (SEHB)

Agenda items 1 and 2

Seamus Moore opened the meeting, the agenda was agreed and the notes of the last meeting were agreed (proposed Brigid O'Keeffe, seconded Mick Cummins).

3 RAPID

Short reports on the three RAPID areas was approved by the meeting with the following points noted:

1. SIM reports to the National Monitoring Committee would appear on a website from now on.
2. Three funding lines would now open up to RAPID areas. Preference would now be given to RAPID areas in the following ways: Local Authority estate enhancement works, funding for playgrounds and additional funds for Capital Sport projects, endorsed by AITs. AITs would now be expected to prioritise recommendations based on their plan priorities.
3. A recent meeting of Health Board AIT representatives had discussed the role of the Health Boards and pointed out that no additional funds had been provided. At national level government departments were still having difficulties in inter-agency collaboration while insisting on separate reports from agencies on AITs. It was agreed that the SIM report could be used as the basis for agency reports. Local co-operation was vital because government department level co-operation seemed to be very difficult.

4. The appreciation of Clonmel Celtic for the RAPID process and the support of the co-ordinator were noted.
5. Initial responses to the project to seek tax designation for RAPID areas were not positive but SIM support for the work was needed. It was proceeding on three levels
 - a. Official departmental level
 - b. Timing of the proposal
 - c. Economic cost/benefit analysisThe SIM supported the initiative.

4 Proposals for Improved Cohesion

The SIM noted that the local development companies in the county had been requested to consider four questions:

1 What facilities could be shared between your service and other development services in your area?

2 What administrative supports could be shared between your service and other development services in your area?

3 What new co-operative actions in social inclusion can you suggest for your area?

4 Where, in your area, do we need more/better co-ordination in the delivery of social inclusion services needed?

5 Results-Based Accountability

The SIM discussed the recent training seminar conducted by Mark Friedman on Results-Based Accountability and noted that

- It needed to be seen in practice
- It had already had an influence on the Divisional Policing Plan but its effects needed to be monitored
- It would come more into play if the hoped-for development of budgets being sent in total to the county level for it to set priorities and expenditure happens
- A Friedman model pilot project in each RAPID AIT area should be our aim
- A Friedman email discussion group should be set up.

6 Unemployment Issue Watch

This issue watch referred initially to an economic measure in the County Strategy:

1.2 Matching skills with jobs

• Fill available job opportunities by improving the skills of the South Tipperary workforce, including those seeking employment or working in the home. The workforce in Carrick-on-Suir will serve as a pilot project (FÁS).

- FAS would be heading up the Action Group because of their wider role as well as their leadership of the action above:

- The gap in disposable income between the state in general and South Tipperary is widening
- The link between the employers and the labour force is crucial (but can they each fulfil each other's expectations?)
- The unemployment figures are static and may remain so for this year
- There is an unchanging reservoir of unemployed
- Levels of unemployment are less volatile in the South-East and therefore in the smaller towns
- There is a good pool of mobile workers so that effects are spread
- Secondary income sources are a possibility
- Are there alternatives to decentralisation if it does not occur?
- The challenge is to get the long-term unemployed into the labour force
- Not all job openings may be being filled
- Pre-trained labour force members often do not get the posts when the opportunities open up
- Long-term unemployed are often unaffected by the arrival of major industries
- The 'poverty trap' (coming off state support costs a worker money) is a major disincentive
- Issues of self-esteem, confidence, literacy/numeracy are all important in unemployment
- The collaborative way to deal with this issue is to do a SWOT analysis and then agree joint actions
- The unions and the SEHB should be involved
- A similar action was progressed by the Waterford CDB on an inter-agency basis
- Funding is needed for a high-support process for the long-term unemployed, being based on a unemployment action plan.
- Some long-term unemployed do not want to work, their aspirations are for lower level jobs only and the finance they get at present is greater
- Three to five years is needed to bring someone from very long term unemployment to readiness for work
- Equestrian and farm labourer permits were at the second highest level
- Of those approached by FAS, 30% of unemployed sign off, 42% move onto work or training and the balance of 28% need a 3-5 year programme of intervention. An inter-agency approach could be valuable here. A figure of some 1680 individuals in the county (under the 42%) was possible.
- The proposal to have a working group as in Waterford was accepted with the brief to have an initial workshop to identify target groups and positive moves to assist them

7 Date of next meeting

Monday 5th of July, 2.00pm in the same venue.

Subsequent meetings on the first Monday in September and November.