

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group
Meeting notes of 3rd November, 2003
Held at Knocklofty, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Present: Tess Collins (South Tipperary County Council), Mick Cummins (Dept of Social and Family Affairs), Ruth Smith (Tipperary Women's Network), Alan Curtis (Clonmel Community Partnership), Bridget O'Keeffe (Carrick on Suir Resource Centre), Liam Kilbride, Carrick-on-Suir Education Network, Eoin O'Neill (Waterford Youth Service), Claire Hartley (South Tipperary CDSP/NDP Network), Jim Lynch (Garda Siochána), Oliver Clancy (FAS), Sean McSweeney (South Tipperary Community and Voluntary Forum), Fionnuala McGeever (Tipperary S.R. VEC), Billy Doyle (Clonmel Town Council), Ronan Mulhall (Dept. of Education and Science), Alan Curtis (Clonmel Community Partnership), Paula Mulrooney (Tipperary Youth Service), Margo Hayes (Carrick-on-Suir RAPID), Kathleen Prendergast (Clonmel Rapid), Ann Ryan (CDB), Michelle Butler (Tipperary Town School Completion Project), Pat. Holland (CDB), Eileen Horgan (CDB), Mark Ryan, Tipperary Rapid.

Apologies: Michael FitzGerald (South Tipperary County Council), Christopher Sheehan (County Childcare Committee), Mary FitzGerald (Garda Siochana), Darragh Murphy (BNS).

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: Fionnuala McGeever Seconded: Alan Curtis). Ronan Mulhall of the Dept. of Education and Science was introduced to the meeting.

3 RAPID

Endorsement : The meeting discussed the two endorsement documents: RAPID and CDB/local development companies and related issues

RAPID guide

1. Should we endorse project applications where RAPID has no impact upon the decision process?
2. Various suggested edits were made regarding the RAPID endorsement guide inc. a definition of social exclusion should be added, point 3 to be made more pro-active, clarification of question 5 and question 7 add poverty.
3. AITS will need a more focused version of this guide if the 4th Measure funds come through. A scaling or marking system may be required
4. Projects need not be endorsed between meetings as they can be submitted and then endorsed
5. The recent report on the workings of the SIMs has criticised central government for not providing sufficient data.

Local Development Companies Guide

6. Reports should be dealt with on a strategic level only
7. Regional differences in dealing with the endorsement process were emerging

8. It should not be the case that a lack of endorsement would mean a funding gap
9. We need to avoid duplication of paper
10. It appears that CDP and Partnership plans should be endorsed by February
11. Size and duration of plan depends on the projects themselves
12. Plans should be examined in advance of meetings by CDB executive and a recommendation made to the meeting. The County Strategy is for partnership actions only so it is not an issue if a CDSP's actions are not in the strategy
13. Local authorities must now submit their plans for proofing
14. State agencies should be asked to proof their plans vs. the Co. Strategy on a voluntary basis.

Action

The meeting agreed that the present draft of the RAPID endorsement guide (with those edits given above) be used as a working draft with review in April. The Local Development Company endorsement guide was also endorsed with a similar review time.

Rapid Plans and Projects:

The Clonmel RAPID plan was endorsed after a discussion of the following points:

1. There had been recent inter-agency successes in dealing with issues such as the boundary wall in Elm Park
2. Ronan Mulhall noted that endorsement of the plan by the SIM should not be taken to mean that agencies are committed to funding actions rather than it should be seen as 'agreeable to' and within the context of available resources
3. It was agreed to leave in an action dealing with St. Oliver's school as while actions should not be included that did not have a lead agency, it was important to retain ones that pointed the way forward

The plan was welcomed and praised for the depth of consultation involved and all those involved were thanked

Elm Park Area Childcare Committee project for the provision of purpose-built childcare facility was endorsed.

The Tipperary RAPID Plan was also endorsed with similar compliments for all those involved.

The Carrick-on-Suir interim plan was also noted and projects 1 (Youth Diversion Project), 2 (Neighbourhood Youth Project) and 12 (Home School Community Liaison Officer) were noted as still requiring funding. The Carrick-on-Suir RAPID plan will be presented to the SIM in July.

4 Response by CDB to Social Inclusion Watch

The meeting noted the response by CDB to the 2003 Social Inclusion Watch with the following discussion points

- Youth Homeless figures in South Tipperary are believed to be substantial

- We need to look at youth homeless.
- We need to critically examine homeless and other statistics

4b Programme of Work for SIM for 2004

The SIM agreed that

- The next meeting (February 2nd) would examine the National Report on SIMs and the progress on the three working groups (Early School leaving, to be chaired by Ronan Mulhall, Traveller Accommodation and other Issues and the Crime and Security working group with a planned meeting of the latter before Christmas).
- The April meeting would examine unemployment with Oliver Clancy heading this discussion
- The July meeting would examine disability and the Carrick-on-Suir RAPID plan.

5 A.O.B.

A letter from Knockanrawley was circulated regarding job losses due to cuts in funding. The Chairman noted that he believed that the SIM should operate at a strategic level with local concerns being addressed at AIT level. Cuts in other organisations (Framework) were noted. Meeting agreed that

- Any data re cutbacks in organisations in the social inclusion field in the county should be fed back to the chairman to create a broadly based report for the CDB

Date of next meeting

Monday February 2nd, 2004, 2.15 pm, venue to be confirmed