

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group
Meeting notes of 1st September, 2003
Held at Knocklofty, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Present: Tess Collins (South Tipperary County Council), Mick Cummins (Dept of Social and Family Affairs), Darragh Murphy (BNS), Betty Coughlan (CDSP Network), Ruth Smith (Tipperary Womens Network), Alan Curtis (Clonmel Community Partnership), Bridget O’Keeffe (Carrick on Suir Resource Centre), Michael FitzGerald (South Tipperary County Council), Mary FitzGerald (Garda Siochana), Tina Kennedy (School Completion Programme, Clonmel), Mary Egan (Muintir na Tire), Catherine Leamy (Clonmel Traveller Action Group), Claire Hartley (South Tipperary CDSP/NDP Network), Christopher Sheehan (County Childcare Committee), Sean McSweeney (South Tipperary Community and Voluntary Forum), Margo Hayes (Carrick-on-Suir RAPID), Kathleen Prendergast (Clonmel Rapid), Ann Ryan (CDB), Kathleen Ward (Community and Enterprise, South Tipperary County Council), Fionnuala McGeever (Tipperary S.R. VEC), Oliver Clancy (FAS), Michelle Butler (Tipperary Town School Completion Project), Pat. Holland (CDB), Eileen Horgan (CDB),

Apologies: William Doyle(Town Councils), Cllr. Denis Landy (Carrick-on-Suir Town Council), Liam Kilbride, Carrick-on-Suir Education Network, Ellen O’Reilly, (Primary Health Care Course).

Chairperson: Seamus Moore(SEHB),

Seamus Moore opened the meeting, the agenda was agreed and the notes of the last meeting were agreed (Proposed: Alan Curtis. Seconded: Mick Cummins)

RAPID: The meeting discussed :

- The process of project endorsement
- The role of a sub-committee acting on behalf of the whole
- Practical time and other constraints, especially when dealing with deadlines
- Consulting the lead agency involved
- The criteria to be used in endorsing projects
- The reality that projects are often decided upon by other bodies using criteria that may not take account of RAPID endorsement.
- The need for a credible and generally acceptable mechanism to endorse projects

Action

The meeting agreed that a sub-committee consisting of Alan Curtis, Chris Sheehan and Kathleen Prendergast should examine the issues and come up with draft guidelines for the SIM.

Rapid Projects

Kathleen Prendergast outlined eight projects from the Clonmel RAPID areas which will provide training and necessary equipment to community groups.

CLONMEL	Elm Park	Code	Bianco ni Drive	Code	Wildernes-Carrigeen	Code	Heywood-Cooleens	Code	Totals
Committee numbers	20		9		13		11		53
Training	€ 2,826.00	STCLON 007	€ 2,800.80	STCLON 008	€ 4,000.00	STCLON 010	€ 3,931.20	STCLON 009	€ 13,558.00
Equipment	€ 4,200.71	STCLON 011	€ 2,677.33	STCLON 012	€ 1,600.00	STCLON 014	€ 2,603.41	STCLON 013	€ 11,081.45
	€ 7,026.71		€ 5,478.13		€ 5,600.00		€ 6,534.61		€ 24,639.45

The projects were endorsed (proposed Mary FitzGerald, seconded Chris Sheehan) and would be signed by Seamus Moore, Chairman of the SIM.

Social Actions Watch

Seamus Moore, Chair, Social Inclusion Measures Working Group presented a social inclusion review. The key points in the presentation were:

- There have been increases in the size of critical target groups in the past year. Unemployment has risen by 6.3%, while those on rent supplements have increased by 5.3%.
- Progress has been made in a number of areas included in the County Social Strategy such as in the provision of childcare facilities, in traveler accommodation and in community participation in the designated RAPID areas.
- Three issues had been prioritized in 2003 (traveler accommodation, early school leaving and anti-social behaviour) and inter-agency working groups are advancing agreed actions. For 2004, there will be a focus on unemployment and disability.
- With tighter resources, and increasing demands on the public purse if unemployment continues to rise, the work of the Social Inclusion Measures Working Group and the various action committees that report to it will remain central to the County Development Board's work. There is increasing confidence at Working Group level that co-ordination approaches between public and community service providers will deliver real value in time.
- Some progress had also been made in relation to data sets presented in 2002. More detailed information was available on elderly at risk and on housing lists. But more remains to be done particular in relation to statistics on homelessness. Those groups potentially at risk of social exclusion include:

Target Groups	2002 (data)	2003 (data)	Significant features
Unemployed	3686 (June)	3917 (June)	6.3% increase as against a regional increase of 11%.
Lone	1165	1306	More childcare facilities in place

Parents			
Travellers	101 (families)	100 (families)	Drop in families living at the side of the road from 15 to 11.
Asylum seekers and refugees	83 (Jan)	52 (Jan)	Numbers in south east relatively low. Migrant worker numbers rising.
Elderly at risk	1504	826	A more detailed risk assessment was carried out since September 2002
Disabled	1421	1353	65 disabled person grants approved in 2003, 418 on the waiting list for approval
Children in care	146	103	111 in foster care
Other Welfare allowances	2667	2559	Numbers in the key rent supplement area actually increased from 950 to 1001.
Smallholder	949	866	

Social Actions Review (data circulated already)

The following additional data was provided:

2.2.1 *Develop School Completion plans and implement the school completion specific target groups in particular in Clonmel and Tipperary Town.*

Gaps and links between agencies need to be identified and clarified. It was agreed that the Early School Leaving working group would discuss these issues.

2.2.2. *Preparing and implementing a strategic plan to meet the needs of people with physical difficulties in the Cashel catchment area (SEHB).*

This post had been approved but advertisement had been delayed due to a dispute at national level re qualifications.

2.2.3 *Set up a strategic plan to meet the needs of elderly people in the Tipperary Town catchment area (SEHB)*

Not yet approved.

2.2.4 *Support pilot Traveller Community Actions (CTAG and the Tipperary Town Rural Traveller Project)*

Sixteen women were participating in four year project and the Health Board hoped to employ some of them in future with others perhaps progressing to further education. Discrimination was a reality to be considered however. Once the Rural Traveller Project in Tipperary town had a co-coordinator, a similar action Primary Health care Programme proposal will be submitted to agencies. There was a need to keep the funding for the course within the county. Work was on going in relation to the involvement of Traveller men.

2.2.5 *Promote more inter-agency initiatives for the youth of the area, use a more informal approach to attract young people and ensure their inclusion:*

The VEC had received the National Youth Plan and would be involved with its local implementation

2.2.6 *Support the work of community development projects in areas with high numbers of socially excluded people.*

The projects were meeting and networking. The SEHB had a programme of racism awareness and it might be generally available. The Network's County Social Inclusion Profile is a valuable resource.

2.2.7 Create a plan to deliver an integrated family service in Carrick-on-Suir (CoS Resource Centre Group)

The project is on-going with some difficulties being caused by the building's listed status.

2.3.1 Implement the County Childcare Strategy

The CCC had another 22 projects on the way.

2.3.6 Preparation and implementation of regional and local strategies to reduce dependence on drugs

The SEHB committee would expand under the CDB 'umbrella' and its role would be expanded with an aim of more inter-agency working.

Review of Focus Issues

The Crime and Security Group had prepared the county's submission for a Crime Prevention Partnership and had also formulated a draft submission for the Gardai's policing plan which was to go the County Development Board later on September 1. It was noted that there were three additional nominations from the SEHB for the Crime and Security working group.

Current members are

Garda Siochana - Mary Fitzgerald & perhaps the Garda rep. on the RAPID Crime & Security groups

Eoin O'Neill - WRYS

Mary Egan – Muintir na Tire

John Murphy – Probation Service

Drug Task Group- 3 members

Dennis Holland – Senior Executive Engineer, Planning Section – South Tipperary County Council

Representative from Housing section in County Council

One Representative from each of the RAPID crime task groups

One Representative from the network of CDP/FRS

One Representative from the South Tipperary Community Forum

The Traveller Accommodation task group had met once and a further meeting was scheduled for September.

The Early School Leaving Group will meet when the Department of Education Regional Office is established.

Work Programme:

After a discussion the meeting agreed that

- That disability and unemployment themes would be among the three issues to be advanced in 2004.
- The the November SIM meeting would focus on the final RAPID Plans for Clonmel and Tipperary Town. It was noted that Carrick on Suir Area Implementation Team has been given as much time as it needs to finalise its plan.
- That a short input on social inclusion would be given at the next SIM meeting.

Date of next meeting: Monday 3rd of November, 2.15 –4.30 pm