

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group
Meeting notes of 7th July 2003
Held at Knocklofty, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Present: Lisa Kavanagha(Tipperary Regional Youth Services), Breda Bell Heffernan (Cuan Saor/Local Area Network for violence against women (LAN)), Bridget O'Keeffe (Carrick on Suir Resource Centre), Mary Egan (Muintir na Tire), Tess Collins (South Tipperary County Council), Jim Lynch (Garda Suiochana), Mary Fitzgerald (Garda Síochana), Michael Fitzgerald (South Tipperary County Council), Eoin O'Neil (Waterford Regional Youth Services), Mick Cummins (Dept of Social and Family Affairs), Sean McSweeney (South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum), Ceri Stack Bailey (South Eastern Health Board(LAN & SEHB)), Liam Kilbride (Carrick on Suir Education Network), Alan Curtis (Clonmel Community Partnership), George O'Neill (Tipperary RAPID), Mark Ryan(Tipperary RAPID), Eileen Horgan (CDB & Carrick on Suir RAPID), Kathleen Ward (South Tipperary County Council), Bob Keating (VEC), Martin Hayes (Community Based Drug Initiative), John Quinn (CDB), Seamus Moore(SEHB), Ann Ryan (CDB), Martin Fennessy (Clonmel Resident – RAPID), Kathleen Prendergast (Clonmel RAPID)

Apologies: Ann Marie Naughton(SEHB), Clare Hartley (Network of Community Development Projects/Family Resource Centre), William Doyle(Town Councils), Fionnuala McGeever(VEC), John Murphy(Probation & Welfare), Ruth Smith (Tipperary Women's Network), Tina Kennedy(School Completion Programme)

Chair person: Seamus Moore(SEHB),

Actions Agreed

1. SIM recommend to CDB that an action be added to the County Social Strategy: Action: 2.3.6 Preparation and implementation of regional and local strategies to reduce dependence on drugs (Lead Stakeholders: South Tipperary Drugs Committee/Regional Drugs Task Force).
2. SIM recommend to the CDB that the Early School Leaving group would not be established until the regional Dept of Education representative is in place (i.e. September 2003) and the CDB, on the recommendation of the SIM group, would ask the Dept's regional representatives to prioritise Early school Leaving as the main focus of their work in South Tipperary.
3. Letter to be sent from SIM to the Crime Council outlining the importance of the community and voluntary groups in the implementation of the Crime Strategy
4. A working group to be established (Chaired by An Garda Síochana) to
 - a. have a watching brief on crime and security issues over the next year with a view to feeding up policy issues to the CDB and National Crime Council, examination of gaps identified in programmes and how these gap could be filled by developing workable solutions around law enforcement, crime prevention and reintegration of prisoners.
 - b. consider proposals to ensure environmental design does not contribute to crime but acts as a crime prevention measure
 - c. make a bid to be one of the Pilot National Crime Prevention Models.
5. No RAPID projects would be endorsed between SIM meetings and the next SIM meeting would discuss the issues of endorsing projects.
6. The following RAPID projects were endorsed:
 - a. SK CKSR 0011 Carrick on Suir Education Network - Carrick on Suir Students Mothers Project - €70,000
 - b. ST-CKSR-012 Carrick on Suir AIT - Home-School Community Liaison for Primary Schools -identified as a priority issue in Education in Carrick on Suir - €40,000
 - c. Continuation of the FAS Training Programme at Knocknanrawley was recommended by SIM – Seamus Moore to write to FAS re same
 - d. '0019' Education Equality Initiative Project, Knockanrawley Resource Centre - €296,821.50 over 3 years

Introductions, Agenda & Agreement of notes of last meeting: Seamus Moore opened the meeting, the agenda was agreed and the notes of the last meeting were agreed (Proposed: Alan Curtis. Seconded: Bob Keating).

John Quinn outlined a new proposal in relation to development of Drug Strategies, i.e. that a Regional Drugs Task Force has been established and that there has been a Local Drugs Committee in South Tipperary. Seamus Moore, Chair of SIM, proposed that the existing committee as well as facilitating the Regional Task Force should also be linked more directly with the County Development Board. The Local Drugs Committee has accepted this proposal.

The group agreed that the SIM recommend a new action be added to the County Social Strategy: Action: 2.3.6 Preparation and implementation of regional and local strategies to reduce dependence on drugs (Lead Stakeholders: South Tipperary Drugs Committee/Regional Drugs Task Force).

Crime & Security Issues - Reports and Discussion

It was agreed that the report circulated would be taken as read and Mary Fitzgerald led a discussion re crime and security by outlining the resources the Garda Síochána had on the ground. The following points were also outlined:

- towns such as Clonmel had less Garda per head of population than areas such as Tralee.
- the Garda were moving towards allocating Gards on a more transparent basis based on population, deprivation etc but that it was difficult to pull Garda from other areas that have been allocated them for years and that this type of allocation would take years to come into effect
- Likelihood of getting additional resources is slim
- The need for more interaction with the community and other organizations / agencies to come up with actions to reduce and prevent crime

Other members of the SIM GROUP made the following points:

- **Interagency/community action:** Again the need for more interagency/community action was stressed and that no one organization or group could solve the problem
 - Local area network for violence against women was cited as a good interagency /community model of project that has worked well with the publication of the Information booklet for women.
 - The Crime Prevention Strategy for Ireland did not put enough emphasis on the wider community such as the elderly and also the importance of community & voluntary groups involved in crime awareness and prevention was not emphasized enough.
 - Tess Collins outlined the 'Second Chance' programme, which works on an interagency basis to identify families experiencing difficulties and give specific support to families in crisis.
 - The importance of having schools involved and the importance of having school liaison officers in place
- **Building Communities & Support Structures for Families:**
 - Large housing estates and the design of housing estates were contribution to anti social behavior and crime – Michael Fitzgerald pointed out that the Local Authority is establishing an internal group to look at housing design. It was pointed out that it was important to build communities as opposed to just houses.
 - The policy around the allocation of houses by the Local Authority and the system of rent allowance by the Health Board may impact on anti social behaviors and crime as many of the families who are in most need of housing have a wide variety of social problems and can also be involved in anti social behavior. It was pointed out that the Local Authority and SEHB (in relation to rent allowances)

- need to have a very good reason to refuse rent subsidy or a house if the applicant is entitled to it.
 - It was also noted that investors are buying houses and renting them out often in concentrated areas and without any interest in building communities.
 - The importance of community facilities as a resource in estates was outlined. Michael Fitzgerald pointed out that the Local Authority is not funded to build community facilities only houses and that in some cases the Local Authority will allocate a house for community facilities but that they are not purpose built. It was also noted that many group find it difficult to resource and manage community facilities
 - The initiative of Tipperary RAPID re development of Safety Statements for estates on an interagency/community basis in which all involved identified their roles and responsibilities.
 - The difficulty of living in estates with problems around crime, drugs, alcohol and anti social behaviors was outlined by Martin Fennessy (Resident _ Clonmel RAPID). Martin also pointed out the need to support existing estates not just new ones.
 - The community mother scheme was identified as a key support for single parents to support them to bond with their children.
 - Training for Garda officers is being provided in relation to changing how they interact with the community
- The importance **preventative, proactive early intervention** programmes to get to the root of the problem by targeting families and individuals at an early age including the very young and early schools leavers –
 - Early school leavers need to be identified and encouraged to become involved in a programme of activities.
 - The importance of education for juveniles and parents especially around drugs and alcohol abuse.
 - The need for juvenile to understand that there would be consequences if they re-offended and did not meet the requirement of programmes.
 - The importance of targeting groups especially early school leavers was stressed and the gap in the service for 13-15 year olds was identified
 - Children can be identified at an early stage as being at risk in becoming involved in crime – it was noted that the situation of children at home alone should be reported immediately as these situations arise.
 - the Trow programme was mentioned in Waterford. It was pointed out that it was possible to identify children who were at risk of becoming involved in crime at a very young age.
 - The lack of support or programmes to support people leaving prison to be reintegrated into the community and to identify employment/training/social opportunities for them.

The need for workable solutions around law enforcement, crime prevention and reintegration of prisoners was outlined. John Quinn outlined the principle that 'the earlier agencies/communities know about programmes the better so that they can input' into the design and development of programmes. He also outlined that actions could be taken at county level and national level.

At National Level the SIM agreed that the community & voluntary groups involved in crime prevention had a very importance place in any Crime Prevention Strategy and that SIM should clearly outline to the Crime Council the importance of this group.

At County level the group could concentrate on

1. have a watching brief on crime and security issues over the next year with a view to feeding up policy issues to the CDB and National Crime Council, examination of gaps

- identified in programmes and how these gap could be filled by developing workable solutions around law enforcement, crime prevention and reintegration of prisoners.
2. proposals to ensure environmental design does not contribute to crime but acts as a crime prevention measure
 3. making a bid to be one of the Pilot National Crime Prevention Models
 4. the local Drugs task force could examine some of the issues raised
 5. Probation and welfare might look at programmes for reintegration of prisoners
 6. Early school leaving group could also look at some issues raised

Superintendent Mary Fitzgerald agreed to Chair the group with the Community and Enterprise Section providing the secretariat to the group. Membership of the group to include youth services, rapid crime task groups' reps, council reps re house design, business pillar re housing development, Community Forum. Members of the SIM to be circulated after the meeting re nomination onto this group.

It was pointed out that it would be necessary to measure the output from working groups to ensure that value arises from the efforts that people are putting in relation to attending meetings.

Martin Hayes outlined that the Education sub Group of the Drug task group were having a campaign around alcohol abuse around the announcement of the results of the Junior Cert and that they would need the support of the Garda Síochána to follow up on actions with sellers of alcohol.

Agenda item 5 - Updates Early School Leaving, Traveller accommodation

Proposal re Early School Leaving Working Group:

At the April SIM it was agreed that Clonmel Community Partnership would lead a group, for 12 months, to examine issues and issue recommendations on actions to be piloted in the two School Completion Programmes. The Department of Education & Science (DES) is establishing Regional offices to be based in Waterford and to be in place by September 2003.

It is proposed that:

- (1) the Early School Leaving group would not be established until the regional Dept of Education representative is in place (i.e. September 2003) and
- (2) the CDB, on the recommendation of the SIM group, would ask the Dept's regional representatives to prioritise Early school Leaving as the main focus of their work in South Tipperary.

It is the intention/objective that the DES takes over the lead role at the end of the 12-month period.

The group accepted the proposal.

Traveller Accommodation

Michael Fitzgerald outlined that the Traveller Accommodation Committee is being extended and that invitations would be issued to new members for the July meeting.

Agenda item 6

RAPID Update

The issue of what projects constitute Social Inclusion projects was discussed. Some of the members including Alan Curtis expressed dissatisfaction with having projects such as golf clubs ratified between meetings as was done to facilitate endorsement of applications for the Sports Capital fund as there was no scheduled SIM meeting before the closing date. John Quinn

outlined that the ratifications were based on his understanding of protocols already agreed by SIM and that he had been happy that there was a sufficiently strong social inclusion argument presented in the case of all the projects ratified including that of the golf club.

It was agreed that SIM procedures re endorsing projects between scheduled meetings would be discussed at the next meeting and that in the meantime new proposals could only be endorsed at a full SIM meeting.

The following Rapid Projects were endorsed:

Tipperary AIT

'0019' Education Equality Initiative Project, Knockanrawley Resource Centre

Amount: €296,821.50 over 3 years

Deliver, design and evaluate a programme for disadvantaged men & women involving personal & skill development training with a view to developing community activists and examining how to structure programmes to ensure equality of outcomes for both men and women.

Dept of Education and Science under the Educational Equality initiative.

AIT: Liam O'Brien, FAS

Signed off at SIM by: Bob Keating, VEC

Proposed: Bridget O'Keeffe, Seconded: Alan Curtis

FAS Training Programme at Knockanrawley

The SIM group also recommended that continuation of the back to work **FAS Training Programme at Knockanrawley**. Proposed by Eoin O'Neill. Seamus Moore to write to FAS re Same.

Carrick-on-Suir AIT

0011 Carrick on Suir Education Network

- Carrick on Suir Students Mothers Project €70,000

To engage young mothers experiencing crisis pregnancy

Crisis Pregnancy Agency – Funding application 2003

AIT: Eileen Horgan, Chair of AIT

Signed off at SIM by: Bob Keating, VEC

Proposed by: Alan Curtis, Seconded by: Mick Cummins

0012 Home-School Community Liaison for Primary Schools -identified as a priority issue in Education in Carrick on Suir - €40,000

Amount: €40,000

Funding Agency: Dept of Education:

AIT: Chair of AIT, Eileen Horgan

Signed of at SIM: Fionuala McKeever, VEC

It was agreed that the if a funding stream was not open for this initiative – SIM should make it know to the National Monitoring Group that Home School Liaison was a key project for most RAPID areas and that it needed to be resourced.

It was agreed that the following would be discussed as an issue at the next meeting: The Carrick on Suir AIT is asking for guidance on whether the following identified projects can be/will be prioritised with RAPID endorsement. They have been endorsed by the AIT. 1. Traffic Management Plan – NRA , 2. Carrick-on-Suir Bypass – NRA

The meeting closed. **Next meeting: Sept 1st 2003 – 2.30 pm**