

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group

Meeting Report, 7th April, 2003, Knocklofty House.

Present: Alan Curtis CCP, Tina Kennedy School Completion Programme, Betty Coughlan, C.D.S.P network, Claire Hartley C.D.S.P. Network/Framework, Bridget O'Keefe, Carrick-on-Suir Community Resource Centre, Mick Cummins, Dept S.F.A, Tess Collins, Tenant Liaison Officer, County Council, Liam O'Brien FAS, Chris Sheehan, County Childcare Committee, Ruth Smith, Tipperary Women's Network, Liam Kilbride, Carrick-on-Suir Education Network, Kevin McCarthy, Oilibhear de Burca, Dept. Ed. Inspectorate, Kathleen Prendergast, Clonmel Rapid Co-ordinator, Paul O'Callaghan, St. Ailbe's, Tipperary (VEC), Ann Bourke, CYTE, Michael Harhen, Clonmel Youth Diversion Project, Valerie Carthy (student on work experience, CCP), Lisa Kavanagh Tipperary Regional Youth Service, Hilda O'Neill SEHB – Health Promotion, Sean McSweeney, Knockanrawley Resource Centre, Des Bell JLO – Gardai.

Chair: John Quinn

In attendance: Eileen Horgan, Pat Holland.

Apologies: Seamus Moore, SEHB, Debbie Swift (St. Oliver's Home School Liason) , Carmel O'Connor, (Visiting Teacher, Traveller Community), Michelle Butler, School Completion Programme, Catherine Leamy CTAG, Martin Hayes Clonmel Community Based Drugs Initiative, Miriam Farrell, Clonmel Youth Resource Centre, Paula Mulrooney, Tipperary Regional Youth Service, Oliver Clancy, FAS, Fionnuala McGeever CEO, Ellen O'Donnell, CYTE.

Decisions/Actions Summary:

Early School Leaving:

Clonmel Community Partnership to lead a group, for 12 months, to examine issues and issue recommendations on actions to be piloted in the two School Completion Programmes.

Rapid: formally endorsed three projects:

- (a) Rural Travellers Project (successful application for funding)
- (b) Tipperary Youth Services project to provide drop in centre
- (c) Community Policing Research Unit in Clonmel (subject to agreement of local Garda management).

The request of the **South Tipperary CDSP/FRC Network** for support was
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1 Early School Leaving

Additional reports (see also data circulated with agenda):

School Completion Programme: had commenced in January in two schools

St. Ailbe's Tipperary/VEC: one of 64 most disadvantaged schools in the country. Clear that families with medical cards also have a high risk of educational disadvantage, also single families. For many children, school offers a safe area. VEC: Youthreach has a budget of €98,000 in the county and VTOS a budget of €479,600. The Home School Liaison scheme has €8,000 pa with the aim of targeting adults. An adult applied Leaving

Cert scheme is needed in Tipperary Town for people with low self esteem who need a lot of supports.

Carrick-on-Suir (Liam Kilbride): intervention must be holistic and concentrate on building up trust in the programme.

Cashel (Lisa Kavanagh): Has the LCA (Leaving Cert. Applied) but not the School Completion Programme. *Spafield*: has an after school programme.

CYTE: picks up ESL's, their programme runs from foundation to employment in a broad fashion including recreation, night time programme proposed in conjunction with Probation and Welfare service. *Youth Diversion Project*: targets kids at risk of being involved in criminal activity or those with an inability to cope with the educational system. *CCP*: has a forum dealing with adolescence in Clonmel looking at policy and the mainstreaming of pilot projects.

Dept of Ed. S: Dept. soon to have a regional structure, School Development Planning will be a major help in working towards student needs. The academic curriculum can be a turn-off and the LCA is a good start to change. The Education and Welfare Act is still pending, in operational terms.

Deprivation = Early School Leaving = Deprivation

General information

1. ESL are getting younger and younger (now down to 13). Young women are leaving earlier now. If kids are out of school more than 6 weeks then they are gone. Need in South Tipp to track kids. There is a pattern of some kids missing on certain days. Children under the age of 12 are not criminally liable so youth services are being directed to those over 12 but problems arise in those under 12.
2. 12-14 year olds are now vulnerable but you have to be 15+ to go to CYTE. This needs to be changed.
3. Many children have psychological problems which may need to be addressed at primary level. The School Completion project does address these problems at primary level but there is a need for psychological services at second level. Psychological and other assessments are confidential but other agencies need some information in order to assist the child. The only male figure for some children is their teacher
4. There is a project in Cork with community mentors for kids at risk.
5. The transfer from primary to secondary level is a major problem. A 'transfer programme' has been devised in Dublin where primary schools links with secondary schools. There is also a pack from a Galway project.
6. There should be free movement back into a school by a child who has left it.
7. Small second level schools provide a personal touch with a strong tradition of care.

Underlying Issues

1. Integration of services

- Clonmel adolescence forum meetings are working
- The Education sector has no local framework (but regional Dept. Ed S offices should help here)
- ESL's could have up to 20 agencies concerned with their case

2. *Mainstreaming of pilot projects*

- The SSRI programme is being wound down but 53 schools say it is a success. (when you are successful then you lose funds because it is thought you have solved the problem)

3. *Building on existing provision*

- Partnerships are vulnerable to one partner losing finance.
- The School Completion Programme boards have a social inclusion component. They could test linkages of agencies and communication with agencies such as the SEHB.
- Projects such as tracking, pathway analysis and mentoring need resources

Action Agreed:

CCP (Alan Curtis) to lead a workshop/discussion group, for 12 months, composed of senior managers from all agencies in the county, to look at issues and to issue recommendations on actions to be piloted in the two School Completion Programmes in the county.

2 RAPID

Claire Hartley outlined the request of the **South Tipperary CDSP/FRC Network** for support for

- The work of locally based community development programmes is valued and included in strategic planning
- The principle of local ownership of CDP/FRC/CFG's
- The provision of a policy worker for the South Tipperary network of CDP/CFG/FRC's

The letter was formally endorsed (pro. Bridget O'Keefe, sec. Alan Curtis) for transmission to the County Development Board.

The SIM also **formally endorsed two projects** (pro. Chris Sheehan, sec Ruth Smith) previously endorsed by the chair/members:

- (a) Rural Travellers Project (successful application for funding)
- (b) Tipperary Youth Services project to provide drop in centre

Clonmel Rapid: Kathleen Prendergast proposed a project for the establishment of a Community Policing Unit in Clonmel to research models in use elsewhere and to make recommendations for use elsewhere in the country.

Formally endorsed (pro. Liam Kilbride, sec. Alan Curtis) subject to agreement of local G.S. management.

Action Watch (Travelling Community)

A report from Sinead Carr noted that the Council's Traveller Assessment Committee would expand and put into operation the action agreed at the last meeting. A further report would come before the next SIM meeting. Fionnuala McGeever, Sinead Carr and Seamus Moore would meet to discuss accommodation, health and education issues before the meeting of the Committee.

Role of SIM

John Quinn outlined recent moves by the Dept of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht to review development agencies and noted some general principles/points:

- Development should always be on a bottoms-up basis
- Most plans of most agencies were seen by CDB up to this
- The Dept. now sees agency plans being 'endorsed' by CDB, and the meaning of 'endorsed' had to be agreed
- Local authority plans will have to be similarly proofed by the CDB
- The independence of locally owned/based projects will have to be protected
- There was not, as far as we know, any set 'blueprint' for the process

Date of next meeting: Monday 7th July, 2.30 pm Venue to be arranged

Agenda: Issue Watch: Crime and Security (and any urgent Rapid matters)

(a questionnaire re Crime and Security, similar to that for the Issue Watch on Early School Leaving, will follow shortly)