

Include Us In

Monday 3rd October 2018

Pastoral Centre (St Patrick's Church), Wicklow Town

Welcome & Introductions

Nimah Wogan	Little Bray Family Resource & Development Centre
Aibhinn McCloy	Wicklow Travellers Group
Brigid O' Connor	Wicklow Travellers Primary Healthcare
Laurie Whelehan	Co Wicklow Partnership
Sarah McCartain	Greystones Family Resource Centre
Mary Millet	Croi Rath Naoi, CWP
Liz Dunne	Co Wicklow Partnership
Michelle Barrett	Open Door
Suzanne Coz	Open Door
Kay O'Connor	Co Wicklow Partnership
Ronan Muhern	Cairdeas Clubhouse
Mel Graham	Rathnew Women's Group

Introducing Co Wicklow PPN – Helen Howes, PPN Resource Worker

Highlighting the role the PPN can play in representing community voices at policy and decision making tables in the county.

Example of Beneficial Representation:

Following discussions at a PPN Secretariat and Representatives meeting which raised issues and challenges for the re-settled Somali families in Arklow, Co Wicklow PPN made submissions to the LCDC (Local Community Development Committee). Since then Wicklow Children & Young People's Services Committee set up an interagency subgroup to address issues arising from refugee reunification. Co Wicklow Citizens Information Service and Wicklow County Council has also accessed funding for a research project to consult with resettled refugee families to: identify issues, identify the best solutions & interventions, identify best practice in other Irish towns/communities, and develop an interagency approach to rolling out a particular response.

Evening Aim 1:

Identifying issues and gaps in social inclusion work and linking the issues into the county committees where PPN Representatives have seats

Local Community Development Committee

Coordinate community development activity – target resources. Oversee implementation of Local Economic & Community Plan, LEADER Rural Development Programme, & Social Inclusion & Community Activation Plan

- Lack of funding for core costs
- Lack of flexibility for groups in relation to identifying their own needs and responding
- Waiting lists for psychological assessments
- Woman's refuge – proposed closure
- Lack of employment opportunities for people recovering from mental health issues, addiction issues, Travellers

- Lack of transgender services
- Lack of accessibility to housing officer/meeting/communication
- Transport

WCC Community, Cultural & Social Development Strategic Policy Committee

Library Services, Arts, Playgrounds, Community Infrastructure, Age Friendly Initiatives, Sports Partnerships, & Anti-Poverty

- Transport – access for people with disabilities, rural communities, school children
- People only look when they need services
- Lack of knowledge of community directory (link it to PPN website)
- Lack of knowledge of services – what is out there and where are they
- Once central information portal for all services
- Real voice has been lost
- Lack of Services
- Suicide

WCC Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee

Preparation, implementation, & review economic elements of Local Economic & Community Plan [marketing & communications, film, retail & recreation, industry & infrastructure]

- Transport to access work
- Unstable employment – contracts etc

WCC Transport, Water & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee

Road construction& infrastructure, traffic management, noise pollution, public lighting, waste water treatment, fire services

- Transport!!!!
- No Transport!!!! – Western corridor

WCC Housing & Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee

Social Housing, Assessment of housing needs, Homelessness, Housing loans & grants, Traveller accommodation, Housing standards, Estates development, Housing strategies, Voluntary housing, Private rented sector

- Travellers doubling up at halting sites
- Landlord tenancy abuse
- Landlords don't want women from refuge centres as they think trouble will follow
- Councils responsibility to tenants
- Lack of accommodation
- Addiction/women – those affected by homelessness
- Homelessness
- Lack of housing

WCC Planning Development & Environment Strategic Policy Committee

Formulate, develop & review policies relating to County Development Plan, Local Area Plans, Town/Settlement Plans, Heritage, Environment

- Transport/connectedness
- Privatisation of bus service

Co Wicklow Joint Policing Committee

Policing Plan – 4 key themes – Policing Communities; Tackling Crime in Rural Areas; Drug Prevention; Communications

- Suicide
- Discrimination

WCC Local Authority Access Group

- Transport

Wicklow County Childcare Committee

Administrative & quality supports to parents, child minders, early years settings, parent & toddler groups

- Waiting lists for services

Co Wicklow Children & Young People's Services Committee

Interagency, co-ordination, collaboration – All children should be: Active & healthy, Achieving in all areas of learning & development, Safe & protected from harm; Economic security & opportunity, Connected, respected & contributing

- Lack of access to services/facilities for young people due to lack of transport
- Lack of school transport
- Lack of housing
- Large waiting lists for mental health services, autism services, disability services, therapy etc
- Lack of childcare facilities/services
- LGBTQ+ - No safe space south Wicklow
- Lack of unstructured informal drop in facilities for young people (transport issues accessing what is available)
- Lack of services ie medical infrastructure
- Getting rid of community strand – childcare funding

Bray Drugs & Alcohol Task Force

Education & prevention, Treatment & rehabilitation

- Housing

Miscellaneous

- Language of Exclusion

Evening Aim 2:

Develop a Co Wicklow Social Inclusion Network? – what would that look like? what would it do? what benefits could it provide?

Discussion highlighted that the loss of the WCC Social Inclusion Measures Group has had a negative impact for social inclusion work in the county. Queries were raised as to whether this group could form a SIM or should lobby for a SIM which a Co Wicklow Social Inclusion Network could feed into.

Agreement: Some form of social inclusion network is needed in the county. Attendees will consult with their own organisations and target groups and think about how this could/should be developed. A meeting will take place early in the New Year to explore/plan how to develop this network.