



Education Strategy

Education Strategy of
Kilkenny City RAPID AIT /
Sub group on Education
March, 2009



Executive Summary

- The national RAPID Programme is now clearly focused on seven strategic themes. Education is one of the themes launched at the National Ploughing Championships in September, 2008. These themes will enable RAPID Kilkenny to undertake our work more effectively by re-focusing and re-utilizing our time and our commitment to the programme. This sub-group will re-evaluate and re-focus work, leading to clearer, focused involvement and delivery at local level. This strategy promotes a high level of local ownership which will lead to effective implementation and achievability of our strategies and our actions.

Mission, Vision and Values Statement

- That each individual and community has a right to live their life in a pleasant, safe environment, have right of access to necessary services, facilities and opportunities and to be supported in the fulfillment of their reasonable aspirations and potential, to adhere to Agenda 21 principles focusing on promoting sustainable development

Underlying Principles of Education Strategy

- **Better Service delivery** ~ to improve service delivery and filling the gaps identified in existing service provision
- **Community Participation** ~ to involve community in development of all plans and all actions
- **Service integration** ~ to improve the co-ordination of services to service users ~ to identify existing services and how they can best interlink
- **New Investment** ~ to identify new projects and funding for projects based on local need
- **Leadership** ~ County Kilkenny VEC will take a lead role in implementing the plan through the chairing of this sub-group

Members of discussion Group

- Jarlaith Fallon, DES
- Fr Nicholas Flavin c&v
- Kay Scanlon DSFA
- Brian Roche Home School Liaison Officer
- Patricia Nolan Library
- Cait Ni Mhurcu SCP
- Loretta O'Driscoll Teagasc
- Anne O'Regan Welfare Board
- Eileen Curtis VEC
- Martina Comerford RAPID
- Sheila Donnelly FRC
- Margaret Leahy Community Rep
- Steven Murphy Community Rep
- Sarah Barron COG

Education ~ Kilkenny

- It is generally accepted that there are direct linkages between poor educational attainment and inter-generational disadvantage. At an individual level, there is the increased likelihood of unemployment or low-skilled and poorly-paid employment and also low levels of self-esteem. For society, a wide range of social and economic inequalities is perpetuated and the gap between the better-off and the less-well-off is widened.
- The education system operates in the broader social and economic context. A wide range of issues such as poverty, family breakdown and health problems can adversely affect the learning capacity of pupils. The education system cannot resolve these issues single-handedly, but it can adopt a lead role in influencing interventions that directly impact on the ability of pupils to derive maximum benefit from educational provision. It is clear that one of the significant factors, if not the most significant factor, in helping people to escape inter-generational poverty, is educational attainment.

Objectives

- Improvement of education outcomes at Primary and Post Primary level
- Increasing participation in Adult, Further and Third Level Education
- Improving linkages and communication between education authorities and providers and local RAPID structures.



Profile of Services



Projects / Actions