

Social Inclusion Horizontal Principle Reporting Template

For the period Jan. to Dec. 2009.

1. Name of Activity: Garda Youth Diversion - IT Skills/ Personal Development

No.: ESF __2.6__

2. What actions have taken place over the last year to incorporate the principle of social inclusion into the Activity?

(Examples: new objective created; new indicator developed; altered project selection criteria; collecting new data or collecting it in different way; pursuing case studies; carrying out impact assessments; interpreting existing data in a different way; gender proofing exercises).

(a) Ongoing Actions:

Social Inclusion is the primary goal of the Garda Youth Diversion Projects . In general, Garda Youth Diversion Projects operate in disadvantaged areas and where there are higher crime patterns. Across the range of locations served by Garda Youth Diversion Projects there is a high degree of diversity in relation to the breadth and intensity of risks faced by young people. Some projects face additional risks due to their geographical proximity to larger centres of drugs activity, particularly where there are family connections in both locations. External or unforeseen risks such as a particular group of individuals, moving into a project area or the introduction of a new drug, for example crack cocaine, were also reported.

In summary a significant number of projects operate in areas where

- there is tolerance or encouragement of underage drinking and drug taking
- the neighbourhood had poor attitudes or were suspicious of An Garda Síochána, resulting in under-reporting of criminal activity
- social acceptance of receiving stolen goods
- there is a high concentration of adult criminality

Garda Youth Diversion Projects administered by An Garda Síochána and provided by a range of youth organisations occupy a pivotal position in the Youth Justice system. It is hoped that the ESF programme will enable participants to build confidence, seek to reengage with education and to modify their behaviour to more constructive activities. It is also hoped that the programme, along with the wider work undertaken by Garda Youth Diversion Projects, will enable participants to examine their own offending and to make positive lifestyle choices that will protect them from involvement in criminal, harmful or socially unacceptable behaviours.

To implement this, the work involves linking young people with non-offending peer groups and the forming of stable and trusting relationships with adults in the community.

(b) New Actions:

A separate Baseline Analysis of Garda Youth Diversion Projects was undertaken in 2008/09. Arising from it, training is now being provided to enhance the skill set of the youth justice worker. This will enable participants in Garda Youth Diversion Projects to receive a more effective service delivery in the context of the ESF programme.

3. Progress against Indicators (where established):

(This should be presented if possible in the tabular form laid out below)

Indicator	Baseline Position	Latest Position
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unwillingness to reflect on own offending behaviour Performance at school and State services Reflection on effect of offending behaviour on peers and neighbourhood Certified qualification to enable entry or further progression into the workforce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unwillingness to reflect on own offending behaviour Poor performance at school and low level engagement with State services Social acceptance of offending behaviour on peers and neighbourhood Participants often early school leavers or have limited engagement with the education system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants given opportunity to change behaviour patterns Re-engagement with school and State services Participants given opportunity to widen social networking areas and to avail of positive opportunities presented to them Participants have gained a qualification and/or more willing to return to school and gain qualifications

4. Taking account of the material presented under 2 and 3 above, what contribution is the Activity making to the promotion of social inclusion

Examples:

Are participation levels of women or men increasing?

Are different needs of women and men being addressed?

Are different levels of access for women and men being addressed?

Are differential outcomes for women and men being measured?

The target audience of our projects is youths aged between 12 - 17 years. Outcomes for these are being measured on the basis of the different types of programmes undertaken.

In some instances, projects have reported that participants of the ESF IT/Personal Development courses have progressed onto further and higher education and some, of appropriate age, have entered into the workforce.

Projects who have delivered the Personal Development course have seen an increased willingness of participants to engage positively with peers and members of the community.

5. Identify any issues arising that need to be drawn to the attention of the Managing Authority, the Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion Co-ordinating Committee or other Departments.¹

Attendance of young people at Garda Youth Diversion Projects is voluntary in nature and therefore capture of data is difficult if young people decide to disengage.

6. Please feel free to attach any relevant additional material to this reporting template.

Nil obs

¹ The issues could relate to specific implementation concerns e.g. collection of data, or could relate to more general findings concerning the principle in question e.g. a particular policy in another department is obstructing your Activity from promoting the principle.