



Combat Poverty
Agency *working for a
poverty-free Ireland*

Local Anti-Poverty Social Inclusion Strategy

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Background and Context

- Government policy - poverty and social inclusion can only be tackled effectively through a cross-cutting and multidimensional strategic approach
- At E.U and national levels there is a growing recognition that local authorities are key stakeholders in progressing LAPSIS
- The revised NAPS, 'Building an Inclusive Society' 2002 states that local authorities must take account of the principles, targets and objectives set out in the NAPS when setting strategic development objectives...
- *states that 'over time, LAs will develop appropriate social inclusion strategies at local level which will underpin and strengthen the national actions'*
- County/City Development Board framework

Guide to Developing a LAPSIS

- Combat Poverty Agency– Local Government
- Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network
- Funded and supported pilot LAPSIS in Cork City, Westmeath and Donegal
- Funded Laois and Wicklow CDBs to develop a county wide LAPSIS
- LAPSIS guide draws on the learning and puts forward an approach to developing a LAPSIS

Elements of a LAPSIS

- Step 1: Starting Out
- Step 2: Putting Resources in Place
- Step 3: The Importance of Training
- Step 4: Developing a Local Poverty Profile
- Step 5: Local Social Inclusion Indicators
- Step 6: Targets
- Step 7: Poverty Proofing/Poverty Impact Assessment
- Step 8: Implementing the Strategy
- Step 10: Communicating the Strategy

Elements of a LAPSIS

- Starting out
 - Choosing a leader/driver - Social Inclusion Measures Group
 - Selecting a Steering Group (establishing / identifying the stakeholders), cross agency
 - Involving elected members and senior management from agencies
 - Agreeing a vision
- Putting resources in place
 - Human resources
 - Financial resources
 - Time

Resources

- Financial – small for this phase
- Expertise/skills/knowledge – draw on local (Partnership, Community Groups)
- Time – initially ‘extra’ to work load, but should save time in long term
- Communication

Elements of a LAPSIS

- Training – building the capacity of the team
 - Who?
 - Training on what?
 - Training Needs Analysis
- Developing a poverty profile
 - Gives an accurate and comprehensive picture of the nature and extent of poverty in Ireland
 - Desk research, use of existing data

Elements of a LAPSIS

- **Targets**
 - Something usually number based that we want to achieve. These should specify the difference the LAPSIS should make, e.g. services or facilities provided, funding earmarked, no.s of new..
- **Indicators**
 - LAs have 42 indicators from DEHLG (4/5 on SI)-Review
 - LAs encouraged to develop social inclusion indicators
 - Suggestions on – participation, access to community facilities, disabled car parking, etc.

Elements of a LAPSIS

- Drafting the Strategy (the need to prioritise!), who is going to do what, when and how
- Poverty proofing – Poverty Impact Assessment
 - To identify the impact of policies and programmes on poverty
- Implementing and regular monitoring - review
- Communicating the strategy
 - Target those implementing it, the community sector and wider community

Can it make a difference?

- Better responses in front-line delivery of services at a local level
- Should inform the development of policy in local areas
- Specific responses to particular problems
- It should lead to better sharing of information between organisations and departments
- Improved data availability
- Better understanding of the priority to be given to poverty and social inclusion across agencies

Benefits from involvement

- Some local issues addressed
- Getting to know people- agencies and community
- Better understanding of issues (agencies)
- Getting to know who's in different roles
- Learning from process
- Learning from 'meeting/networking