

Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

4.9	<i>Community and personal development initiatives which impact positively on mental health status should be supported e.g. housing improvement schemes, local environment planning and the provision of local facilities. This helps build social capital in the community.</i>
------------	---

1. Please provide progress to date with supporting factual information:

1. Local Development Social Inclusion Programme

The Local Development Social Inclusion Programme is a series of measures that are designed to counter disadvantage and to promote equality and social and economic inclusion. The Programme supported 53 Local Development companies in 2009 with a budget of €51m.

2. Community Development Programme

The Community Development Programme supports locally based groups involved in anti-poverty and social inclusion initiatives in their communities. Financial assistance is provided to projects for the staffing and equipping of local resource centres which provide a focal point for community development activities in the area and to other specialised projects and initiatives. The activities of the project are determined by the needs of their community. The Programme supported in the region of 180 projects/groups & organisations in 2009 at a cost of €21m.

3. RAPID is a focused Government initiative to target the 51 most disadvantaged urban areas and provincial towns in the country. Through the RAPID Leverage grant scheme some 223 individual grants were processed in 2009 across different schemes – Housing Estate Enhancement, Traffic Measures, Playgrounds, Sports Capital Top Up, CCTV, Health Projects and Small Scale Schools Capital Projects – totalling just over €m.

4. This response relates to top-up funding being provided by DCRGA's CLÁR Programme for the improvement of Health Services in CLÁR areas. The HSE is the lead agency in this co-funding arrangement and both selects the projects and executes the work. To date just €28,325.63 of the envisaged CLÁR contribution of €3,319,143.97 has been spent. (For every €1 of CLÁR Programme funding, the HSE contributes €2). As the HSE is the lead agency in advancing these projects, the lower than expected drawdown of CLÁR funding is a result of the HSE not advancing these projects as anticipated.

2. Please indicate the level at which implementation is taking place in relation to the role of your Division, i.e., is it NATIONAL, REGIONAL, LOCAL HEALTH OFFICE?

The Local Development Social Inclusion Programme & the Community Development Programme (both in existence since the early 1990's), RAPID and CLÁR are National Programmes.

3. (a) Has this objective been fully implemented or partially implemented or has implementation not yet commenced in relation to the role of your Division?

LDSIP / CDP: These programmes aim to provide support to disadvantaged communities on an ongoing basis and is not time-bound in terms of implementation. The LDSIP and the CDP are this Department's two main social inclusion/community development programmes. Both have a community development element and were delivered through separate local delivery structures between 1990 and end 2009. These Programmes came to an end on 31 December 2009 and have been superseded by a new Programme, the Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP). The aim of the new Programme is to tackle poverty and social exclusion through partnership and constructive engagement between Government and its agencies and people in disadvantaged communities. The new Programme will preserve elements of good practice from the CDP/LDSIP Programmes and will enable groups to objectively demonstrate the positive impacts they are securing for local communities.

RAPID: Ongoing programme.

CLÁR: Partially Implemented.

(b) (i) If fully implemented, can you please inform us of the completion date?

LDSIP, CDP, RAPID & CLÁR: Not Applicable

(ii) If partially implemented, please inform us of an estimated completion date?

LDSIP, CDP & RAPID: Not Applicable

CLÁR: By end 2010, but dependent on HSE as lead agency.

(iii) If not yet commenced, please inform us of both an estimated commencement and completion date?

LDSIP, CDP, RAPID & CLÁR: Not Applicable

(c) If partially implemented, please provide the reasons for partial implementation?

LDSIP, CDP, RAPID & CLÁR: Not Applicable

(d) If not yet commenced, please provide the reasons for same?

LDSIP, CDP & RAPID: Not Applicable

CLÁR: HSE as lead agency, not advancing projects as anticipated.

4. Share the key learning points which have evolved in the implementation of this recommendation (please complete even if the objective has not been implemented)?

LDSIP, CDP & RAPID: Not Applicable

CLÁR: Multi-agency action is progressed only at the rate of progress of the slowest agency.

5. Recommend key issues for consideration by the Independent Monitoring Group?

LDSIP, CDP & RAPID: Not Applicable

CLÁR: HSE delays in advancing this project may relate to a slow process of internal consultation within the Executive.