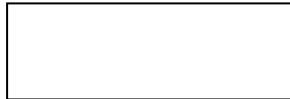


Draft 26/6/08

South Tipperary Social Inclusion Audit

Report 3: Cahir



Carried out by Community Consultants Ltd.
June 2008

I. Area Profiles

Introduction

This is the third report making up the South Tipperary Social Inclusion Audit. The first report concentrates on providing a summary of the full Audit work and findings. The second report gives the national context for social inclusion work and provides information and statistics on a countywide basis. This third and final report focuses on the local consultation processes, a review of all research reports available in relation to eight identified areas for Social Inclusion in South Tipperary and data and analysis of information in relation to the target groups named under the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme guidelines. Information about the key¹ community groups operating in the county is contained in appendix V.

Local Focus Sessions were held in 7 key locations across the county, namely Cashel, Cahir, Tipperary Town, Killenaule, Hollyford and Clogheen, comprising 4 urban areas and 3 rural. These locations were selected on the grounds of demographic information and also in terms of natural gravitation centres of population and services. The urban areas included their rural hinterlands and the rural areas included surrounding villages and hamlets.

In all cases the consultants worked with local community groupings, identified in the rural areas by the Community and Voluntary Forum, to host the focus sessions. The focus sessions had two clear objectives within the context of the Audit:

1. Inform local communities regarding the process and objectives of the Audit, the framework of the Cohesion process and the principles and structure of the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme – via discussion and handouts.
2. Gather local information regarding social inclusion needs and barriers in their local areas, both in terms of a) geographic/area needs and in terms of b) each Target Group identified under the LDSIP.

Sessions were held in the evenings to facilitate maximum participation and lasted for approximately 2–2.5 hours. Attendance was high in most of the areas and participation was strong – representatives of local interest and community groups indicated a clear understanding of the issues and needs in their area. Whilst levels of understanding regarding the LDSIP were varied, and indeed in some cases the understanding of social inclusion and community development work was erratic, those participating brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to the sessions. Community Consultants would like to thank the local community and voluntary groups who hosted the sessions for their work in organising these meetings.

¹ Key Community Projects for the purposes of this audit was defined as core funded projects.

I.4 Cahir Area

I.4.1 Geographic Description

Cahir is a beautiful old town with wonderful architectural buildings around the town square and a castle at the entrance from the Southside. It is located almost equidistant between Clonmel and Tipperary Town, with Clonmel being used as the principle centre for services and employment.

Cahir attracts many tourists because of its location. It is situated at the principal intersection of two national primary routes, the N8 road, Dublin to Cork and the N24 road, Dublin to Waterford. Cahir is on the Limerick to Waterford regional railway line and its railway station opened in 1852. The town has seen an influx of newcomers, attracted by the transport links to other urban centres for employment opportunities – this has led to a feeling that the town is in danger of becoming a dormitory town rather than developing in its own right.

There is general perception of Cahir as being relatively affluent. It has a growing population of working families – people living in the area and working elsewhere with the introduction of the By-pass enhancing transport links to other urban areas for employment. New estates have been filled with a mixture of local and in-coming families and the growth in population has seen an increase in the number of young families.

I.4.2 Cahir and District Key Data

	Number	% 2006	% 2002
Age Dependency	3,474	33%	34.5%
Elderly 65+ years	1,171	11%	14.3%
Elderly 65+ years living alone	347	9%	11.9%
Foreign Nationals ²	794	7.5%	3.2%
Temporary Households ³	18	0.5%	0.2%

² Non-Irish and non-UK nationality

³ Including caravans, mobile homes and persons sleeping rough on census night.

Cahir and District		Population change			Males			Females		
ID	ED	1996-2002	2002-2006	1996-2006	1996-2002	2002-2006	1996-2006	1996-2002	2002-2006	1996-2006
23,111	Knockgraffon	5.2%	6.7%	12.3%	5.0%	13.2%	18.8%	5.5%	0.0%	5.5%
23,117	Ardfinnan	-5.1%	-3.1%	-8.1%	-8.4%	-2.5%	-10.8%	-1.5%	-3.7%	-5.2%
23,118	Ballybacon	8.1%	9.9%	18.9%	10.1%	3.1%	13.5%	6.0%	17.6%	24.7%
23,121	Caher	14.0%	12.8%	28.6%	22.6%	11.4%	36.7%	6.3%	14.3%	21.4%
23,124	Derrygrath	7.5%	12.2%	20.6%	2.8%	11.8%	14.9%	13.5%	12.6%	27.8%
23,125	Kilcommon	3.8%	-1.5%	2.3%	6.7%	1.6%	8.4%	0.9%	-4.7%	-3.8%
23,127	Mortlestown	69.6%	67.2%	183.6%	65.8%	68.3%	179.1%	73.6%	66.1%	188.4%
23,128	Newcastle	1.2%	15.2%	16.6%	-1.1%	14.1%	12.8%	3.8%	16.4%	20.9%
23,129	Tubbrid	7.8%	7.6%	16.0%	3.6%	7.3%	11.1%	12.6%	8.0%	21.6%
23,130	Tullaghmelan	13.4%	6.6%	21.0%	13.4%	2.1%	15.8%	13.5%	11.4%	26.4%
23,132	Ballyclerahan	81.4%	52.2%	176.2%	76.6%	50.9%	166.5%	86.7%	53.6%	186.7%

Statistics relating specifically to the number of Travellers for each ED was not available so area totals could not be provided.

However, the 2006 Census of population records 22,425 Travellers in Ireland but it is generally accepted this may be less than the real figure. The 2006 Census recorded 6 Travellers per 1,000 population in the State and in County Tipperary this was 5.1 per 1,000 population.

In County Tipperary the Traveller population was recorded at 421 persons at the time of the 2006 census. The annual count of Travellers undertaken by South Tipperary

County Council in November 2006 estimates there were 134 families in the County. County Tipperary has 51% of Travellers aged 0 to 14 years, 47 % aged 15 to 64 years and 2 % aged 65 years and over.

Population

The population of Cahir area is 10,662 (CSO 2006), with clusters of population in the EDs of Kilcommon (2,150), Mortlestown (1,455) and Caher (1,205). While most areas within Cahir and District have experienced population growth during the period 1996 – 2006, Mortlestown (183.6%) and Ballyclerahan (176.2%) have grown at a very high rate between these years. Other areas have experienced population decline at some time during this period, with Ardfinnan having declined by 5.1% overall. Percentage population change for all EDs during the years from 1996 – 2006 can be read in Appendix II.

ED	Population			Males			Females		
	2006	2002	1996	2006	2002	1996	2006	2002	1996
Knockgraffon	751	704	669	404	357	340	347	347	329
Ardfinnan	990	1,022	1,077	497	510	557	493	512	520
Ballybacon	409	372	344	202	196	178	207	176	166
Caher	1,205	1,068	937	604	542	442	601	526	495
Derrygrath	608	542	504	323	289	281	285	253	223
Kilcommon	2,150	2,182	2,102	1,130	1,112	1,042	1,020	1,070	1,060
Mortlestown	1,455	870	513	734	436	263	721	434	250
Newcastle	583	506	500	299	262	265	284	244	235
Tubbrid	550	511	474	280	261	252	270	250	222
Tullaghmelan	964	904	797	476	466	411	488	438	386
Ballyclerahan	997	655	361	501	332	188	496	323	173
Totals	10,662	9,336	8,278	5,450	4,763	4,219	5,212	4,573	4,059

Cahir and District		Population change			Males			Females		
ID	ED	1996-2002	2002-2006	1996-2006	1996-2002	2002-2006	1996-2006	1996-2002	2002-2006	1996-2006
23,111	Knockgraffon	5.2%	6.7%	12.3%	5.0%	13.2%	18.8%	5.5%	0.0%	5.5%
23,117	Ardfinnan	-5.1%	-3.1%	-8.1%	-8.4%	-2.5%	-10.8%	-1.5%	-3.7%	-5.2%
23,118	Ballybacon	8.1%	9.9%	18.9%	10.1%	3.1%	13.5%	6.0%	17.6%	24.7%
23,121	Caher	14.0%	12.8%	28.6%	22.6%	11.4%	36.7%	6.3%	14.3%	21.4%
23,124	Derrygrath	7.5%	12.2%	20.6%	2.8%	11.8%	14.9%	13.5%	12.6%	27.8%
23,125	Kilcommon	3.8%	-1.5%	2.3%	6.7%	1.6%	8.4%	0.9%	-4.7%	-3.8%
23,127	Mortlestown	69.6%	67.2%	183.6%	65.8%	68.3%	179.1%	73.6%	66.1%	188.4%
23,128	Newcastle	1.2%	15.2%	16.6%	-1.1%	14.1%	12.8%	3.8%	16.4%	20.9%
23,129	Tubbrid	7.8%	7.6%	16.0%	3.6%	7.3%	11.1%	12.6%	8.0%	21.6%
23,130	Tullaghmelan	13.4%	6.6%	21.0%	13.4%	2.1%	15.8%	13.5%	11.4%	26.4%
23,132	Ballyclerahan	81.4%	52.2%	176.2%	76.6%	50.9%	166.5%	86.7%	53.6%	186.7%

Deprivation Indices

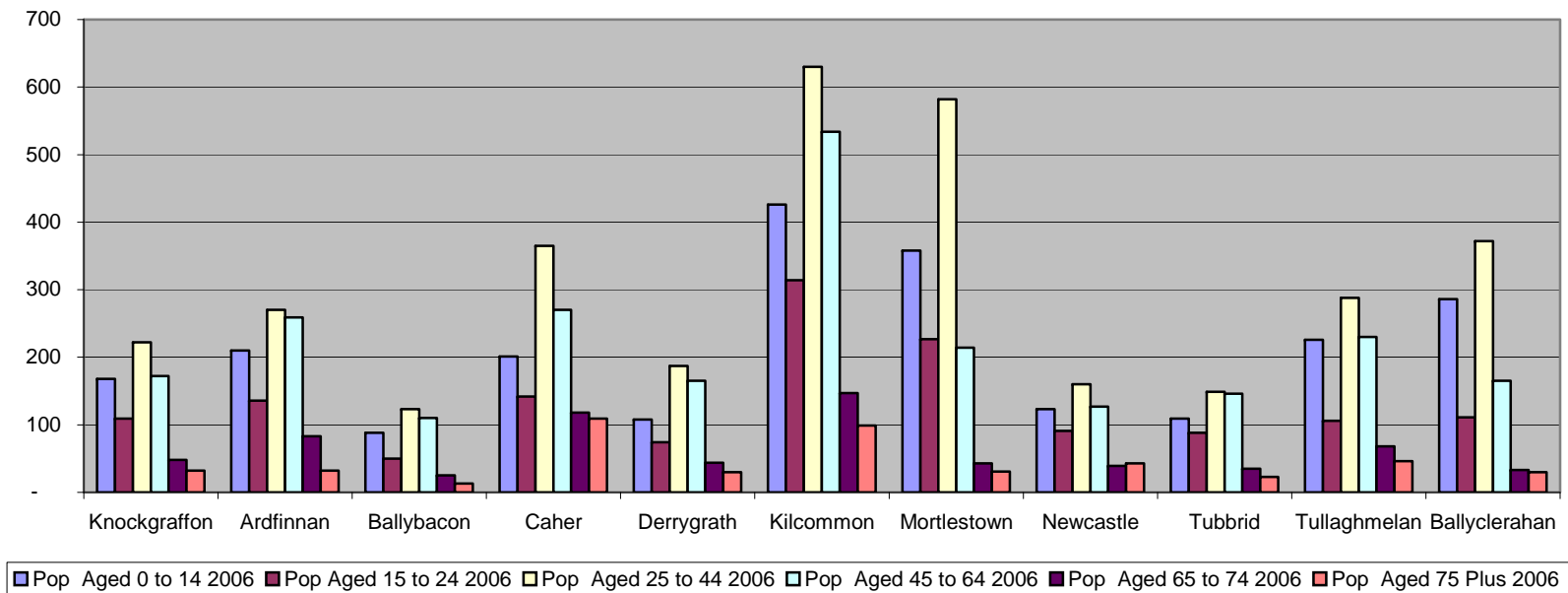
The 2006 Relative Deprivation Score for the County is 0.7, the score for the South East is 3.5, while the National score is 2.1. With the population centres of Caher and Mortlestown scoring positive indices of 7.7 and 5.5 respectively, and with Kilcommon having a negative score of -4.2, overall, the area can be seen as marginally above average. Other EDs that are below average are Newcastle (-5.7) and Ardfinnan (-0.2), while Ballyclerahan (10.5) and Derrygrath (10.3), are measured as affluent.

Cahir and District		Absolute Index Scores				Change in Absolute Index Score 1991 - 2006	Relative Index Scores			
ID	ED	2006	2002	1996	1991		2006	2002	1996	1991
23,111	Knockgraffon	13.8	13.7	9.3	8.6	5.2	6.9	7.0	7.3	8.6
23,117	Ardfinnan	8.2	8.0	3.3	-4.0	12.3	-0.9	-0.2	1.0	-4.0
23,118	Ballybacon	11.8	11.5	3.1	-4.2	15.9	4.1	4.2	0.7	-4.2
23,121	Caher	14.4	15.8	11.7	12.3	2.1	7.7	9.6	9.7	12.3
23,124	Derrygrath	16.2	13.9	6.4	7.3	8.9	10.3	7.2	4.2	7.3
23,125	Kilcommon	5.8	7.8	2.4	-1.3	7.1	-4.2	-0.5	0.1	-1.3
23,127	Mortlestown	12.8	18.6	12.8	9.7	3.1	5.5	13.0	10.9	9.7
23,128	Newcastle	7.8	3.6	-0.1	-5.3	13.1	-1.4	-5.7	-2.6	-5.3
23,129	Tubbrid	13.2	11.9	9.4	6.1	7.1	6.0	4.7	7.3	6.1
23,130	Tullaghmelan	13.2	12.7	6.9	5.5	7.7	6.1	5.7	4.8	5.5
23,132	Ballyclerahan	16.4	17.4	6.7	7.8	8.6	10.5	11.5	4.5	7.8

Age Profile

The age profile of the area reveals sharp differences between EDs. While Caher displays high numbers of older people (18.8% aged over 65 compared with County average of 12.8%), Tullaghmelan and Ballyclerahan exhibit significantly higher levels of children under the age of 15 (23.4% and 28.7%) compared with the County average of 21.1%.

Age Profile Cahir and District 2006



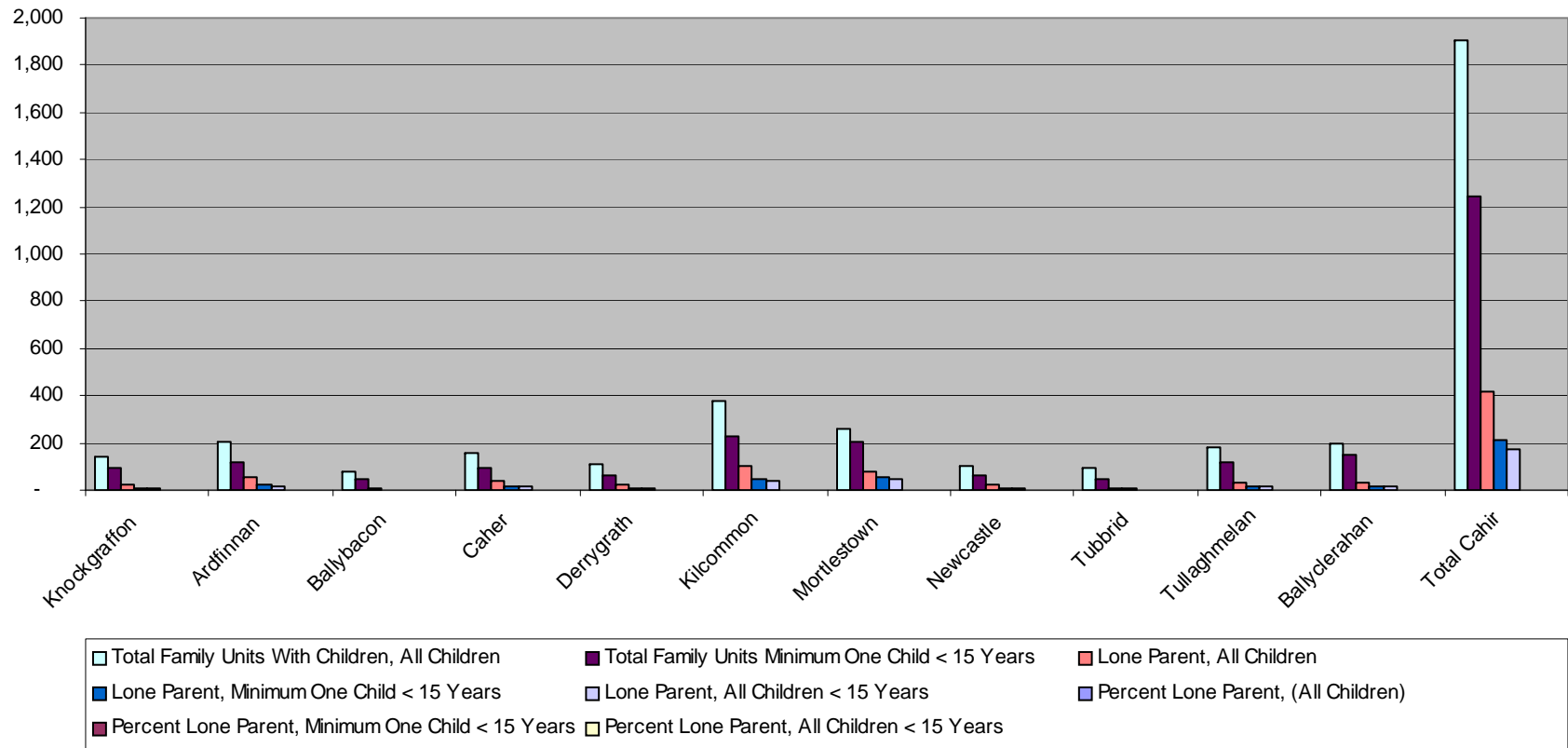
Age Profile Cahir and District 2006

ED	Total Pop 2006	Pop Aged 0 to 14 2006	Pop Aged 15 to 24 2006	Pop Aged 25 to 44 2006	Pop Aged 45 to 64 2006	Pop Aged 65 to 74 2006	Pop Aged 75 Plus 2006	Pop Aged 0 to 14 2006 (%)	Pop Aged 15 to 24 2006 (%)	Pop Aged 25 to 44 2006 (%)	Pop Aged 45 to 64 2006 (%)	Pop Aged 65 to 74 2006 (%)	Pop Aged 75 Plus 2006 (%)
Knockgraffon	751	168	109	222	172	48	32	22.4%	14.5%	29.6%	22.9%	6.4%	4.3%
Ardfinnan	990	210	136	270	259	83	32	21.2%	13.7%	27.3%	26.2%	8.4%	3.2%
Ballybacon	409	88	50	123	110	25	13	21.5%	12.2%	30.1%	26.9%	6.1%	3.2%
Caher	1,205	201	142	365	270	118	109	16.7%	11.8%	30.3%	22.4%	9.8%	9.0%
Derrygrath	608	108	74	187	165	44	30	17.8%	12.2%	30.8%	27.1%	7.2%	4.9%
Kilcommon	2,150	426	314	630	534	147	99	19.8%	14.6%	29.3%	24.8%	6.8%	4.6%
Mortlestown	1,455	358	227	582	214	43	31	24.6%	15.6%	40.0%	14.7%	3.0%	2.1%
Newcastle	583	123	91	160	127	39	43	21.1%	15.6%	27.4%	21.8%	6.7%	7.4%
Tubbrid	550	109	88	149	146	35	23	19.8%	16.0%	27.1%	26.5%	6.4%	4.2%
Tullaghmelan	964	226	106	288	230	68	46	23.4%	11.0%	29.9%	23.9%	7.1%	4.8%
Ballyclerahan	997	286	111	372	165	33	30	28.7%	11.1%	37.3%	16.5%	3.3%	3.0%
Total Cahir	10,662	2,303	1,448	3,348	2,392	683	488	22.0%	14.0%	31.0%	22.0%	6.0%	5.0%

Lone Parents

Family structure in Cahir again reveals some striking variations. Lone parent families in Mortlestown comprise 30.2% of all families with children, compared with a County rate of 26.3% and a national rate of 25.2%. With the exceptions of Ardfinnan and Kilcommon, with rates marginally above the County and national averages, all other areas within Cahir and District display lower than average rates of lone-parent headed families. The area as a whole has a rate of 22%.

Lone Parents Cahir & District 2006



Household Structure Cahir and District 2006

Lone Parent Rate Cahir and District 2006

ED	Total Family Units With Children, All Children	Total Family Units Minimum One Child < 15 Years	Lone Parent, All Children	Lone Parent, Minimum One Child < 15 Years	Lone Parent, All Children < 15 Years	Percent Lone Parent, (All Children)	Percent Lone Parent, Minimum One Child < 15 Years	Percent Lone Parent, All Children < 15 Years
Knockgraffon	140	96	25	11	8	17.9%	11.5%	5.7%
Ardfinnan	203	121	52	26	18	25.6%	21.5%	8.9%
Ballybacon	81	49	11	3	3	13.6%	6.1%	3.7%
Caher	161	96	38	15	12	23.6%	15.6%	7.5%
Derrygrath	110	62	20	6	6	18.2%	9.7%	5.5%
Kilcommon	376	232	101	49	37	26.9%	21.1%	9.8%
Mortlestown	258	206	78	55	51	30.2%	26.7%	19.8%
Newcastle	101	66	21	9	6	20.8%	13.6%	5.9%
Tubbrid	94	51	10	4	3	10.6%	7.8%	3.2%
Tullaghmelan	184	115	28	14	12	15.2%	12.2%	6.5%
Ballyclerahan	196	148	33	18	17	16.8%	12.2%	8.7%
Total Cahir	1,904	1,242	417	210	173	22.0%	17.0%	9.0%

Housing – Nature of Occupancy Cahir and District 2006

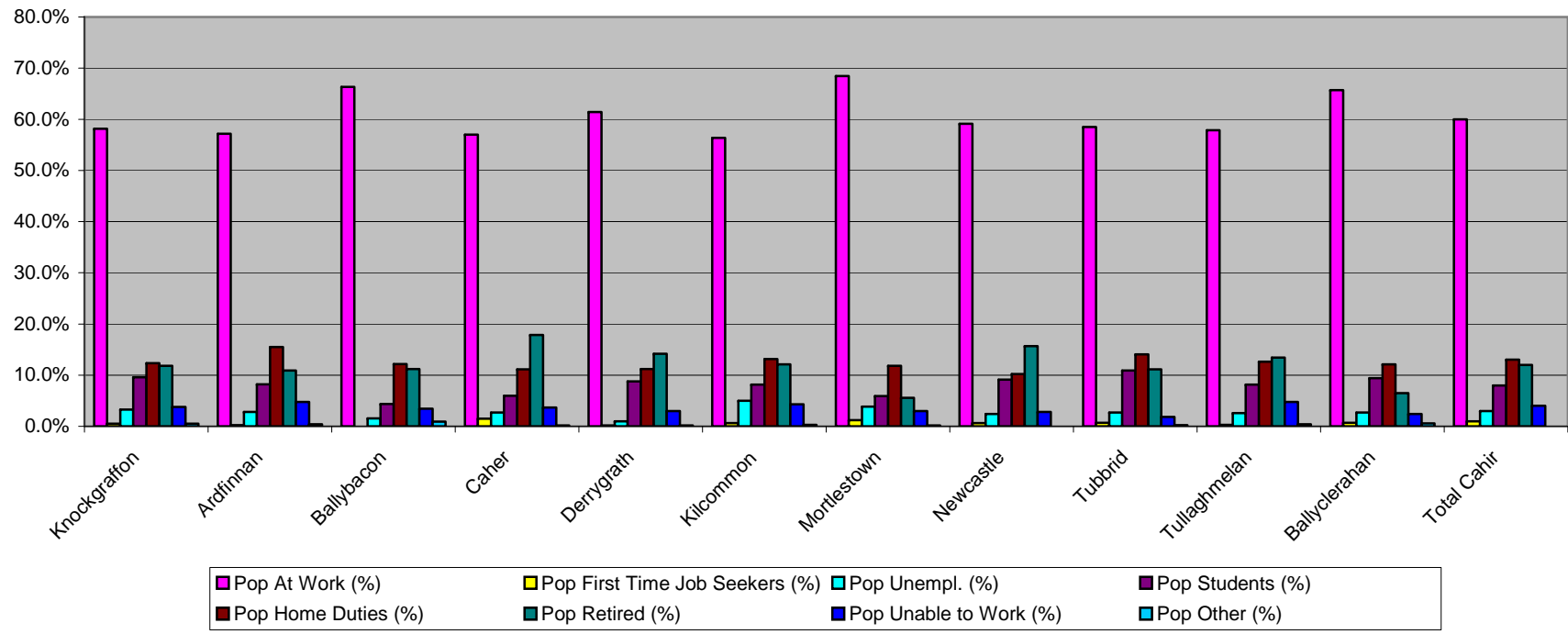
ED	Total Permanent Private Households	Owner Occupied - with Mortgage	Owner Occupied - No Mortgage	Buying from Local Authority	Rented from Local Authority	Rented from Voluntary Body	Rented Unfurnished from Other	Rented Furnished from Other	Occupied Free of Rent	Not Stated
Knockgraffon	245	99	114	2	8	2	4	5	4	7
Ardfinnan	336	135	142	7	27	3	4	8	4	6
Ballybacon	131	56	58	1	1	2	-	3	2	8
Caher	457	148	177	1	16	17	7	64	14	13
Derrygrath	211	89	107	1	-	-	2	5	6	1
Kilcommon	799	238	288	26	93	29	12	69	8	36
Mortlestown	490	206	101	3	55	17	6	78	3	21
Newcastle	208	79	78	10	11	13	2	6	4	5
Tubbrid	187	65	98	1	8	2	1	7	5	-
Tullaghmelan	341	143	120	4	21	18	4	21	7	3
Ballyclerahan	322	203	73	2	9	7	6	9	6	7
Total Cahir	3,727	1,461	1,356	58	249	110	48	275	63	107

Unemployment

Unemployment rates have roughly halved in Ireland over the past fifteen years, with female unemployment rates slightly lower than those for males, but not falling at the same rate due to increasing labour force participation by females (with more women as a result registering their unemployment). Unemployment rates for South Tipperary have fallen at a slightly faster rate than nationally (-10.6% male/ -7.1% female compared to -9.6% male/ -6.0% female nationally), and are almost identical to the national rates in 2006 at 8.8% male unemployment and 8.2% female unemployment.

Cahir and District's labour force grew from 3,282 in 1996 to 5,349 in 2006 (3,204 males, 2,145 females), and the area has a current unemployment rate of 6.1%. The graph below shows percentages of total population by economic status. Unemployment rates are at all other times given as numbers of unemployed plus first time job seekers as a percentage of the labour force.

Economic Status Cahir & District 2006



Education

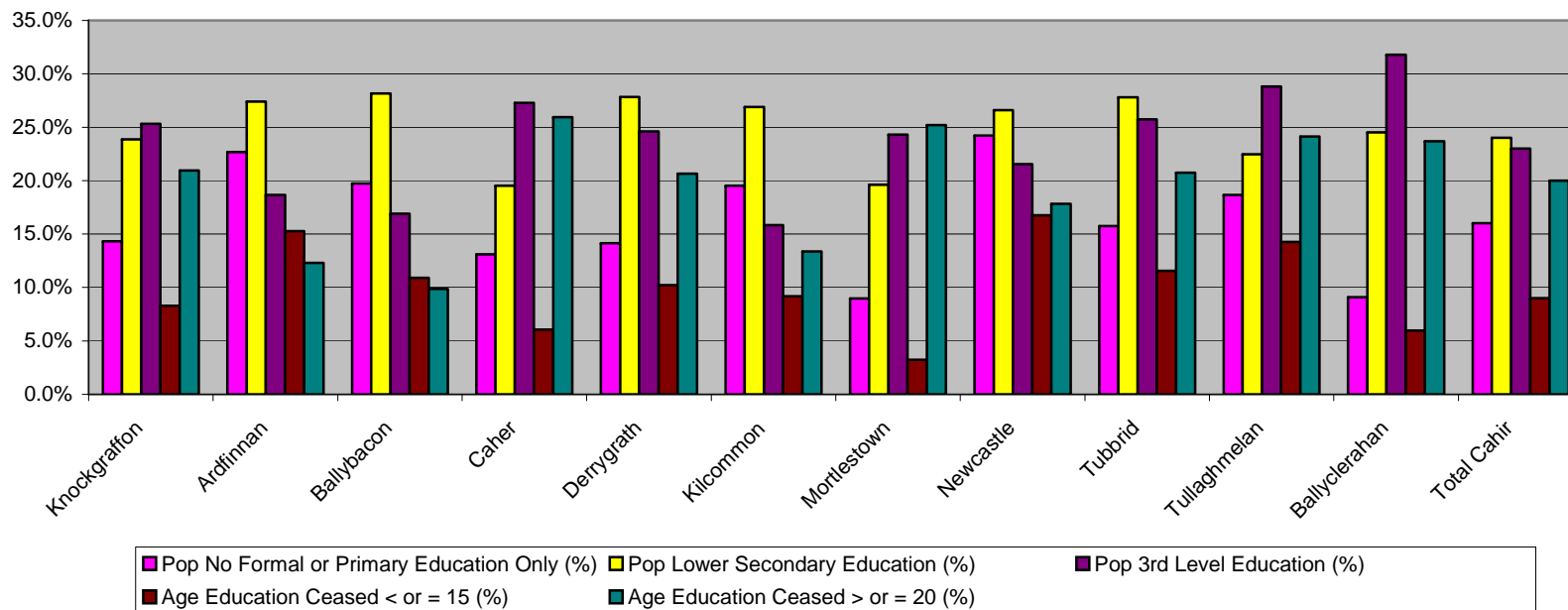
There has been continuous improvement in educational levels among adults over the past 15 years in Ireland, with the rates of those with primary education only dropping from 36.7% of the adult population in 1991 to half that level (18.9%) in 2006. The rate for South Tipperary has dropped from 37% in 1991 to 20.2% in 2006. The reverse applies to third level education which has risen dramatically, from a figure of 13% in 1991 to 30.5% in 2006. South Tipperary has not experienced the same level of growth, increasing from a level of 10.4% in 1991 to just 21.8% in 2006, leaving it way behind national average rates (11.4% compared with 17.4% nationally).

Cahir presents an interesting educational picture in that figures show that above average numbers have upper and lower secondary education (46% compared with 41.7% nationally), lower numbers have no formal or primary education only (16%), but third level rates are still below average (23%). 24.2% of the population of Newcastle has no formal or primary education only, while just 15.8% of Kilcommon's adults have third level education.

Cahir & District Educational Attainment 2006

ED	Pop Education Ceased	Pop Education Ceased (Excl Not Stated)	Pop No Formal or Primary Education Only	Pop Lower Secondary Education	Pop Upper Secondary Education	Pop Technical or Vocational Education	Pop 3rd Level Education	Age Education Ceased < or = 15	Age Education Ceased > or = 20	Pop No Formal or Primary Education Only (%)	Pop Lower Secondary Education (%)	Pop Upper Secondary Education (%)	Pop Technical or Vocational Education (%)	Pop 3rd Level Education (%)	Age Education Ceased < or = 15 (%)	Age Education Ceased > or = 20 (%)
Knockgraffon	508	482	69	115	122	54	122	40	101	14.3%	23.9%	25.3%	11.2%	25.3%	8.3%	21.0%
Ardfinnan	688	675	153	185	130	81	126	103	83	22.7%	27.4%	19.3%	12.0%	18.7%	15.3%	12.3%
Ballybacon	294	284	56	80	63	37	48	31	28	19.7%	28.2%	22.2%	13.0%	16.9%	10.9%	9.9%
Cahir	881	825	108	161	200	131	225	50	214	13.1%	19.5%	24.2%	15.9%	27.3%	6.1%	25.9%
Derrygrath	431	431	61	120	97	47	106	44	89	14.2%	27.8%	22.5%	10.9%	24.6%	10.2%	20.6%
Kilcommon	1,490	1,414	276	380	344	190	224	130	189	19.5%	26.9%	24.3%	13.4%	15.8%	9.2%	13.4%
Mortlestown	925	893	80	175	209	212	217	29	225	9.0%	19.6%	23.4%	23.7%	24.3%	3.2%	25.2%
Newcastle	392	376	91	100	76	28	81	63	67	24.2%	26.6%	20.2%	7.4%	21.5%	16.8%	17.8%
Tubbrid	381	381	60	106	74	43	98	44	79	15.7%	27.8%	19.4%	11.3%	25.7%	11.5%	20.7%
Tullaghmelan	667	659	123	148	127	71	190	94	159	18.7%	22.5%	19.3%	10.8%	28.8%	14.3%	24.1%
Ballyclerahan	624	604	55	148	135	74	192	36	143	9.1%	24.5%	22.4%	12.3%	31.8%	6.0%	23.7%
Total Cahir	7,281	7,024	1,132	1,718	1,577	968	1,629	664	1,377	16.0%	24.0%	22.0%	14.0%	23.0%	9.0%	20.0%

% Educational Attainment Cahir & District



I.4.3 Local Consultation

What does Social Inclusion mean to you?

- Everyone able to access services
- Equality
- People involved in making decisions that affect them
- Working with all the generations – life-cycle
- Looking at how we ensure all people are included and recognising that it is not easy to prevent exclusion
- A way of thinking

Cahir –Key Needs, Social and Geographic

Key Needs – Social/Geographic	Themes
Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of facilities and structured activities for young people outside of traditional sporting organisations. • Strain on volunteers in trying to provide activities for young people • Beginnings of anti-social behaviour – not hugely prevalent as yet; need for prevention of anti-social behaviour • Need for dedicated youth workers in the town and integrated strategies for young people • Evidence of increasing levels of drugs mis-use – Dealers from the cities and larger towns are beginning to target the area. • Any services are based in Clonmel e.g. Youth Training etc.
New families	Concerns were raised regarding the influx of new families into the area without family or community supports. Good transport links to other urban areas for employment opportunities have resulted in a growth in people moving into the area but working away from Cahir.
Employment	Whilst the transport links provide relatively wide scope for employment options in the other larger urban centres there is a lack of local employment opportunities and strategies need to be developed to combat the changing economic conditions, particularly with reference to the down turn in the construction industry. Information services relating to local job vacancies need to be upgraded.

Childcare	Cahir experiences large waiting lists for affordable, accessible childcare and changes in the EOCP will bring detrimental effects to the sustaining of existing childcare provision and the development of new childcare provision – this is particularly relevant to the growth in population of families with young children who will be seeking childcare supports.
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Cahir – Key Needs by Target Group

Target Group	Themes and Issues Arising	Identified Needs
Long-Term Unemployed	<p>Long Term unemployment is not particularly high in Cahir. However, as with the provision of most resources and services, people have to travel to Clonmel for employment supports.</p> <p>FÁS operate an outreach service once a week – however their information is seen as being poor and out-of-date, there are 2 CE Schemes and a VTOS programme. These CE schemes are not viewed as having high progression rates, more as permanent jobs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Gain more information on what is available for long term unemployed people b) Investigate needs of long-term unemployed people c) Explore possibilities for local employment d) Upgrade existing information services regarding jobs and recruitment e) Develop strategies for combating potential unemployment issues as a result of the downturn in the construction industry. f) Affordable childcare options
Low Income Individuals and Families	<p>Key themes emerging for this target group centre on a lack of opportunities to progress into employment and training/education, particularly for foreign nationals, small farmers and lone parents. In addition to this there is a general lack of awareness of financial supports available such as FIS etc.</p> <p>Foreign nationals are often in low-paid jobs and are potentially exploited, many small farmers are struggling and lone parents also lack the opportunity to progress into better paid employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Awareness raising – information regarding benefits and supplementary financial supports b) Increased local education and training opportunities c) Supports and strategies put in place to prevent poverty in low income families and exploitation of foreign nationals in low paid jobs

<p>Women who are Socially and Economically Disadvantaged</p>	<p>Key issues raised for this target group relate to limited services around childcare and training. There is an annual Return to Work Training course which is successful and often over-subscribed – however there is a general lack of services for women seeking to return to work.</p> <p>There are waiting lists for community based childcare provision, lack of pre-school (1 private Montessori facility in the town).</p> <p>Domestic violence supports are based in Clonmel and Migrant women are seen as potentially at risk of increased isolation and distance from services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Affordable childcare and expansion of community childcare provision – funding cuts coming into place in 2010 will have a massive impact on existing childcare provision b) Opportunities for part time/job share employment c) Return to work training courses at a range of levels – particularly aimed at women who have literacy and numeracy needs d) Local domestic violence supports
<p>Lone Parents</p>	<p>There has been an increase in the number of one-parent households in Cahir over the last 5-10 years as in many areas. There is a great deal of stress associated with being a single parent, responsible for all aspects of the family.</p> <p>Linking to youth needs, there is a lack of recreational and leisure activities/facilities for children and supports facilitating employment progression are poor as in affordable childcare and relevant training and education opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Affordable childcare b) Flexible training courses, Back to Education initiatives, financial supports in terms of supplements to welfare allowances c) Provision of activities for children including summer camps etc
<p>Travellers</p>	<p>There are no official halting sites in and immediately around Cahir. Approximately 15 traveller families are living in settled accommodation and these are largely from the same 3 families of long standing in the area. In the main these families are viewed as being well integrated into the community. Education retention and progression into employment were seen as issues requiring dedicated interventions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Urgent need for pre-school supports and homework clubs for all children and particularly Traveller children whose parents may not always be able to help with homework. <p>Strategies and supports for progression into employment for young travellers.</p>
<p>Disabled People</p>	<p>Access for people with disabilities is viewed as a problem in Cahir – progress is being made slowly in terms of provision of ramps etc. However, there is a sense of disjointed thinking in the provision of some access provision e.g. disabled parking spaces situated on hills.</p> <p>The Nagle Centre has provided some housing for people with mild handicap and the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provision of supports for people with mental health difficulties e.g. GROW, AWARE. b) Integrated strategy for disabled access facilities across Cahir e.g.

	Brothers of Charity run a sheltered training and employment programme.	greater access to footpaths, wheelchair accessibility at entrances.
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Cahir – Key Needs by Target Group

Target Group	Themes and Issues Arising	Identified Needs
Disadvantaged Youth, Including Unemployed and Early School Leaving	(See also notes taken under Needs, Geographical and Social) There is no Youth club or similar in Cahir. There is no Diversion project or Youth Training supports. Amenities have closed down in the area. Funding for supports is seen as problematic. Increases in anti-social behaviour are evident. Sporting organisations do exist including GAA, Rugby, and Soccer etc. There is no Home School Liaison Officer, There is no School Completion Programme. There is no Youth Diversion Project and Foróige do not operate in the town	a) Leisure and Social facilities for young people and supports to volunteers to run these services b) Integrated Youth Strategy across the county which Cahir could/should feed into and be part of.
Older People who are Socially and Economically Disadvantaged	Transport limitations impact severely on this target group and isolation is an identified problem for many elderly people. Ring-a-Link is in operation but does not have enough people using it, possibly due to a lack of information about its services. Meals-on-Wheels is in operation catering for approximately 70 people – it is viewed as not being sustainable in terms of strain on volunteers.	a) Transport links and provision to combat isolation and increase access to services. b) Specific anti-isolation strategies c) Advertising and awareness raising of supports and services available for older people d) Supports for volunteers and State funding for supports such as Meal on Wheels
Homeless People	Cahir is viewed as being adequately served for accommodation and housing infrastructure and homelessness is not seen as existing in Cahir. There are no hostels in Cahir.	– information regarding waiting lists for social/affordable housing would need to be investigated
Drug Mis-users	Any treatment supports are all located outside the town which requires transport and places an economic burden on “patients” and families. There is an increase in general drug use in Cahir – cocaine, ecstasy and cannabis in the main. Dealers are moving into the area from the larger urban areas and there	a) Local facilities – Drop-in centres and Addiction counsellors b) Links to county and regional programmes and pilots,

	are fears that they are targeting secondary schools.	c) Community-based Drugs Initiatives/Drugs Task Force needed to cover Cahir d) Education initiatives – prevention of drug use
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Cahir – Key Needs by Target Group

Target Group	Themes and Issues Arising	Identified Needs
Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigrants	<p>There does not appear to be a significant refugee population and in particular there does not appear to be an African community within the town.</p> <p>There is a growing Eastern European population, most of which appear to be working.</p> <p>Main issues identified appear to be centred around tension/fighting between Eastern European and Irish people at the weekends – links to alcohol and drug misuse. In addition it was felt that there is a general lack of understanding between and across all the different cultures, not just between Irish people and foreign nationals.</p> <p>There are reports of increased instances of substance mis-use amongst this population.</p> <p>Key to supports for this target group lie not just within the provision of information about services being in their own language but the delivery of these supports and services need also to be in their own language to some extent to increase access/participation.</p>	<p>More research needed (See also Migrant Workers)</p>
Ex-Prisoners	<p>It is difficult to ascertain numbers of ex-prisoners/offenders in Cahir as in other areas across the county.</p> <p>Key themes emerging for this target group centre on a lack of access to supports and education/training/employment opportunities due to stigma.</p> <p>There are no local supports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ex-Offenders programmes b) Support work to begin in the prisons. c) Integrated supports for transition from prison to the community – options etc
Lesbian and Gay People who are Socially and Economically Disadvantaged.	<p>Main issues for this group centre on stigma and a lack of supports and information services.</p> <p>There are no local supports and little, if any, in Clonmel or other larger urban areas. Waterford would be seen as the nearest place with any services/supports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Links to National policy and frameworks b) Awareness-raising initiatives to combat prejudice and stigma
Migrant Workers who are Socially	<p>(See also Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigrants)</p> <p>This target group is seen as being vulnerable to exploitation and isolation,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) English Language classes and supports b) Awareness raising initiatives

and Economically Disadvantaged	particularly the wives and girlfriends of migrant workers. Financial concerns regarding low income and high accommodation costs.	regarding the diverse range of traditions and customs. c) Employment supports and protection
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