

Draft 26/6/08

# **South Tipperary Social Inclusion Audit**

## **Report 3: Carrick-on-Suir**



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 key<sup>1</sup> 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.

---

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

## **I.2 Carrick-on-Suir Area**

### **I.2.1 Geographic Description**

Carrick-on-Suir is situated on the River Suir, sitting between the Comeragh Mountains to the west and the Slieve Na mBan foothills to the north. It lies 21 km from Clonmel and 24 km from Waterford, both urban centres accessible via the N24 National Primary road. Additional regional roads connect it to the town's hinterland and it also lies on the Wexford/Rosslare to Limerick Junction Rail line.

The town is unusual in that it is located across two counties, South Tipperary and Waterford. The boundary lies for the most part via the River Suir – the main part of the town lies to the north of the river in south Tipperary with Carrickbeg, south of the river, lying in County Waterford. The need to negotiate with different service providers, councils at local, regional and national level has sometimes led to Carrick-on-Suir being additionally marginalised in terms of accessing resources and supports.

### **I.2.2 Carrick-on-Suir and District Key Data**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>% 2006</b>	<b>% 2002</b>
Age Dependency	2,847	34%	34.6%
Elderly 65+ years	1011	12%	12.5%
Elderly 65+ years living alone	286	10%	9.2%
Foreign Nationals <sup>2</sup>	407	4.9%	2.9%
Temporary Households <sup>3</sup>	12	0.4%	1%

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

<sup>2</sup> Non-Irish, non-UK nationality

<sup>3</sup> Including caravans, mobile homes and persons sleeping rough on census night.

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 the Carrick-on-Suir area totalled 8,359 in 2006, having increased from 7,920 in 2002. The town of Carrick-on-Suir accounts for more than half of the total population of the area, at 4,441, while the other main urban centre, Carrickbeg, accounts for a further 1,415 persons. Carrickbeg Urban saw the highest rate of population increase during the ten-year period 1996 – 2002 (22.4%), while the population of Kilmurray saw a population decrease of 7%.

ED	Population			Males			Females		
	2006	2002	1996	2006	2002	1996	2006	2002	1996
Carrickbeg Urban	1,415	1,229	1,004	667	598	479	748	631	525
Carrick-on-Suir Urban	4,441	4,313	4,168	2,229	2,129	2,083	2,212	2,184	2,085
Carrick-on-Suir Rural	498	485	403	261	255	212	237	230	191
Garrangibbon	634	604	556	329	310	300	305	294	256
Kilmurry	318	321	345	165	177	187	153	144	158
Newtown	382	374	324	197	195	173	185	179	151
Kilcash	671	594	523	344	304	278	327	290	245
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,359</b>	<b>7,920</b>	<b>7,323</b>	<b>4,192</b>	<b>3,968</b>	<b>3,712</b>	<b>4,167</b>	<b>3,952</b>	<b>3,611</b>

Carrick-on-Suir and District		Population			Males			Females		
ID	ED	1996-2002	2002-2006	1996-2006	1996-2002	2002-2006	1996-2006	1996-2002	2002-2006	1996-2006
23,082	Carrickbeg Urban	22.4%	15.1%	40.9%	24.8%	11.5%	39.2%	20.2%	18.5%	42.5%
23,083	Carrick-on-Suir Urban	3.5%	3.0%	6.5%	2.2%	4.7%	7.0%	4.7%	1.3%	6.1%
23,089	Carrick-on-Suir Rural	20.3%	2.7%	23.6%	20.3%	2.4%	23.1%	20.4%	3.0%	24.1%
23,090	Garrangibbon	8.6%	5.0%	14.0%	3.3%	6.1%	9.7%	14.8%	3.7%	19.1%
23,091	Kilmurry	-7.0%	-0.9%	-7.8%	-5.3%	-6.8%	-11.8%	-8.9%	6.3%	-3.2%
23,092	Newtown	15.4%	2.1%	17.9%	12.7%	1.0%	13.9%	18.5%	3.4%	22.5%
23,135	Kilcash	13.6%	13.0%	28.3%	9.4%	13.2%	23.7%	18.4%	12.8%	33.5%
25,004	Carrickbeg Rural	3.9%	2.0%	6.0%	1.8%	4.0%	5.9%	6.1%	0.0%	6.1%

## 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.

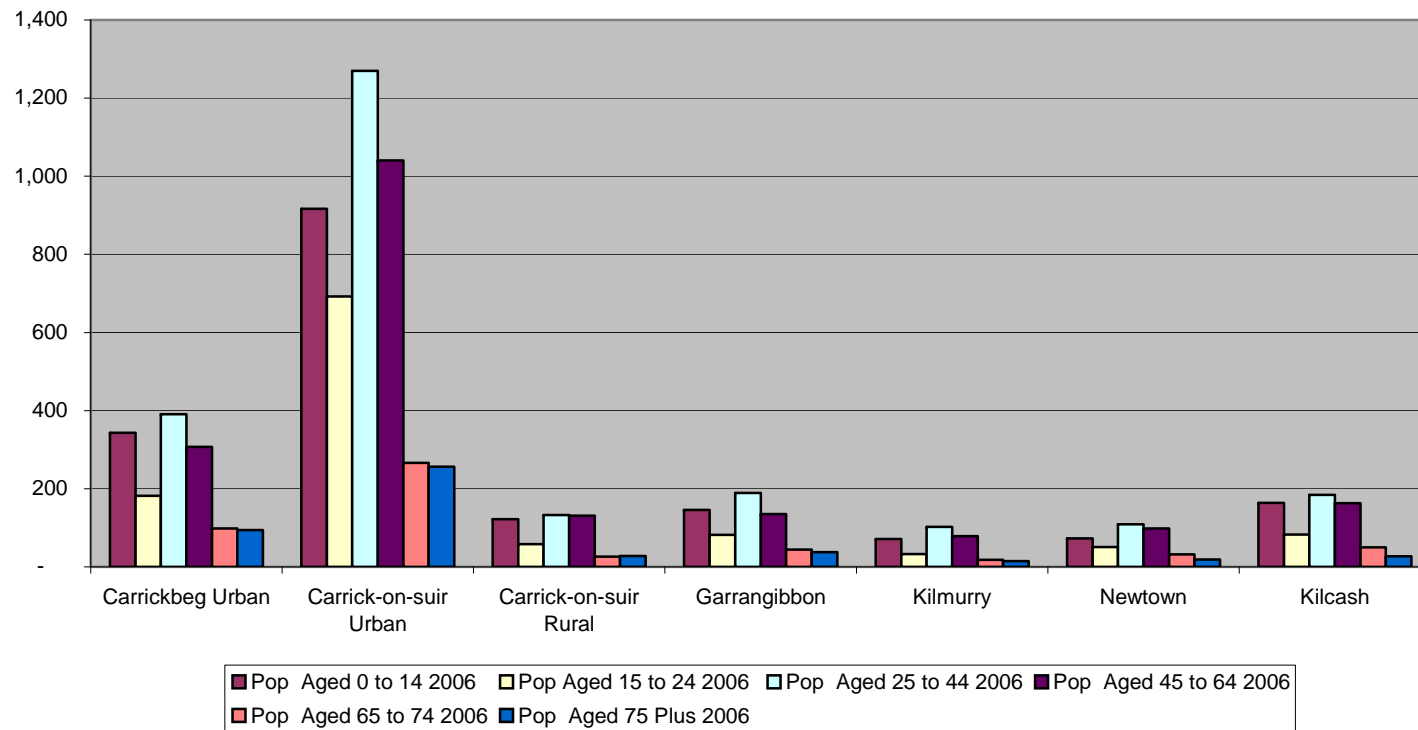
At -13.9, Carrick-on-Suir Urban is one of the five most disadvantaged EDs in the County, while Grangeegibbon, at -7.0, Carrick-beg Urban, at -6.8 and Newtown, at -5.0 are all marginally disadvantaged. Kilcash, at 8.1, is marginally above average. Given the relative populations in these EDs, the area as a whole is undoubtedly disadvantaged.

Carrick-on-Suir 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
23,082	Carrickbeg Urban	3.9	6.6	-0.4	-4.9	8.9	-6.8	-2.0	-2.9	-4.9
23,083	Carrick-on-Suir Urban	-1.1	-1.2	-7.5	-12.7	11.6	-13.9	-11.8	-10.2	-12.7
23,089	Carrick-on-Suir Rural	13.4	14.7	7.3	8.7	4.7	6.3	8.1	5.2	8.7
23,090	Garrangibbon	3.8	4.8	0.1	-3.5	7.4	-7.0	-4.2	-2.3	-3.5
23,091	Kilmurry	11.3	12.6	5.5	9.1	2.2	3.4	5.5	3.3	9.1
23,092	Newtown	5.3	7.1	-2.4	-6.2	11.5	-5.0	-1.4	-4.9	-6.2
23,135	Kilcash	14.7	13.8	7.8	4.9	9.8	8.1	7.0	5.7	4.9

## Age Profile

Carrick-on-Suir area has a young population, with major concentrations of persons under the age of 15 prevalent in the two main urban centres.

Age Profile Carrick-on-Suir & District 2006



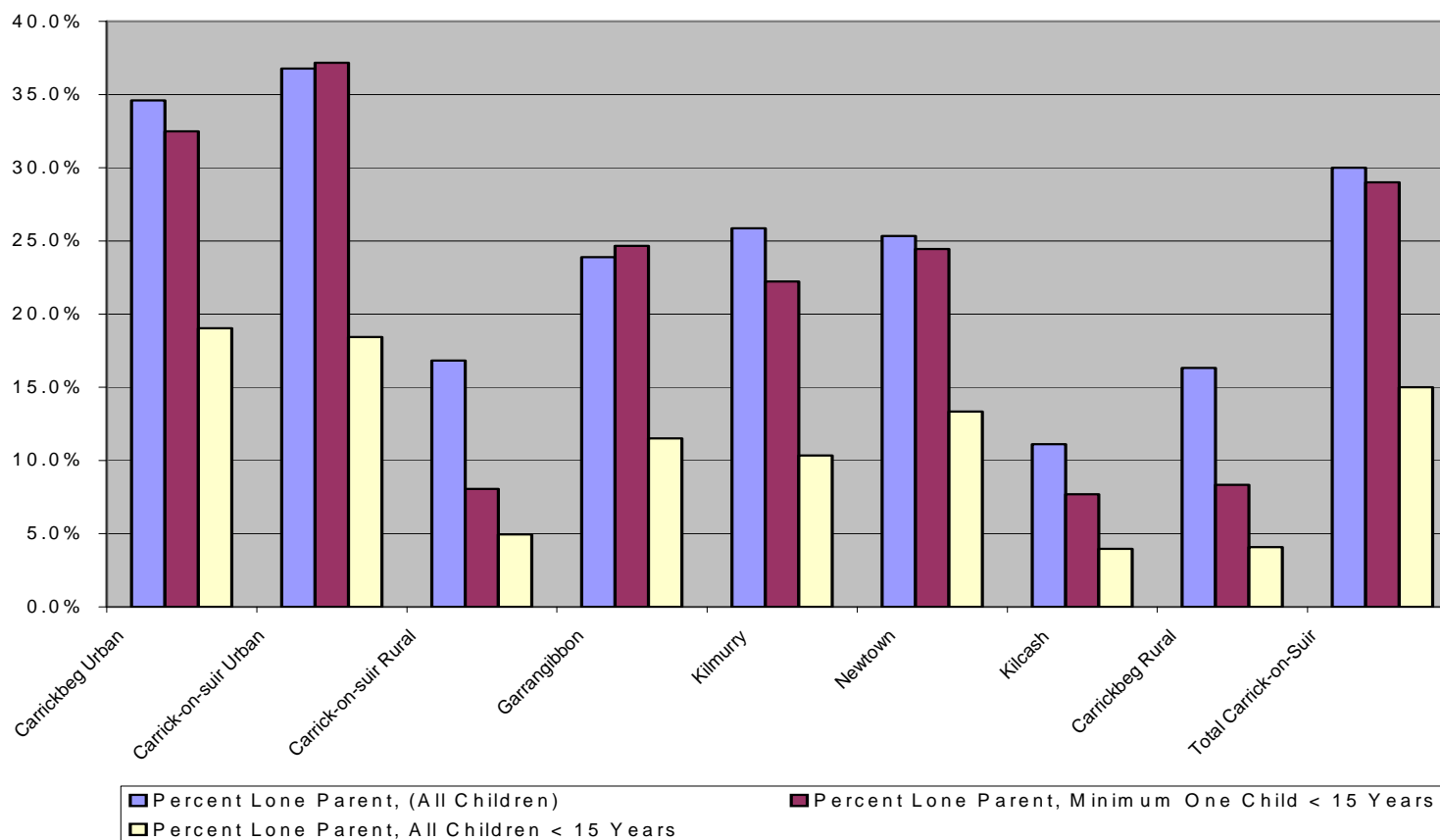
Age Profile Carrick-on-Suir and District 2006

<b>ED</b>	<b>Total Pop 2006</b>	<b>Pop Aged 0 to 14 2006</b>	<b>Pop Aged 15 to 24 2006</b>	<b>Pop Aged 25 to 44 2006</b>	<b>Pop Aged 45 to 64 2006</b>	<b>Pop Aged 65 to 74 2006</b>	<b>Pop Aged 75 Plus 2006</b>	<b>Pop Aged 0 to 14 2006 (%)</b>	<b>Pop Aged 15 to 24 2006 (%)</b>	<b>Pop Aged 25 to 44 2006 (%)</b>	<b>Pop Aged 45 to 64 2006 (%)</b>	<b>Pop Aged 65 to 74 2006 (%)</b>	<b>Pop Aged 75 Plus 2006 (%)</b>
Carrickbeg Urban	1,415	343	182	391	307	98	94	24.2%	12.9%	27.6%	21.7%	6.9%	6.6%
Carrick-on-Suir Urban	4,441	917	692	1,270	1,040	266	256	20.6%	15.6%	28.6%	23.4%	6.0%	5.8%
Carrick-on-Suir Rural	498	122	58	133	131	26	28	24.5%	11.6%	26.7%	26.3%	5.2%	5.6%
Garrangibbon	634	146	82	189	135	44	38	23.0%	12.9%	29.8%	21.3%	6.9%	6.0%
Kilmurry	318	71	33	102	79	18	15	22.3%	10.4%	32.1%	24.8%	5.7%	4.7%
Newtown	382	73	51	109	98	32	19	19.1%	13.4%	28.5%	25.7%	8.4%	5.0%
Kilcash	671	164	83	184	163	50	27	24.4%	12.4%	27.4%	24.3%	7.5%	4.0%
<b>Total Carrick</b>	<b>8,359</b>	<b>1,836</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>2,378</b>	<b>1,953</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>22.0%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>23.0%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>

## Lone Parents

Carrick-on-Suir area also displays high rates of lone parent families (30%), with the urban areas of Carrick-on-Suir Urban and Carrickbeg Urban experiencing rates significantly higher than this (36.8% and 34.6% respectively).

Lone Parents Carrick-on-Suir & District 2006



### Household Structure Carrick-on-Suir and District 2006

<b>ED</b>	<b>Total Family Units With Children, All Children</b>	<b>Total Family Units Minimum One Child &lt; 15 Years</b>	<b>Lone Parent, All Children</b>	<b>Lone Parent, Minimum One Child &lt; 15 Years</b>	<b>Lone Parent, All Children &lt; 15 Years</b>	<b>Percent Lone Parent, (All Children)</b>	<b>Percent Lone Parent, Minimum One Child &lt; 15 Years</b>	<b>Percent Lone Parent, All Children &lt; 15 Years</b>
Carrickbeg Urban	289	200	100	65	55	34.6%	32.5%	19.0%
Carrick-on-Suir Urban	835	503	307	187	154	36.8%	37.2%	18.4%
Carrick-on-Suir Rural	101	62	17	5	5	16.8%	8.1%	5.0%
Garrangibbon	113	73	27	18	13	23.9%	24.7%	11.5%
Kilmurry	58	36	15	8	6	25.9%	22.2%	10.3%
Newtown	75	45	19	11	10	25.3%	24.4%	13.3%
Kilcash	126	78	14	6	5	11.1%	7.7%	4.0%
<b>Total Carrick-on-Suir</b>	<b>1,597</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	<b>16.0%</b>

### Housing – Nature of Occupancy Carrick–on-Suir 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
Carrickbeg Urban	519	203	167	11	72	15	5	32	6	8
Carrick-on-Suir Urban	1,577	521	432	64	257	93	16	139	17	38
Carrick-on-Suir Rural	162	73	72	1	1	6	2	1	2	4
Garrangibbon	213	62	89	12	20	4	2	3	11	10
Kilmurry	119	42	60	3	7	1	-	2	2	2
Newtown	143	45	64	4	14	1	2	5	3	5
Kilcash	218	91	97	3	4	3	2	4	7	7
<b>Total Carrick-on-Suir</b>	<b>2,951</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>74</b>

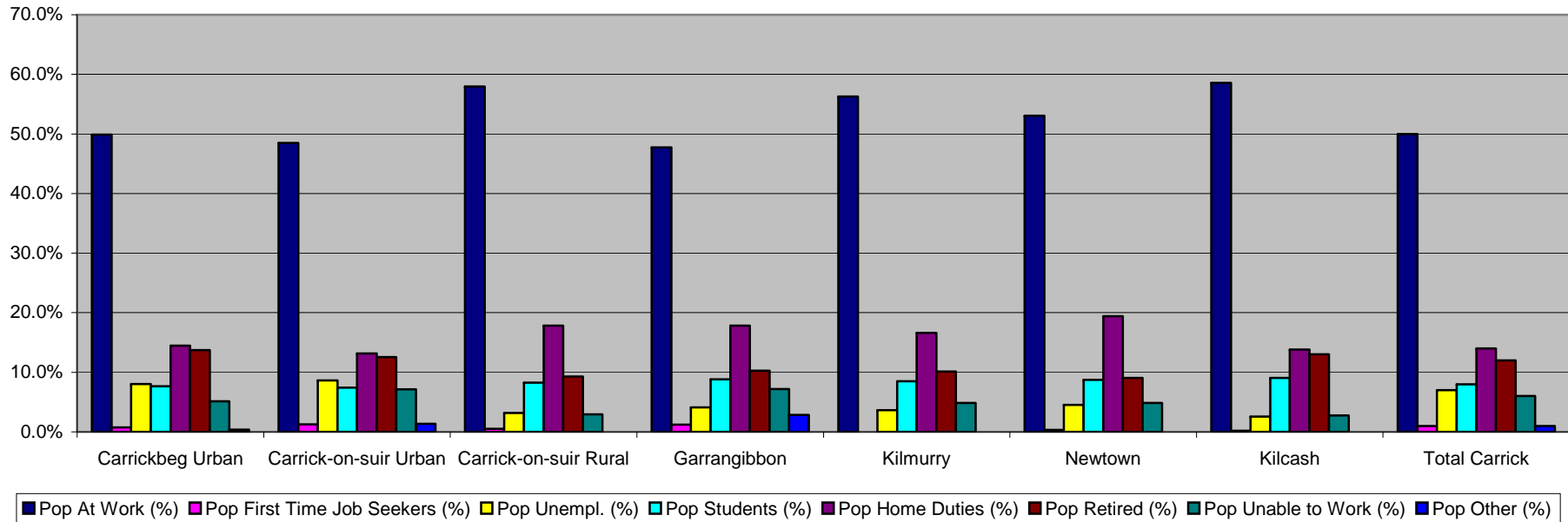
## Unemployment

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.

Carrick-on-Suir and District has a labour force of 3,815 (2,301 males, 1,514 females), and an unemployment rate of 13.6%, significantly above the national average of 8.5% unemployment. 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.

Live register figures show that unemployment levels Carrick-on-Suir have remained relatively static over the last decade; however figures have been dropping slowly. Figures from December 2005 show that 879 people in Carrick-on-Suir were signing on for either unemployment Benefit or Unemployment assistance, 734 of those were over 25 and 145 were under 25, the majority were men (556) and men are more likely to be claiming Unemployment Assistance (UA) whereas more women are claiming Unemployment Benefit (UB) with 323 women claiming either UA or UB in October 2005.

Economic Status Carrick-on-Suir & District 2006

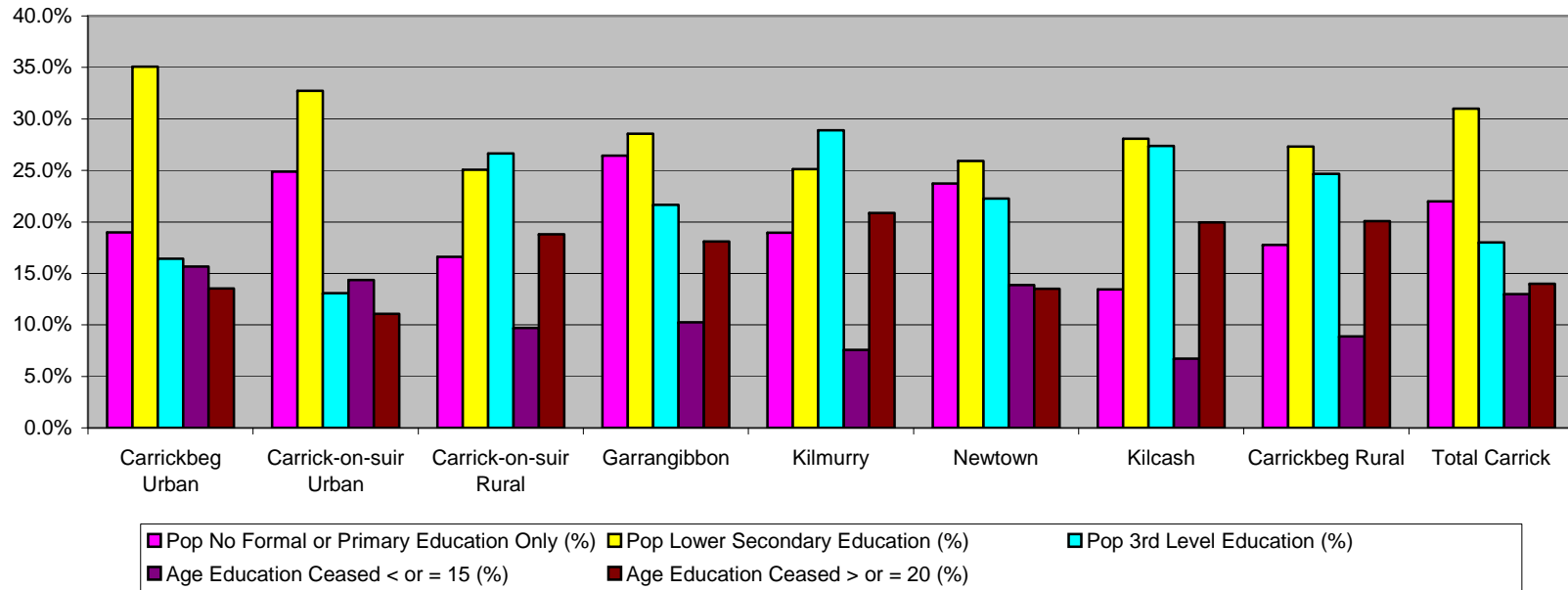


## Education

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).

Carrick-on-Suir and District is educationally disadvantaged, with high numbers of adults with no formal or primary education only (22%) and few with third level education (18%). Carrick-on-Suir Urban is particularly disadvantaged, with almost one quarter of its adult population having no formal or primary education only, and a mere 13.1% having third level education.

**% Educational Attainment Carrick-on-Suir & District 2006**



## Carrick-on-Suir & 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 (%)
Carrickbeg Urban	950	938	178	329	206	71	154	147	127	19.0%	35.1%	22.0%	7.6%	16.4%	15.7%	13.5%
Carrick-on-Suir Urban	3,083	2,938	731	962	623	238	384	422	325	24.9%	32.7%	21.2%	8.1%	13.1%	14.4%	11.1%
Carrick-on-Suir Rural	332	319	53	80	74	27	85	31	60	16.6%	25.1%	23.2%	8.5%	26.6%	9.7%	18.8%
Garrangibbon	428	420	111	120	73	25	91	43	76	26.4%	28.6%	17.4%	6.0%	21.7%	10.2%	18.1%
Kilmurry	219	211	40	53	41	16	61	16	44	19.0%	25.1%	19.4%	7.6%	28.9%	7.6%	20.9%
Newtown	277	274	65	71	53	24	61	38	37	23.7%	25.9%	19.3%	8.8%	22.3%	13.9%	13.5%
Kilcash	444	431	58	121	93	41	118	29	86	13.5%	28.1%	21.6%	9.5%	27.4%	6.7%	20.0%
<b>Total Carrick-on-Suir</b>	<b>5,733</b>	<b>5,531</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>1,736</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>22.0%</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>

### I.2.3 Local Consultation

#### What does Social Inclusion mean to you?

- Integration of people on the margins of society
- Empowerment – all people to realise their full potential
- Services that are known, accessible and appropriate to those who need them
- Quality of life as a basic right
- Identifying and removing barriers and obstacles to participation
- Creating real Equality of opportunity – having an equality agenda within the work

- Supporting people to be included in decision making processes
- Ensuring that people are fully involved in the delivery of services
- Awareness that the issues and barriers facing people are not always apparent – can be hidden, layered and sometimes of multi-disadvantage

### Carrick-on-Suir – Key Needs, Social and Geographic

Key Needs – Social/Geographic	Themes
Services	<p>Gardaí attending the focus session indicate that <u>anti-social and crime levels</u> in Carrick-on-Suir are categorised as mid-level. This assessment, while reassuring, does not reflect the sense of concern expressed by local people. There are persistent calls for a dedicated Community Gardaí service – suggestion that the newly established service in Clonmel be extended to Carrick.</p> <p><u>Health Care services</u> are viewed as inadequate, with particular reference to social and mental health services which are largely based in Clonmel and Waterford – the lack of immediate supports in terms of crisis intervention as well as longer term supports results in such issues falling back on to the families and the community.</p> <p><u>Accessibility to public buildings for people with disabilities</u> was highlighted as needing urgent attention – buildings identified included the Post Office, Library, Town Hall, Banks and shops, even those buildings recently built or renovated. Such inaccessibility impacts hugely on the daily lives of people with disabilities.</p> <p>Carrick-on-Suir is poorly served in terms of <u>accessible and affordable community based childcare facilities</u> which again impacts hugely on those wishing to avail of education, training and employment opportunities.</p>
Young People	<p>There is an urgent need for a Youth Reach service in the town, together with increased opportunities for Early School Leavers and those with low levels of qualifications to increase their skill levels and therefore enhance their employment opportunities. Currently education and further training opportunities are accessed in Waterford and Clonmel and a lack of public transport services prohibits access to these opportunities.</p> <p>In terms of leisure and social services there is a need for a Youth Centre/Youth Café in the town; a place for young people to hang out. Carrying on from that is the need to ensure that services are more accessible for young people living in the hinterland of the town; again, this is a reference to public transport requirements.</p>
Transport	Public Transport is viewed as inadequate in many respects, but specifically with reference to employment and

	education opportunities. Access to Waterford and Clonmel in the evenings to avail of higher/further education courses is difficult.
Employment	<p>Carrick has high levels of unemployment with current figures calculated at 1070. There are limited numbers of job vacancies in Carrick and these are often difficult to fill. There is a need for investment on the town which will encourage innovative employment opportunities, concentrating on the creation of small businesses and enterprises and the sustainability of existing such businesses which constitute a large section of employment within the town.</p> <p>Public transport limits employment opportunities for people needing to rely on it to secure and sustain employment in the two nearest urban centres of Waterford and Clonmel. In addition there is a need for strategies which encourage and develop part time/flexible working arrangements to foster increased employment for certain target groups.</p>
Estates	There is a need to prioritise the Ballylynch Estate regeneration project following on from the success of the pilot scheme in 2000 and to ensure the incorporation of links with other services and supports needed for the Estate as well as structural improvements.
Education	<p>Post secondary level education facilities and opportunities were viewed as minimal in the town. Access to 3<sup>rd</sup> level education is again limited to outlying urban centres with, yet again, a reliance on poor public transport links.</p> <p>It was identified that there was a need for a host organisation to coordinate, link and deliver a range of 3<sup>rd</sup> level and further education and training opportunities in the town. Childcare is listed as one of the barriers to accessing further education and training opportunities.</p>
Image	There is perception that the town receives negative attention from the media and is often portrayed in an unflattering light. This adds to a prevailing sense of oppression within the town and resignation with poor services and employment opportunities.

### Carrick-on-Suir – Key Needs by Target Group

Target Group	Themes and Issues Arising	Identified Needs
<b>Long Term Unemployed</b>	<p>(See also Low Income Families)</p> <p>There is a full time Local Employment Service which operates under the aegis of Waterford Leader Partnership. FÁS also operate an outreach service for 3 hours per week.</p> <p>Recently the local Jobs Club has been informed that it will have to close – there is huge concern about this for an area with high unemployment figures.</p>	<p>a) Development of local enterprise strategies to generate sustainable local employment</p> <p>b) Need to maintain Jobs Club and increase pro-active supports for long term unemployed people</p>

	<p>The area is seen as requiring investment into the development of small business and micro-enterprises as a means of generating local employment. In addition, poor public transport links with the main urban centres and a lack of childcare facilities are seen as barriers to employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c) Increased literacy supports</li> <li>d) Increase in training supports which are skills based and also focus on issues of low self-esteem</li> <li>e) Development of thematic strategies such as employment options for the over 50's, breaking the cycle of generational unemployment etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Low Income Individuals and Families</b></p>	<p>(See also Long Term Unemployed)</p> <p>Key themes emerging for this target group focussed on exploring the roots of low income for families in the town – these were seen as being linked to a preponderance of minimum wage jobs locally, generational low skilled families, lack of up-skilling and re-training supports to increase employment prospects, transport difficulties removing financial benefits of jobs in the urban centres, relatively high levels of Early School leaving/low educational attainment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Development of socio-economic strategies to provide sustainable, appropriately skilled employment opportunities</li> <li>b) Lifting of the cap on the Rural Social Scheme</li> <li>c) Increased supports around money and budgeting supports, including debt management (research to be undertaken to ascertain possible levels of money-lending and loan sharks)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Women who are Socially and Economically Disadvantaged</b></p>	<p>(See also Lone Parents who are Socially and Economically Disadvantaged)</p> <p>Issues affecting this target group focussed on the roles women play within families as well as the barriers they face in accessing a range of education, employment and social opportunities. The lack of affordable childcare facilities in the town was highlighted (together with an acknowledgement that there are pre-school services), together with a lack of supports to women who traditionally perform a caring role for relatives and family members. There is a need for increased supports to community groups to facilitate women's groups and personal development/self esteem training as well as the need for the development of flexible skills training courses. As elsewhere in the county the need to concentrate on Domestic Violence issues was identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Increase in affordable, accessible childcare facilities</li> <li>b) Development of locally based personal development and skills training courses and employment options which are "family friendly"</li> <li>c) Development of strategies which focus on economic barriers to women because of lack of</li> </ul>

		employment opportunities and the roles they play as carers etc.
--	--	---

### Carrick-on-Suir – Key Needs by Target Group

Target Group	Themes and Issues Arising	Identified Needs
<b>Lone Parents who are Socially and Economically Disadvantaged</b>	<p>(See also Women who are Socially and Economically Disadvantaged)</p> <p>Issues emerging for this group mirror those identified in the above target group. In addition there is a need for system change at national level on terms of new family structures which recognise lone parents in new relationships – benefits, social welfare payments etc as well as understanding the different reasons people may be parenting alone i.e. widowhood, single, separated and divorced.</p> <p>Concern regarding foreign nationals who are lone parents was raised which recognises the increased isolation they experience when parenting alone in a different country without a family network.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Policy change at national level</li> <li>b) Flexible training, education and employment options</li> <li>c) Strategies to combat isolation and provide parenting supports – social networks etc</li> </ul>
<b>Travellers</b>	<p>There are no official halting sites in Carrick-on-Suir – whilst there is evidence of a number of long-standing settled families, little was known regarding numbers or specific needs of these families.</p> <p>The LES reports some travellers accessing training and employment advice, usually via referral from DSFA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) More information needed to ascertain needs of this target group</li> <li>b) Development of strategies on foot of information</li> </ul>
<b>Disabled People</b>	<p>(See also Carrick-on-Suir, Key Needs - Social and Geographic)</p> <p>The session acknowledged the issue of physical accessibility to buildings identified in the previous session.</p> <p>In addition the need for local services such as supports for children with learning difficulties and their parents, mental health supports. Increased awareness of the obstacles and barriers faced by people with differing disabilities was needed to fully inform service provision and policy decisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Exploration of other models of good practice i.e. work currently underway regarding the gold Standard in Cashel, building in of psychiatric supports into mainstream education (Northern Ireland).</li> <li>b) Establishment of local, accessible services, particularly around mental health issues and family supports.</li> <li>c) Real strategies to improve physical accessibility to public</li> </ul>

<p><b>Disadvantaged Youth, Including Unemployed and Early School Leaving</b></p>	<p>(See also Carrick-on-Suir, Key Needs – Social and Geographic)</p> <p>There are a number of projects and services in the town which cater for young people including outreach work via the CYTE, Neighbourhood Youth project (Foróige), Youth activities/supports provided by the CDP. There is Home School Liaison Officer, a Youth Diversion Project and the town is part of a SCP area. There are also a number of sporting clubs and a well-attended Scout Group.</p> <p>Early School leaving was identified as a problem with concern being raised regarding the numbers of ESL in the surrounding hinterland and their accessibility to progression supports.</p>	<p>buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Development of Youth Centre/Café providing social, recreational facilities and advice and information.</li> <li>b) Establishment of targeted education and training supports to increase participation in school and progression/up-skilling regarding employment opportunities.</li> <li>c) Exploration of multi-focussed youth strategies which cater for mainstream youth as well as disadvantaged youth.</li> </ul>
--	---	--

**Carrick-on-Suir – Key Needs by Target Group**

Target Group	Themes and Issues Arising	Identified Needs
<p><b>Older People who are Socially and Economically Disadvantaged</b></p>	<p>Key themes emerging for this target group centred on access to services (particularly health services) and isolation.</p> <p>It was recognised that transport again plays a part in potential isolation for older people, particularly in the hinterland areas. Cuts in the numbers of Home Helps raise the possibility of older people suffering from increased isolation and general quality of life supports.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding the level of housing deprivation experienced by older people i.e. inadequate heating, nutritional requirements, maintenance of properties and hygiene, as a result of isolation and economic deficits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Assessment of health and housing needs of older people</li> <li>b) Development of support strategies as a result of findings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Homeless People</b></p>	<p>Discussions around this target group were focussed on the different definitions of homelessness. Whilst information within the group would indicate that housing applications and waiting lists are average for the country, with waiting lists not being excessively long, there was recognition that economic circumstances may preclude some people from taking up local authority or rented accommodation. In addition it was</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Research into levels of homelessness and needs of this target group required.</li> </ul>

	<p>recognised that this target group is often hidden and that there were no specific strategies in place locally. Carrick was not seen as having an overt homeless problem.</p>	
<b>Drug Mis-users</b>	<p>It was identified that drug rehabilitation services were inadequate in the town – again, most treatment centres are based in Clonmel and Waterford which results in severe impacts on addicts and family members. Numbers of beds and residential supports are low across the county for this growing problem. Discussion also focussed on alcohol mis-use. Drug strategies appear to ignore the issues and impacts of alcohol mis-use, particularly with regard to young people. Cultural traditions regarding alcohol consumption were highlighted, together with a lack of alternatives to the pub, again with particular reference to young people – an acceptance of binge-drinking was noted together with the need for more educational and awareness programmes targeted at young people, starting at primary school level.</p>	<p>2.1 Increase in both local and county residential and out-patient drug-treatment services 2.2 Development of education and awareness raising programmes targeted at young people 2.3 Strategies to challenge traditional/cultural attitudes to alcohol consumption 2.4 Linkages with other service providers at planning i.e. youth organisations, schools, HSE in developing integrated strategies and services/facilities</p>

### Carrick-on-Suir – Key Needs by Target Group

<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Themes and Issues Arising</b>	<b>Identified Needs</b>
<b>Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigrants</b>	<p>Carrick-on-Suir has the highest number of Asylum Seekers in the county who are based in the <span style="background-color: yellow;">xxxxx</span> hostel. A number of community based groups work to varying degrees with this target group (CDP, Nano Nagle Resource Centre and Integrate Carrick) together with other providers such as the NYP etc. There is a lack of clear strategies for providing supports to this target group, chiefly due to government restrictions on supports available to them because of their status. Key themes emerging for this target group included language supports, isolation issues, economic deprivation for Asylum Seekers (outside of basic physiological needs), potential exploitation of refugees by employers/high proportion of refugees and immigrants taking</p>	<p>a) Development of integrated strategies across service providers. b) Awareness raising and information across both Asylum Seeker and Irish communities. c) Increased language supports – English classes, written information regarding services</p>

	<p>minimum wage jobs, integration with Irish community and transition issues on receipt of status (short period of time between leaving direct provision and moving into the community).</p>	<p>etc</p> <p>d) Development of transition supports on receipt of status.</p> <p>e) Additional research into needs of these target groups together with development of strategies to reach same.</p>
<b>Ex-Prisoners</b>	<p>This target group is identified as being largely hidden and hard to reach. Stigma means that ex-prisoners are unlikely to present for supports and the barriers facing re-integration into their communities was highlighted.</p> <p>There is a lack of targeted employment progression supports for ex-prisoners together with a lack of supports to assist both ex-prisoners and their families with the transition from prison to “the outside world”.</p>	<p>a) More information regarding number of ex-prisoners in the area required.</p> <p>b) Development of local employment/education and training services to support ex-prisoners gain sustainable employment.</p> <p>c) Linkages with and between service providers to provide transition and re-integration supports</p>
<b>Lesbian and Gay People who are Socially and Economically Disadvantaged</b>	<p>It was identified by local community groups that this target group is not presenting with needs – issues are largely hidden and there are no specific local facilities or support services.</p> <p>Main concerns identified centred on stigma, lack of facilities and potential isolation. It was recognised that a lack of supports surrounding issues of sexuality played a part in the high numbers of suicide amongst young people.</p>	<p>a) Need to gather information on needs and barriers for this target group</p> <p>b) Development of strategies on foot of same</p>
<b>Migrant Workers who are Socially and Economically Disadvantaged</b>	<p>(See also Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigrants)</p> <p>Many of the issues highlighted in the above section were also relevant for this target group, particularly possible language barriers preventing access to information, potential exploitation in terms of employment options and isolation.</p> <p>Anecdotal evidence of discrimination would suggest need for increased awareness raising around racism.</p>	<p>In addition to needs identified under Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigrants:</p> <p>a) Development of anti-racism strategies and programmes</p>

### **Carrick-on-Suir RAPID**

The Carrick-on-Suir Area Implementation Team was formed in 2002 to initiate, manage, implement and monitor a process of planning, investment and development for the town. Community development and youth workers in Carrick played key support roles in the initial planning process and support was also provided by the County Development Board, ADM and SIM. Since its inception, RAPID has developed an interagency approach to service delivery and works with a number of statutory and community and voluntary organisations in the town to develop services and programmes.

The RAPID programme to date has been involved in actions to address drugs and alcohol misuse, vandalism and anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, litter, underage smoking, isolation among older people. It has also developed services providing parenting training and supports, relationships programmes to transition year students, student parents' supports, services for under-12s, lifelong learning, literacy and computer literacy programmes, and information services among other actions. In terms of improving the physical environment of the town, RAPID has progressed plans for youth facilities, improving disabled access, developing green sites and cultural facilities, as well as implementation of the traffic management plan to improve traffic flow in the town centre and approach roads.

Carrick on Suir has received grants through RAPID for a number of projects including:

▪Rock Rover AFC	▪Housing Estate Management
▪Carrick-United AFC	▪Traffic Calming
▪Playground Leverage	▪Community Resource Centre Disability
▪TIME Project	▪CCTV feasibility

Priority needs:

- Community Policing required urgently - Unit of 2 Gardaí
- Increased Mental Health Services
- Youth Reach project for early school leavers
- Community Centre at Ballylynch and progression of Remedial Works Scheme (Housing Improvements)
- Employment Support Services e.g. FÁS Training Programme and Jobs Clubs/LES type services
- Family Resource Centre or Family Support Structure
- Improved access to Childcare
- Improved Transport (so that Clonmel and Waterford can be accessed by 9.00am)