

SOUTHERN REGIONAL DRUGS TASK FORCE

Annual Report 2009

Front Cover shows a piece of Artwork developed by the Youghal Family Support Group

The Youghal Family Support Group wanted to show Youghal what this project is about and hopefully reach out to anyone who would like to meet with the group.

"We talk and listen to each other, people who have been through and are going through what we have also experienced".

The painting represents the journey the Group is going through and has been on.

As Youghal has a great lighthouse, the Group wanted to show this as their rock and let it symbolise our Family Support Group.

The boat represents those that are drifting in a sea of despair, loneliness and fear of pointing fingers, not knowing what to do or where to go.

On the rocks are people's worst feelings and thoughts, when you feel you cannot go on and have no one to turn to.

The light from the lighthouse is showing the way to scale these difficulties and obstacles.

The Family Support Group can offer help, an ear, guidance, a place to be honest. These supports are based on personal experience.

The Group hope that the painting will reach out to people who are still in a place where they are struggling and in need of help, but do not know where to go or who to talk to. The painting is a visual reminder that we are here.

"When you are in the dark, it's very comfortable because it's the only thing you know, the dark. My community knew I was there but never saw me. The project was like a lighthouse in that dark, it directed me to some bit of hope, now everyone can see me. I want to remain in the light now, it is a better place"

Youghal Community Drugs Initiative, Recovered Service User 2008

Report Written and Compiled by Chris Black, Southern Regional Drugs Task Force Coordinator

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Chairpersons Comments

In September 2009, I was appointed as Chairperson of the Southern Regional Drugs Task Force. Prior to that, Kevin Davis was chairperson. For his generous contribution to work of the Task Force since its inception in 2003, I would very much like to thank him.

As part of the 2005 Mid-term Review of the National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008, the government decided to establish ten Regional Drugs Task Forces in addition to the fourteen Local Drugs Task Forces that were already in existence. The SRDTF was one of these servicing the Cork/Kerry region excluding Cork City.

Currently there are twenty-six members on the Task Force. A full meeting of the Task Force is held bi-monthly alternating between Cork and Kerry. A smaller (six) Management Group meets between full Task Force meetings. This group is mandated to make decisions by the Task Force. Four sub-groups operate and these are detailed in this report and on average these meet every three months.

Attendance at both the full Task Force and the Management Group is consistently high. On average there is a 66% attendance at the Task Force meetings and 81% at the Management Group meetings.

While these organisational issues are important, the primary goal of the Task Force is to support people along with their families and their communities who are experiencing drug-related or in the case of young people who are experiencing alcohol-related difficulties. This work is undertaken in a non-judgemental way and the primary role of the Task Force is to support the coordinator, the development worker and all the project workers towards that end.

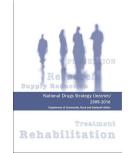
The Task Force is very much aware that on its own it cannot undertake this work. It deeply appreciates the support it receives from a range of organisations chiefly the Health Services Executive who line manage the SRDTF coordinator and development worker. The Task Force also very much appreciates the role of the host organisations and local management groups for their generous engagement with this work.

In undertaking this work, the Task Force is very conscious of the frailty of the human condition and the ease with which some of our cocitizens experience problems that significantly compromise not just the quality of their lives but even in some circumstances their actual lives. The Task Force is of the belief that one of the marks of a decent cohesive society is the manner in which we respond to these cocitizens who are experiencing enormous personal and social problems.

Nicholas Shaxson in his superb book *Poisoned Wells: The Dirty Politics of African Oil* warns people who tread on African soil to tread with care. It is a warning that needs to be heeded not just by those who tread on African soil but those of us who presume that we can intervene for their betterment in other people's lives, particularly those whose lives are in some way blighted by the misuse of psycho-active substances.

It is our hope that we tread lightly yet that our interventions can make a difference to the people with whom we work. If either directly or indirectly you are one of these people, on behalf of the Task Force, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you for the trust you have shown in us. I would like to thank the coordinator, the development worker, the project workers and all of those who contribute to this work. Finally I wish to thank my colleagues on the Task Force membership for their serious engagement with this work.

Peadar King Chairperson July 2010

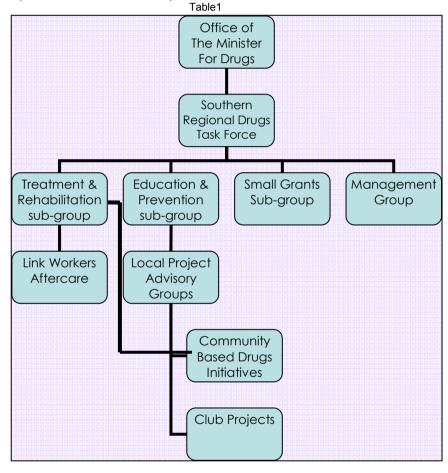


National Drugs Strategy 2009 – 2016 (Interim)

2009 an Overview – Task Force structure and Key issues arising

1. Organisation Chart

SRDTF is responsible to the Office of the Minister for Drugs (OMD), within the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.



2. Geographical Area

A Map of the Region and Projects can be found in Appendix 1.

3. Members 2009

SRDTF membership in 2009 consisted of the following representatives from the Statutory, Voluntary and Community Sectors alongside Public Representatives.

Details of meeting dates in Appendix 2.

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Ta	ble 2
Kevin Davis (replaced by Peadar King) Chris Black	Chairperson Coordinator SRDTF (non-voting member)
Gordon Kinsley	Development Worker SRDTF (non-voting member)
John O'Connor Seamus O'Hara	NDST Liaison Area Based Partnerships
Margaret Casey	Community Sector – Kerry County & Voluntary Forum
Dan Kiely	Community Sector – Kerry County & Voluntary Forum
Gavin Falk	Community Sector – Cork County & Voluntary Forum
John Fuller	Community Sector – Cork County & Voluntary Forum
Nora O'Donovan	Community Sector – Cork City Partnership
John Ashu	Community Sector – Cork City Partnership
Dominic Sullivan Helena O'Sullivan Insp Ger O'Mahony	Department of Education & Science FAS An Garda Síochána
David Lane	Health Service Executive & Cork Local Drugs Task Force
Cllr Seamus Cosai Fitzgerald Cllr Michael O'Connell (resigned)	Public Representative Public Representative
Cllr Tom Fleming (replaced by Cllr Pat Leahy)	Public Representative
Cllr Kevin O'Keeffe Colm O'Herlihy Sinead O'Connell Paddy O'Sullivan Ruth Griffin Con Cremin Mick Devine Geraldine Ring Denis O'Brien Tim O'Donoghue	Public Representative Prison Services Probation & Welfare Services Revenue Commissioners (Customs & Excise Division) V.E.C. Voluntary Sector
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4. Budget

The total budget approved for SRDTF in 2009, by the National Drugs Strategy Team (NDST)/OMD was €1,296,770 in comparison to €1,503,863 in 2008 – details of expenditure approvals are in the following table:

Table 3

			Table 0	
Project Type	Project Name	Project Promoter	Project Description	2009 Project Budget €
Task Force Budget	Operational Budget	HSE / Cork City Partnership	Task Force Admin/Dev Budget including Development Worker Salary and Small Grants	120,000
Education / Prevention	Club County Kerry	HSE	A programme for Clubs, Pubs and Off-licences which trains staff in developing appropriate response to alcohol and drug misuse.	52,500
Education / Prevention	Club County Cork	HSE	A programme for Clubs, Pubs and Off-licences which trains staff in developing appropriate response to alcohol and drug misuse.	52,500
Treatment & Rehab	Key Link Worker for Co Cork	HSE	To provide support and guidance to persons engaging with rehabilitation service for drug and alcohol misuse	56,557
Treatment & Rehab	Key Link Worker for Co Kerry	HSE	To provide support and guidance to persons engaging with rehabilitation service for drug and alcohol misuse	52,713
Treatment & Rehab Education/Prevention	Bandon CBDI	Foroige	To identify and provide support to young people displaying signs of problematic drug and alcohol misuse or at risk with a counselling and treatment referral dimension to the work	64,000
Treatment & Rehab Education/Prevention	Tralee CBDI	Partnership Trali	To identify and provide support to young people displaying signs of problematic drug and alcohol misuse or at risk with a counselling and treatment referral dimension to the work	64,000
Treatment & Rehab Education/Prevention	Killarney CBDI	Kerry Diocesan Youth Service	To identify and provide support to young people displaying signs of problematic drug and alcohol misuse or at risk with a counselling and treatment referral dimension to the work	64,000
Treatment & Rehab Education/Prevention	Cobh CBDI	YMCA	To identify and provide support to young people displaying signs of problematic drug and alcohol misuse or at risk with a counselling and treatment referral dimension to the work	64,000
Treatment & Rehab Education/Prevention	Mallow CBDI	Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service	To identify and provide support to young people displaying signs of problematic drug and alcohol misuse or at risk with a counselling and treatment referral dimension to the work	64,000
Treatment & Rehab Education/Prevention	Listowel CBDI	Kerry Diocesan Youth Service	To identify and provide support to young people displaying signs of problematic drug and alcohol misuse or at risk with a counselling and treatment referral dimension to the work	64,000

Treatment & Rehab	Tabor Lodge aftercare & relapse programme	Tabor Lodge Treatment Centre	Provide aftercare and relapse supports to those who have completed the 28 day residential treatment	38,000
Treatment & Rehab	Matt Talbot Adolescent Services Aftercare Programme	Matt Talbot Adolescent Service	Family Link Worker to provide preventative and support services to families as part of the Aftercare programme	38,000
Treatment & Rehab	Anchor Centre Addiction Counsellor	Anchor Treatment Centre	To provide for a part time addiction counsellor for relapse prevention work	38,000
Treatment & Rehab	Fellowship House for Men aftercare	Fellowship House	Support worker helping men in recovery source accommodation and providing aftercare support to clients and their families	45,000
Education/Prevention	Strengthening Families Programme	SRDTF	To deliver an evidence based family support programme	20,000
Treatment & Rehab	Cuan Mhuire Treatment & Rehabilitation Centre Bruree, Aftercare	Cuan Mhuire Bruree	To provide outreach worker to support clients from Cork & Kerry who have completed residential treatment programme and who are at risk of relapse	38,000
Treatment & Rehab Education/Prevention	Fermoy CBDI	Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service	To identify and provide support to young people displaying signs of problematic drug and alcohol misuse or at risk with a counselling and treatment referral dimension to the work	64,000
Treatment & Rehab Education/Prevention	Youghal Community Drugs Initiative	Foroige	To identify and provide support to young people displaying signs of problematic drug and alcohol misuse or at risk with a counselling and treatment referral dimension to the work	64,000
Treatment & Rehab	Renewal Women's Residence out-patient service	Renewal Sheltered Accommodation	Supporting the provision of an out-patient facility for those on residential waiting list with counselling, peer groups and therapies	45,000
Treatment & Rehab Education/Prevention	Mitchelstown CBDI	Foroige	To identify and provide support to young people displaying signs of problematic drug and alcohol misuse or at risk with a counselling and treatment referral dimension to the work	64,000
Treatment & Rehab	Talbot Grove Aftercare Worker	Talbot Grove	Aftercare support for relapse prevention	38,000
Treatment & Rehab Education/Prevention	Macroom CBDI	Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service	To identify and provide support to young people displaying signs of problematic drug and alcohol misuse or at risk with a counselling and treatment referral dimension to the work	64,000
Treatment & Rehab	Anchor Treatment Centre Cocaine Initiative	Anchor Treatment Centre	Alternative Therapies, primarily for people with Cocaine Addiction	22,500
				1,296,770

Included in the budget are Small Grants, of which 8 awards were made in 2009, totalling €7,725.90

Also in 2009, €25,000 was made available to the region under the Premises Initiative. Details of this expenditure can be found in Appendix 3

5. Projects / StaffingSRDTF funded 23 Projects in 2009, these are:
Table 4

	Table 4
Project Name	Staffing
Operational Budget	Coordinator – Chris Black F.T. Development Worker – Gordon Kinsley F.T.
Club County Kerry	Michelle McSweeney F.T
Club County Cork	Aoife NiChonchuir F.T
Key Link Worker for Co Cork	Brendan O'Riordan F.T.
Key Link Worker for Co Kerry	Dermot O'Regan F.T.
Bandon Community Based Drugs Initiative	Julie Cummins F.T.
Tralee Community Based Drugs Initiative	Pat Hannafin F.T.
Killarney Community Based Drugs Initiative	Des Bailey F.T.
Cobh Community Based Drugs Initiative	Gemma Turner F.T.
Mallow Community Based Drugs Initiative	Catherine Buckley F.T.
Listowel Community Based Drugs Initiative	Gerard Lowe F.T.
Tabor Lodge aftercare & relapse programme	Part fund – aftercare worker, women's co-ordinator & relapse group coordinator
Matt Talbot Adolescent Services Aftercare Programme	1* P.T. Aftercare Link Worker
Anchor Centre Addiction Counsellor	1* P.T.Aftercare Worker
Fellowship House for Men aftercare	1* P.T. Aftercare Worker
Strengthening Families Programme	
Cuan Mhuire Treatment & Rehabilitation Centre Bruree, Aftercare	1* p.t. Aftercare Worker
Fermoy Community Based Drugs Initiative	Martina Munnelly F.T.
Youghal Community Based Drugs Initiative	Eric Trihy F.T.
Renewal Women's Residence out-patient service	1* pt Aftercare Worker
Mitchelstown Community Based Drugs Initiative	Neil Halligan F.T replaced by Elaine Marrinan P.T.
Talbot Grove Aftercare Worker	1* PT Aftercare Counsellor
Macroom Community Based Drugs Initiative	Trish Enright F.T.
Anchor Treatment Centre Cocaine Initiative	1* PT Holistic Therapist

6. Numbers availing of service:

Table 5

COMMUNITY BASED DRUGS INITIATIVES					
Project	No. of Individuals Accessing Direct Support	Gende break		Age range of individuals accessing support	No. of Concerned Persons/Parents Accessing Support
Bandon Community Based Drugs Initiative	32	26	6	16 – 30 yrs	36
Tralee Community Based Drugs Initiative	66	57	9	13 – 30+ yrs	23
Killarney Community Based Drugs Initiative	54	30	24	13 – 30+ yrs	22
Cobh Community Based Drugs Initiative	62	46	16	10 – 30+ yrs	25
Mallow Community Based Drugs Initiative	28				20
Listowel Community Based Drugs Initiative	52	39	13	13 – 30+yrs	48
Fermoy Community Based Drugs Initiative	26	20	6	13 – 30+ yrs	25
Youghal Community Based Drugs Initiative	57	42	15	13 – 30+ yrs	88
Mitchelstown Community Based Drugs Initiative	7	6	1	13 – 21 yrs	7
Macroom Community Based Drugs Initiative	25	13	2	16 – 21 yrs	13
TOTALS	409				307

Table 6

LINK WORKERS		
	No. of Individuals Accessing Service	
Link Worker Cork	111	
Link Worker Kerry	57	

Table 7

able 7					
AFTERCARE PROJECTS					
Project	No. of Individuals Receiving Support	No. of family members receiving support			
Tabor Lodge Aftercare and Relapse Programme	199	Not specified			
Matt Talbot Aftercare Programme	25	47			
Anchor Aftercare Programme	98	Not specified			
Fellowship House Aftercare	94	Not specified			
Cuan Mhuire, Bruree, Aftercare	500	Not specified			
Renewal Womens Residence, Aftercare	61	Not specified			
Talbot Grove Aftercare	185	Not specified			

Table 8

CLUB COUNTY CORK AND CLUB		
	KERRY	
Town Number of Publicans		
	participating in	
	Training	
Fermoy	16	
Cobh	24	
Dunmanway	10	
Mallow /	27	
Charleville		
Midleton	30	
Killarney	15	
Dingle	20	
Killorglin	14	
Killarney	14	
Caherciveen	27	



7. Operational Issues

7.1 Heroin Strategy

2009 saw an increase in the availability and use of heroin in the region and as a result a special inter-agency working group was set up in September to develop a Regional Response, in the form the SRDTF/CLDTF Heroin Strategy which is to be completed by Feb 2010.

7.2 Headshops

2009 saw an increase in the proliferation of Headshops in the region and as such SRDTF undertook to give as much accurate and up to date advice to community drugs workers as was available on the substances being sold. Further SRDTF became involved with the nine other regional task forces in planning a national conference on the issue, specifically for drugs workers, to take place in Jan 2010.

7.3 Dial To Stop Drug Dealing



The National Campaign, Dial To Stop Drug Dealing was launched in the region in March 2009 and by the end of the year the Confidential drug dealing reporting line had received 30 calls from Kerry and 139 calls from Cork. In line with national statistics, approximately one third of these calls would have contained information useful to the Gardai.

7.4 Community Based Drugs Initiatives

Work continued throughout 2009, to ensure projects were operating in line with the National Drugs Strategy (Interim) 2009-2016, in particular that they operated primarily within the Tertiary Prevention Tier. (pg 39 NDS).

In addition a report was produced in May 2009, giving details of the methodology used, the evidence base and statistics relating to the

operation of a Community Based Drugs Initiative

7.5 National Engagements

In addition to Regional Work, the Coordinator is involved nationally as a member of the RDTF Coordinators Network. This group elected the SRDTF Coordinator to represent them on the National Drugs Rehabilitation Implementation Committee. In addition to this, the Coordinator would attend meetings of the National Drugs Strategy Team/ Office of the Minister for Drugs.

John O'Connor represents the Office of the Minister for Drugs on SRDTF and attends regular meetings of their Drugs Advisory Group. John's function is to report to SRDTF on issues arising at the OMD and to report back to the OMD on issues arising at Task Force level.

7.6 Communications Strategy

In order to make the general population more aware of services offered by SRDTF, a number of web based resources were established in 2009 – the SRDTF website www.srdtf.ie was given a facelift and SRDTF also introduced a presence on Bebo, Twitter, MyEbook, with further plans to launch a Facebook site in 2010.



SRDTF also began to look at processes which would allow the dissemination of information from its meetings to be more effective and more widely distributed amongst the member organisations. This piece of work will be concluded in 2010.

7.7 Quality Standards in Drugs Education

The Drugs Education Workers Forum Quality Standards Framework, as identified in the National Drugs Strategy Action 26, began to be rolled out in the region, with 30 workers, involved with Drugs Work receiving training in Sept 2009. Further training will take place in Autumn 2010.

7.8 Service User Participation Strategy

The SRDTF Development Worker, in partnership with his counterpart in the South East and guided by the Health Research Board, began a major piece of work, to look at ways of encouraging and achieving Service User Participation in Task Force Structures and decision making processes. This work should be concluded in 2010.

7.9 Strengthening Families Programme

SRDTF are committed to delivering the Strengthening Families programme in the region and in 2009, the programme was run in Killorglin, South Kerry from September 10th - December 10th inclusive (14 weeks).

10 families took part in the programme in total with 9 families completing (graduating) the programme

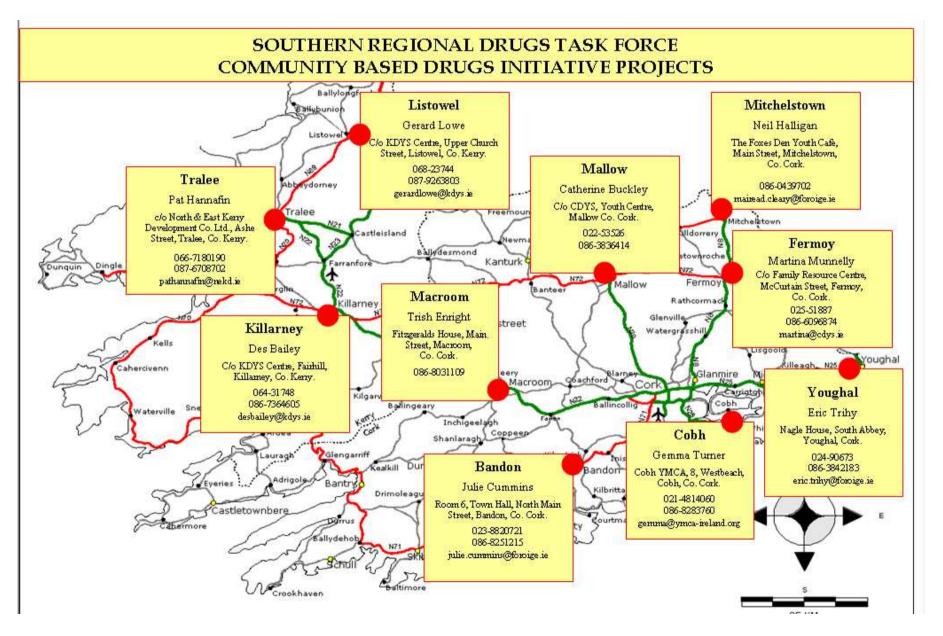
14 parents and 14 teenagers started the programme

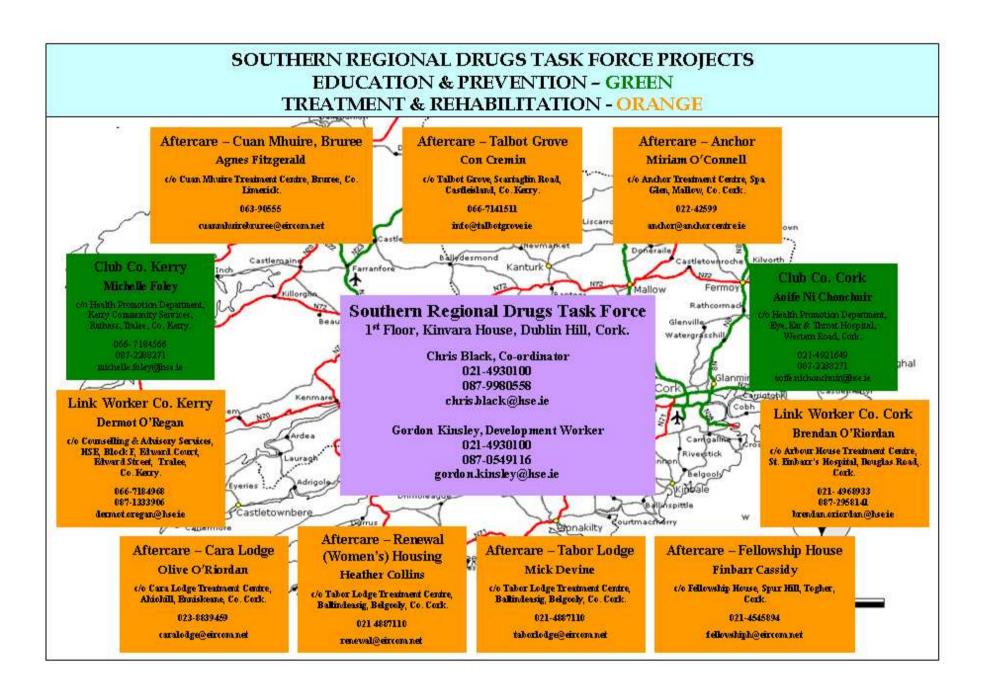
11 parents completed the programme and graduated and 13 teenagers graduated.

A second programme was to be run in Mitchelstown, however due to the resignation of a worker, this programme was postponed until Jan 2010.



Appendix1





Appendix 2

SRDTF Task Force Meeting dates

Tuesday 10th March Thursday 23rd April Tuesday 8th September Thursday 8th October Friday 4th December

SRDTF Treatment & Rehab sub-group meeting dates

Monday 6th April Thursday 2nd July Tuesday 21st July Thursday 17th September Thursday 8th October Tuesday 24th November Friday 4th December

SRDTF **Prevention** sub-group meeting dates

Wednesday 26th August Wednesday 30th September Wednesday 4th November

SRDTF Management Group meeting dates

Tuesday 3rd February Wednesday 22nd April Tuesday 11th August Thursday 1st October Wednesday 18th November Monday 14th December

SRDTF **Small Grants Committee** meeting dates

Tuesday 16th June

Attendance at SRDTF Meetings 2009					
Date of Meeting	Total number of Members on	Total number of members who	% of Attendance		
g	SRDTF	attended meeting	, mondanos		
10/03/2009	26	19	73.07%		
23/04/2009	26	17	65.38%		
08/09/2009	26	16	61.53%		
08/10/2009	26	18	69.23%		
04/12/2009	26	16	61.53%		
Average attendance for year 2009 66.14%					

Attendance at SRDTF Management Group Meetings 2009				
Date of	Total number of	Total number of	% of	
Meeting	Members on	members who	Attendance	
	Management	attended meeting		
	Group			
03/02/2009	8	Not recorded		
22/04/2009	8	Not recorded		
11/08/2009	8	5	62.5%	
01/09/2009	8	Not recorded		
18/11/2009	8	6	75.00%	
14/12/2009	8	7	87.50%	
Average attend	81.25%			

Appendix 3

SRDTF Small Grants Awards 2009

Date	Recipient	Amount	Activity
18.06.09	Cobh Youth Service	€1,535.00	Musical Equipment, DJ Equipment, Instructor and DJ Workshop
18.06.09	Funky Fish Youth Café	€1,200.00	Musical Equipment for ongoing activities
18.06.09	KDYS Killarney	€1,000.00	Equipment and trainer for Kickboxing Club
18.06.09	Listowel FRC	€1,000.00	Sports activities for young "at risk" people
02.09.09	Kerry Life Education	€1,600.90	Getting a Grip Conference
29.09.09	Youghal CBDI	€500.00	Drug Awareness Week Events
29.09.09	Mallow CBDI	€300.00	Drug Awareness Week Events
26.10.09	Bandon CBDI	€590.00	Drug Awareness Week Events
		€7725.90	

Premises Initiative Funding, Sept 2009:

Organisation	Grant	Purpose	
Matt Talbot Adolescent Service, Cara	€5,400	refurbish small room into a multi- purpose room	
Cuan Mhuire, Farnanes	€12,761	purchase of Sewing Machines & kiln for use of residents in rehab programme	
Kerry Life Education	€6,389	purchase of Office furniture for new offices.	
	€25,000		







All Initiatives are funded by the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, through the Southern Regional Drugs Task Force