

# **1. Introduction**

During 2001 the South Kerry Development Partnership Limited initiated an action named 'rural dwellers' aimed at engaging with men living in rural isolation in South Kerry. This was an outreach action and it had limited success in meeting its objectives.

The Partnership's concern for the position of these men led to the commissioning of this research. The aim of the project is to establish a clear picture of the target group's situation and relevant issues. The report will facilitate the development of actions to address the men's issues.

The target group is defined as including men over the age of 45, married or single, whom experience rural isolation, underemployment, and low income. The men are viewed as being in two age brackets, 45-64 years and 65 years plus, and living outside of Killarney Town.

The proposed outcomes of the research were to:

- establish an accurate profile of the situation of the group
- gather statistical information on the size and geographical dispersal of the group
- source information on the social, employment, economic, and health status of the group
- get the perspectives of the men, their experiences of isolation, their estimation of their future prospects and their thoughts on possible actions that could be taken
- make recommendations arising from the findings which will inform the Partnership as to further measures required to address the needs of the group

The structure of this report is as follows:

- section two describes how the research was carried out
- section three outlines demographic information and a literature search
- the fourth section presents the main findings of the research
- section five draws conclusions from the research and demographic information
- the sixth section outlines the recommendations made regarding actions required to deal with the men's issues

## **2. Research Methodology:**

The target group is defined as all men aged 45 years or more, married or single, living in rural areas of South Kerry. The rural area was defined as the Partnership area outside of Killarney Town.

The project used both quantitative and qualitative research techniques.

Quantitative methods of research focused on analysis of secondary data of relevance to the target groups. These included:

- **the Census of Population returns of the Central Statistics Office**
- **information collected by South Kerry Development Partnership**
- **Health Board and Department of Health and Children data**
- **information provided by the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs**

The analysis of secondary source information is included in section three of this report.

A literature review was also carried out, the most relevant literature found were:

- South Kerry Development Partnership, *Local Development Plan, 2000-2006*.
- North Leitrim Men's Group, research project, *A study of the situation of Single Rural Men, 2001*.

Qualitative research methods included both individual face-to-face interviews and group discussions.

The list of questions used in the individual interviews is included in the appendices.

Individual interviews were carried out with representatives of the following types of organisation:

- **South Kerry Development Partnership staff**
- **Personnel from relevant State agencies**
- **Members of local community groups**
- **Representatives of sectoral groups**
- **Members of local voluntary organisations**

In all forty-eight individuals took part in questionnaire interviews. A list of those interviewed and the organisations they belong to is in the appendices.

The main question areas related to issues and needs of men aged 45-64 and 65 years plus in relation to:

- **Employment and income**
- **Education and training**
- **Health**
- **Social and leisure activity**
- **Housing**

Respondents were also asked what are the main difficulties/barriers for men in these age groups in relation to these question areas.

Those interviewed were asked what they would recommend as the most important actions required to assist the men. They were also asked to identify the best way of contacting and engaging with the men.

As one of the issues of dealing with this target group is the difficulty in accessing them contact was made through a variety of sources. These were the Partnership structures, FAS Community Employment Schemes, and community and voluntary organisations.

Three group discussions were held with men in the 45-64 age - group, in all twenty people took part. Two of these discussions were held with members of FAS Community Employment schemes in Glencar and Killorglin, while the third was with a Local Employment Service Jobs club in Cahersiveen. The groups discussed the following issues:

- **Employment and income**
- **Education and training**
- **Social and leisure activity**
- **Sourcing information**
- **Recommendations**

The fieldwork was carried out during June and July of 2002.

### **3. Demographic data**

The following information is derived from the South Kerry Development Partnership's Local Development Plan 2000-2006, Volume One. The other main source used here are the preliminary returns of the 2002 Census.

For purposes of analysis the area is broken down into four sub regions of South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd., Greater Cahersiveen, Kenmare, Killarney (outside of the Town) and Killorglin. The District Electoral Divisions (DEDs) included in each area are listed in the appendices.

#### **3.1. Population**

According to the Preliminary returns of the 2002 Census the area has a population of 32,101, this represents 67.7% of the population living within the Partnership's area.

The following table gives the total population of each area in both 1996 and 2002.

Between 1996 and 2002 the population of the area increased by 6.8%, that of County Kerry as a whole increased by 5% and the State by 8%.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Population 1996</b>	<b>Population 2002</b>	<b>Change 96-02. Number/Percent.</b>
Cahersiveen	7672	7583	-89(-1.2%)
Killarney	4783	5364	+581(+12.1%)
Kenmare	6117	6872	+755(+12.3%)
Killorglin	11481	12282	+801(+7%)
Total	30053	32101	+2048(+6.8%)

**Source: Central Statistics Office, Preliminary returns, Census 2002.**

There were some significant exceptions to the overall trend in some DEDs.

- in the Kenmare area four DEDs experienced significant population loss, the largest in Sneem (-11.9%)
- Clydagh (-13.1%) is the only DED in the Killarney area which experienced a population decline
- nine DEDs in the Cahersiveen area experienced population decline, the greatest being in Mastergeehy (-17.8%) and St.Finans (17%)
- three DEDs in the Killorglin area had a decline in population, the largest being in Cloon (-9.2%)

### **3.2. Ratio of males to females**

The following table shows that in 2002 male's account for 51.4% of the area's population, and outnumber females by 915.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Number of Males 2002</b>	<b>Number of Females 2002</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Cahersiveen	3949	3634	315
Killarney	2769	2595	174
Kenmare	3506	3366	140
Killorglin	6284	5998	286
Total	16508	15593	915

**Source: Central Statistics Office, Preliminary returns, Census 2002.**

### **3.3. Number of Males aged 45 years or more:**

In 1996 there were 5632 males in the area aged 45 years or more, 3466 (61.5%) of these were aged between 45 and 64 years. Men over the age of 45 account for 18.7% of the population, this compares to a State average of 14.7%.

There are differences between the four regions as to the proportion of men in the 45 years or more age group. In 1996 men aged 45 years or more accounted for a fifth of the population in the Cahersiveen (20.7%) and Kenmare (20.3%) areas, with lower proportions in the Killorglin (17.7%) and Killarney (16.3%) regions.

The following table shows the distribution of men in the 45-64 and 65 years plus age groups.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Number /Percent.45-64</b>	<b>Number /Percent. 65 Plus</b>
Cahersiveen	940(12.3)	645(8.4)
Killarney	531(11.1)	248(5.2)
Kenmare	723(11.8)	518(8.5)
Killorglin	1272(11.1)	755(6.6)
Total South Kerry	3466(11.5)	2166(7.2)
State	355133(9.8)	177252(4.9)

**Source: South Kerry Development Partnership Local Development Plan, 2000-2006.**

Some District Electoral Divisions have significantly above the average numbers of men aged 45 or more.

- in the Cahersiveen area, in thirteen of the nineteen DEDs men over 45 account for 20% or more of the population. The highest proportion occurs in Castlecove (25.6%)
- in the Killarney area Clydagh (20.4%) is the only one of the ten DEDs where the proportion exceeds a fifth

- in Kenmare, ten of the fifteen DEDs have proportions higher than 20%, with the highest proportion in Ardea (29.9%)
- in seven of the nineteen DEDs in Killorglin males aged 45 or more account for 20% or more of the population. The highest is Cloon (25%)

### **3.4. Marital Status**

Over a quarter (26.8%) of the males aged 45 years or more living in the area are single. Again variations occur between areas, in Cahersiveen 31% of these men are single and in Kenmare 27.4% are unmarried. The percentages for Killorglin and Killarney are 25.5% and 21.7% respectively.

In 1996, 69% of single people in South Kerry aged 45 years or more were men, the State average is 56%. The ratio of single males to single females in the 45-year plus age bracket is more than two to one as the following table shows:

<b>Area</b>	<b>Single Males 45+</b>	<b>Single Females 45+</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Cahersiveen	491	184	+307
Killarney	169	82	+87
Kenmare	340	164	+176
Killorglin	512	258	+254
Total South Kerry	1512	688	+824
State	101984	80558	+21426

**Source: South Kerry Development Partnership Local Development Plan, 2000-2006.**

### **3.5. Living alone 65 plus**

In 1996 some 5.7% or 539 households in the area comprised of a male aged 65 years or more living alone. The equivalent State average is 3.2% of private households. The following table shows the distribution of these households:

<b>Area</b>	<b>Males 65+ Living Alone</b>	<b>Total Number of Private Household</b>	<b>Percentage of Private Households with Males 65+ Living Alone</b>
Cahersiveen	188	2611	7.2%
Killarney	37	1342	2.8%
Kenmare	131	1958	6.7%
Killorglin	183	3585	5.1%
Total South Kerry	539	9496	5.7%

**Source: South Kerry Development Partnership Local Development Plan, 2000-2006.**

### 3.6. Educational Attainment

The most striking feature of the educational attainment figures is the high proportion of the population whose education ceased at Primary level.

Some 36.5% of males completed their education at Primary level or with no formal education; this is above the equivalent State average of 30.6%.

The following table shows the highest levels of education attained by males over the age of 15 whose education had ceased in 1996.

Area	Primary or lower	Lower Secondary	Upper Secondary	Third Level
Cahersiveen	41.1	20.5	25.3	13.1
Killarney	33.7	21.7	27.7	16.9
Kenmare	40.3	16.1	24.4	19.1
Killorglin	40.5	21.6	25.9	12.0
Total South Kerry	36.5	19.5	27.6	16.3

**Source: South Kerry Development Partnership Local Development Plan, 2000-2006.**

### 3.7. Social Class

The table below shows the social class distribution of males according to the 1996 Census. The South Kerry area has on the whole lower proportions of professionals and higher proportions of unskilled and semi skilled labour. This trend is especially evident in the Killorglin and Cahersiveen areas.

Social Grouping	Cahersiveen	Killarney	Killorglin	Kenmare	South Kerry	State Percent.
Higher Professional	231(5.8%)	115(4.7%)	240(4.0%)	<b>354(11.2%)</b>	940(6.1%)	(6.0%)
Lower Professional	778(19.5%)	<b>540(22.2%)</b>	950(16.0%)	<b>662(21.0%)</b>	2930(18.9%)	(20.9%)
Other Non-Manual	600(15.0%)	347(14.2%)	879(14.8%)	415(13.2%)	2241(14.4%)	(15.5%)
Skilled Manual	890(22.3%)	593(24.3%)	<b>1575(26.5%)</b>	560(17.8%)	3618(23.3%)	(24.3%)
Semi Skilled Manual	556(13.9%)	362(14.9%)	<b>931(15.7%)</b>	421(13.4%)	2270(14.6%)	(13.5%)
Unskilled Manual	<b>465(11.6%)</b>	185(7.6%)	<b>720(12.1%)</b>	278(8.8%)	1648(10.6%)	(9.7%)
Unclassified	474(11.9%)	295(12.1%)	639(10.8%)	459(14.6%)	1867(12.0%)	(10.1%)

**Source: South Kerry Development Partnership Local Development Plan, 2000-2006.**

### **3.8. Social welfare:**

The Department of Social Community and Family Affairs provide the following data. It should be noted that the information for South Kerry does not correspond to the South Kerry Development Partnership area.

#### **3.8.1. Unemployment:**

In May 2002 there were 1630 persons on the Live Register in South Kerry. This represents an increase of 144 persons or 9.7% on the numbers for May 2001.

The Live Register is broken down as follows:

<b>Area</b>	<b>May 2001</b>	<b>May 2002</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Percent. Change</b>
<b>Killarney</b>	611	802	+191	+31.3
<b>Kenmare</b>	135	147	+12	+8.9
<b>Cahersiveen</b>	385	320	-65	-16.9
<b>Killorglin</b>	355	361	+6	+1.7
<b>Total</b>	1486	1630	+144	+9.7

**Source: Department of Social Community and Family Affairs.**

Nationally, the numbers on the Live Register increased by 15.9% during the same period.

Male's accounted for 872 (53.5%) of the persons on the Live Register in May 2002.

A majority of males (56%) are in receipt of unemployment assistance, with a further two fifths (40.5%) claiming unemployment benefit.

The vast majority (88%) of males in South Kerry on the Live Register are over the age of 25.

#### **3.8.2. Other claimants:**

Persons claiming supports such as Farm Assist, Back to Work Allowance, and Pre-Retirement Allowance are not included in the Live Register.

The following table shows the distribution of claimants for these three schemes across South Kerry in May 2002.

	<b>Killarney</b>	<b>Kenmare</b>	<b>Cahersiveen</b>	<b>Killorglin</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Farm Assist</b>	75	70	117	152	414
<b>Back to Work</b>	150	31	87	91	359
<b>Pre-retirement</b>	51	15	31	48	145

**Source: Department of Social Community and Family Affairs.**

Men account for the overwhelming majority (87.3%) of persons claiming under these three schemes.

Eight persons are claiming Carers Benefit in South Kerry, five people in Killarney and three in Killorglin, no one in Cahersiveen or Kenmare are currently claiming. This scheme is relatively new with only 439 claimants nationally and 20 in County Kerry.

Males claiming Carers Allowance in South Kerry (September 2002) range in ages from 21 to 71, the vast majority are in the age range mid thirties to mid sixties. More than two-thirds (68.1%) of the men claiming are in the 45 to 64 year age group.

### **3.9. Mortality:**

The death rate for males living in Kerry is well above the National average. This is possibly due to the higher proportions of elderly people resident in the County.

The following table shows the death rate per 1,000 males in 1998 (Department of Public Health, SHB, 2000).

<b>Area</b>	<b>1998 Death Rate per 1000 males</b>
<b>Kerry</b>	<b>11.5</b>
Cork	8.8
Southern Health Board	9.5
Ireland	9.0

**Source: Department of Public Health, Southern Health Board, Annual Report. 2000.**

### **3.10. Mental health**

The Health Research Board (2001) report the following interesting statistics:

- 71% of patients resident in psychiatric hospital units in the State were 45 years or older
- 76% of the resident population in mental health facilities in the Southern Health Board area are single, this compares to a National average of 69%
- single males are 7 times more likely than married males to be resident in mental health service facilities
- males account for more than half (55.4%) of all the mental health residents in the State

- lower socio-economic groups have higher mental health hospitalisation rates, agricultural workers and unskilled workers have had consistently higher rates of hospitalisation than other groups in each successive census since 1963

**Hospitalisation Rates for Socio-economic groups**  
**Per 100,000 of population**

<b>Socio-economic groups</b>	<b>Rate per 100,000 of population</b>
<b>Farmers</b>	<b>111.8</b>
<b>Other agricultural workers</b>	<b>252.8</b>
Higher professionals	49.9
Lower professionals	75.8
Employers/managers	30.4
Salaried employees/own account workers	5.8
Intermediate/non manual	91.8
Skilled manual	61.0
Semi skilled manual	46.9
<b>Unskilled manual</b>	<b>314.3</b>

**Source: Irish Psychiatric Hospitals and Units Census, 2001.**

The 2000 Annual report of the Department of Public health of the Southern Health Board found that depression, alcohol and schizophrenia account for 68% of admissions.

**3.11. Suicide:**

The Departments of Public Health (2001) published an examination of suicide figures for the State in the years 1997 and 1998. Some of the interesting statistics are:

- Males account for 82.8% of suicides
- Over half (57.5%) of males suicides are single men
- Almost a third (30.2%) of male suicides are unemployed, of these 62% were unemployed for a year or more
- 8.4% of male suicides are retired men, and in 1995 12% of all suicides were by people aged 65 years or more with the suicide rate for males aged 65 years or more doubling since 1980 (Ageing with Confidence Office Southern Health Board)
- The highest levels of education attained by male suicides were Primary (17.8%), Secondary (31%), Third Level (6.7%) and Unknown (44.5%)

The following table shows the preponderance of skilled manual, unskilled workers and farmers amongst male suicide victims:

<b>Social Group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Professionals	14	2.1
Managerial & Technical	31	4.6
Non- Manual	32	4.8
<b>Skilled Manual</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>14.5</b>
Semi Skilled	49	7.3
<b>Unskilled</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>16.5</b>
Unknown	266	39.8
<b>Farmers</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>10.3%</b>

**Source: Departments of Public Health (2001) Suicide in Ireland – A National Study.**

Interestingly, if the ‘unknowns’ are excluded from the figures farmers account for 17.2% of suicides. This is despite the fact that those working in agriculture only account for 10.2% of the work force according to the 1996 Census.

- the Study reports that mental health disorders especially depression are the highest risk factors for suicide. Alcohol abuse and unemployment are other significant risk factors for suicide
- Kelleher et al (1996) cite a study by the Suicide Research Foundation of 100 suicides in Cork, while 80% of female suicides had consulted doctors and were receiving treatment only half of the males were in treatment at the time of their deaths
- the Department of Health and Children (1998) reports that suicide rates are increasing. Between 1945 and 1995 the rate in Ireland increased from 2.38 to 10.69 per 100,000 population. In the period 1976 to 1993 the rate of suicide amongst men aged 65 years or more increased from 9.4 to 17.9 per 100,000 population

### **3.11.1. Suicides in Kerry**

There were 16 reported suicides by males in County Kerry in both 1997 and 1998. Female suicides were 1 in 1997 and 6 in 1998 (Departments of Public Health, 2001). County Kerry accounted for 4.8% of reported male suicides in these years even though the County only accounts for 3.5% of the State’s male population (Census 1996).

It must be borne in mind that suicides traditionally are difficult to quantify. Kelleher et al (1996) cites a Central Statistics Office /Southern Health Board study that estimates the official suicide rate may be under reported by a rate of some 15 to 20 percent.

### **3.12. Older People:**

The Ageing with Confidence office of the Southern Health Board in Tralee supplied the following interesting information regarding older people:

- the number of people over the age of 65 in Cork and Kerry is expected to rise by 20.6% in the period 1996 to 2011
- 8% of older people in rural areas have experienced burglary
- during the 1990s, 52 Irish men and women over the age of 55 suffered violent or sudden deaths in their own homes through crime or family related violence
- during the winter of 1999-2000 eight elderly people died in domestic fires, seven of these lived alone
- excess winter morbidity and mortality rates in Ireland due to poor housing are amongst the highest in Europe
- according to the 1991 Census a third of older people lived in houses built before 1919, this is high given that only 20.5% of private dwellings were built before 1919
- the National Council On Ageing & Older People (1999) refer to a 1997 Living in Ireland study which confirms that the elderly tend to have poorer quality housing and that households in rural areas are more likely to experience problems than those in urban areas
- Department of Health and Children (1996) report that in 1996 18.8% of SHB patients in residence in long stay institutions were there for social reasons, Ageing with Confidence state it is fair to assume that some of the social reasons include poor and unsuitable housing

The following table shows the location of Health Board facilities for the elderly within the Partnership area in 1998. Facilities are in four categories, Community Hospitals, Day Hospitals, Day Care Centre, and Social Satellite Centres. Location of facilities is based on the number of people aged 65 or more in an area. A Day Care Centre is provided for 1,800 people aged 65+ and a Social Satellite Centre for an area with 600 people in this age group.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Community Hospital</b>	<b>Day Hospital</b>	<b>Day Care Centre</b>	<b>Social Satellite Centres</b>
Killarney	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Kilgarvan				Yes
Kenmare	Yes		Yes	
Sneem			Yes	
Caherdaniel				Yes
Waterville				Yes
Ballinskelligs				Yes
Portmagee				Yes
Valentia			Yes	
Cahersiveen	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Glenbeigh				Yes
Glencar				Yes
Killorglin			Yes	
Castlemaine				Yes
Annascaul				Yes

**Source: Southern Health Board, Ageing with Confidence Office, Tralee.**

### **3.13. Transport:**

Where public transport exists in South Kerry the timing of schedules can make it inappropriate to use for travel to work, college, etc. For instance a bus leaves Cahersiveen at 8.05 am and arrives in Killarney at 9.40 am, this bus departs to return to Cahersiveen at 3.15pm.

Figures on car ownership are only available for the 1991 census. Some rural areas have lower than the average numbers of two cars per household, e.g. in Banawn DED only 8.2% of households had two cars while the state average was 14.3%.

### **3.14. Literature review:**

Because men were traditionally not seen as a target group for whom programmes are aimed at there is a limited literature on men living in rural isolation. However, in recent years a number of projects in rural and urban areas have been established aimed specifically at men.

The North Leitrim Men's Group was established in 1996 and operates through a training based FAS Community Employment scheme. The group produced a research study in 2001 involving a survey of single men aged between 35 and 65 living in the northern part of the County. The survey was conducted because of a lack of socio-economic information on men that could be used in planning programmes.

The survey report identifies the following multiple disadvantages that single rural men suffer:

- low educational achievement
- poor health
- high suicide levels
- lack of social and community networks
- dependency on small farms
- dependent on supported employment
- inadequate transport
- social and emotional isolation
- high dependency on Pubs for socialising
- poor housing
- lack of amenities
- low income

The main activities of the North Leitrim group are:

- raising awareness of men's issues
- community projects
- social and health development
- an organic vegetable production
- operating an outreach programme
- providing a drop in centre facility

Since the study was published in April 2001 the group have made submissions to the Leitrim County Development Plan and carried out an evaluation of a drop in centre in Co. Westmeath. It is interesting to note that a similar project is in the early stages of development in the Dingle area. There are also established men's groups in Tralee and Ballyduff in North Kerry.

The Irish Times of May 13<sup>th</sup> 2002 carried an article by Elaine Keogh on a research project carried out in East Cavan on men aged 15 to 35 years. The study identified alcohol abuse and peer pressure as key issues, with pubs and GAA clubs being the main social outlets. The report also mentions other studies that found that men negatively compare themselves with others and so put pressure on themselves to achieve.

The East Cavan report states that 80% of Irish men have no contact with health professionals. The project interviewed 71 men and asked whom they would approach if in distress, responses indicated the men would first approach friends or parents. The men perceived professionals negatively. Recommendations made in the report were for a 'in your face' programme of outreach work, and a programme of training key people in the community in how to identify men most at risk and the most appropriate response.

During the study contact was also made with the Flexible Training Unit of Tallaght Partnership. This unit runs training courses for long term unemployed men. They are recruited through a worker making informal contact with them at social welfare offices. The importance of outreach work on an individual basis was emphasised by those involved in the programme. It was stated (as in Leitrim) that initially training programmes have to focus on practical skills before moving onto softer skills, which have to be introduced "*through the back door.*"

## **4. Research findings and analysis**

### **4.1. Outcome of group discussions:**

Three discussion groups were held with men in the 45-64 age group. Two were with members of Community Employment schemes, while the third involved a Local Employment Service Jobs club. The discussions covered five main areas:

- **Income and employment**
- **Training**
- **Social and leisure activity**
- **Sourcing information**
- **Recommendations**

The following is an outline of the issues raised during these discussions.

#### **4.1.2. Income and employment:**

Because the discussions were held with two CE scheme groups I suppose it is not surprising that the Schemes loomed large as an issue. There was major concern expressed regarding the effect cutbacks in the number of people on CE schemes will have. The scheme was seen as being particularly suitable for farmers who are effectively only working part time, and also provided single people with an important social outlet. The point was also made that there was a lack of other employment opportunities for men over 40 in the South Kerry area. Participants also mentioned the benefit schemes bring to the wider community, e.g. providing services such as cooking meals for the elderly and undertaking environmental improvements. The following quotations give a flavour of the views on this matter:

*“there are no other alternatives for providing employment to men like us”*

*“being involved in the scheme provides an important income boost to small farmers”*

*“I was told I was too old to get employment in a factory at 52”*

*“companies like Fexco and Fujisawa want younger people, most of their employees are women between 20 and 30 years of age”*

*“farming is essentially a spring and summer activity, Cahersiveen milk will not be bought in December and January”*

*“the FAS scheme is of enormous benefit to the community in general with work on GAA pitches and Community Halls”*

*“even young people have difficulties getting employment around Glencar, some men who work in building travel up and down to Youghal every day to work, leaving early in the morning and coming back late in the evening”*

*“the social aspect of work is very important particularly for single men, some of these travel good distances to take part in schemes, the cost of travel each day eats up the extra money got on the scheme than you would get on the dole”*

*“the cutbacks are big, at one stage there were 20 people on the scheme now there are only 11”*

Other income/employment issues mentioned were:

- restrictions on the granting of planning permission meant people cannot sell sites and raise supplementary income. This also contributes to continuing rural depopulation, as one person said: *“the drain of young people away from the area has to be stopped, we need re-population”*
- the difficulties small holders face in terms of small milk quotas, changes in co-operative structures with co-ops becoming public companies, and perceived lack of representation within farming organisations
- re-location of factories, e.g. factories or parts of factories have recently relocated from Kenmare and Cahersiveen to Killorglin
- the impending closure of the turf burning station in Cahersiveen will mean the loss of supplementary income generated from supplying turf
- the lack of public transport and distance between centres act as real barriers to taking up employment

#### **4.1.3. Training:**

The discussion groups also talked about what type of training courses they are interested in.

The emphasis was on acquiring practical skills that could be used in an employment setting, particularly construction and farming. It was stated that it was difficult to motivate people over the age of 50 to undertake training, as it was not seen as worthwhile. Little interest was expressed in computer training courses.

Barriers identified to taking part in courses were:

- distance to training centres, e.g. Tralee (FAS) Killarney (Teagasc)
- small training budgets on FAS schemes
- short term nature of both training courses and night classes

Interest was expressed in the following training:

- stonemasonry training “*skilled masons have to be brought down from Tralee to work in Cahersiveen*”
- lawnmower maintenance
- car maintenance
- woodwork
- plastering
- gardening

#### **4.1.4. Social and leisure activity:**

Most of the men’s social and leisure activity revolves around going to the pub and attending GAA matches. This is particularly the case in rural areas whereas in towns there is a greater range of available activities.

Games set in pubs such as card playing and darts are popular.

In different areas various activities are popular, for instance in the Cahersiveen area there is a tradition of rowing and hunting with beagles.

There is some sea fishing, however there are limited opportunities for inland fishing with most fishing rights privately owned. One respondent said: “*a river runs through my land, however I cannot fish the river from my own land.*”

The lack of sports centres and a public swimming pool on the peninsula were also mentioned as significant issues.

The following interesting suggestions were made as to how to enhance leisure/social activity:

- older men could act as full time GAA coaches to young players
- the holding of a car boot sale in Cahersiveen

#### **4.1.5. Sourcing information:**

The members of the three groups were asked how they got information regarding entitlements and up-coming events in their locality. The main methods were:

- Mass and other religious services
- Radio Kerry and Radio na Gaeltachtna
- newspapers; particularly the ‘Kerryman’
- word of mouth, one person said: *“you’d be surprised how fast news travels around here, and bad news travels especially fast!”*
- shop, pub and school notices
- discussion groups such as those organised by the Partnership for smallholders, one person said: *“it is important you have a local person people can relate to”*
- Teagasc

Red tape and bureaucracy were identified as barriers to applying for entitlements in the farming sector. One respondent said: *“with some schemes it is not worth the money you would get with all the red tape.”*

Changing agricultural advice was also criticised: *“we were advised by the EU to take out quota, now they are saying they will do away with quotas!”*

The recommendations made during the three sessions are included in section six.

## **4.2. Findings of individual interview research:**

The following section analyses the results of the 48 interviews carried out using questionnaires. This first section gives the responses of those interviewed in relation to men in the 45 to 64 year age group.

The respondents were asked what they believed were the main issues and needs of men aged 45 to 64 in relation to employment and income. They were also asked to identify any particular difficulties or barriers for the men.

### **4.2.1. Income and employment**

The responses highlight the importance people place on Community Employment Schemes in rural areas like South Kerry. Sixteen of forty eight respondents spontaneously mentioned the important role CE Schemes play in relation to their suitability for men engaged in part time farming. As well as economically benefiting individuals the schemes also provide an important social function for men who otherwise would be socially isolated. As one respondent said: *“particularly for single men the schemes get them out of the house and over time you can see them developing as persons.”* The important part schemes play for the wider community was also mentioned. A typical response was *“the major improvements to the environmental appearance of town and villages over the last ten years have been mainly brought about by FAS schemes.”*

The schemes also provide a useful method for sourcing information on job opportunities and entitlements. O’ Raw (2001) reports that long term unemployed people miss out on social interaction and networks which are an important source of information on opportunities.

Other issues mentioned regarding income and employment were:

- the contraction in the agricultural sector leading to low incomes and an increasing emphasis on part time farming
- a reluctance on behalf of farmers to take up social welfare entitlements on the basis that it is somehow beneath them, especially the Farm Assist payment
- that single men living in rural areas face particularly acute difficulties and should be the focus of planned interventions
- that farmers prefer working outdoors as they are used to working the land, and would have little interest in working in factories or offices
- that men of this age group see themselves in the traditional role of provider and their partners do not tend to work. As one respondent said: *“there is a reluctance to as the men would say send the wives out to work.”*

- that there is a need to re-skill and up-skill men in this age bracket to meet the changing needs of the job market
- groups such as men with disabilities suffer particularly acute difficulties in relation to accessing employment. The Kerry Network of People with Disabilities (2000) conducted a survey of 104 people with disabilities in the County; the report states that the survey results establish clearly that there is *“a high incidence of exclusion of people with disabilities from a whole range of social, educational and economic activities.”* (Page 14)

#### **4.2.1.1. Income and employment- barriers and difficulties:**

Respondents were asked what the main difficulties and barriers the men faced in terms of income and employment. The main responses were:

- low incomes and lack of viability in agriculture due to small holdings and milk quotas
- the current cutbacks in the numbers participating on Community Employment schemes, also mentioned was the stipulation that an individual can only remain on a scheme for three years and then can never again take part on a scheme, respondents saw this as unfair to older men who would have little chance of getting other jobs
- the lack of public transport in the area, and distances between population centres
- a lack of information regarding entitlements
- also reported was a general dislike of form filling, which acted as a barrier to accessing social welfare payments, in this context it was also stated that concerns about implications for social welfare payments and tax liabilities acted as a barrier. As one person said *“ there is a fear of officialdom, in case the tax man will be after them, this is unrealistic as a tax inspector would not leave his desk for less than 10,000!”* Literacy was also mentioned as a barrier in this situation
- there is also a tendency not to apply for social welfare entitlements; Farm Assist was particularly mentioned. It was estimated by one respondent that the numbers claiming Farm Assist is 10-15% lower than the number entitled to it, others regarded this as a conservative estimate, another respondent stated: *“the numbers claiming Farm Assist are only a third to a half of what they should be!”*
- respondents also mentioned that these men had traditional views and value systems, which hold farming and the land in a kind of reverence. This leads to a dislike of change and there was a danger of stagnation

- ageist attitudes by employers when hiring staff was also mentioned as a barrier, particularly for those aged fifty or more
- there are generally very limited employment opportunities available to this age group
- literacy problems were another issue mentioned, many of the men would have left school after Primary School to work on the land, O' Raw (2001) reports that in 1997 an international survey found that 25% of Irish people operate at the lowest literacy level
- a number of respondents mentioned that many of the men are apathetic, there can be a sense of hopelessness, which leads to a lack confidence and self esteem
- another barrier mentioned is that the traditional skills that the men possess are increasingly obsolete in today's employment market
- some other barriers mentioned were a lack of measures to deal with fluctuating farming conditions, e.g. the current fodder crisis due to the bad weather, and that a household has to run two cars if children are in school and someone is travelling to work, also mentioned were the barriers faced by persons acting in a carer role for an elderly relative

#### **4.3.1. Education and training issues and needs:**

The main issues identified were that the men were likely to have only Primary levels of education, and that re-skilling was required in order to meet the changing needs of the employment market.

The main issues mentioned were:

- men in this cohort are only likely to be educated to Primary level. As free Secondary education was only introduced in 1968 persons aged over 45 would not have benefited from it. Also there was a tendency to leave school at 14 to work on the land, because for people going farming further education served no obvious purpose
- changes in the economy and employment structure mean that traditional skills possessed by these men are increasingly obsolete in relation to available jobs. The men need to be provided with new skills
- some respondents believed that personal development courses were required with an emphasis on 'softer skills' to help the men to handle change better. While other respondents were of the opinion that personal development courses would not go down well with the men, and that the emphasis should be on providing practical training skills

- the men in this cohort require targeted interventions with regard to training. Women seem to show a greater interest in training and it was suggested that ‘*men only*’ training courses be provided, it was also suggested that training be on a one to one basis
- a number of respondents stated that it was important to respect and be aware of the traditional attitudes toward agriculture and the affinity with the land when designing training courses to meet the men’s needs
- it was also reported that there is a general lack of interest in returning to education on behalf of these men, one respondent stated “*there is some shame attached to the idea of returning to school*”. The Department of Social Community and Family Affairs statistics for people on social welfare returning to full time education show low levels of take up in South Kerry. Twenty- four people are on third level allowance (Killarney 14, Killorglin 6, and Kenmare 4), while in the Tralee area 67 people are on the same allowance. Only 4 people in South Kerry are on second level allowance
- the importance of training and education as a means of countering social isolation for men in this age group was also mentioned by a number of respondents

#### **4.3.1.1. Education and training- barriers and difficulties:**

There was some overlap in terms of issues raised and barriers and difficulties regarding education and training. The following were the main difficulties identified:

- low literacy levels primarily caused by education ceasing at Primary level in order that men could work in Agriculture
- a number of respondents reported that for some men education revives memories of painful experiences in the school system and that there is a also a fear of being embarrassed in a training/education setting
- there is an attachment to traditional conservative values associated with rural life, this can lead to a lack of initiative and fear of change with people being somewhat set in their ways
- some respondents thought that technological changes have passed this generation by and many of the males in this age group have apathetic attitudes with a related sense of hopelessness and lack of self esteem/confidence

- transport difficulties are seen as a major barrier to taking up training and education opportunities, the lack of public transport is seen as a barrier as is the physical distance between centres. As one person said: *“people travelling to Tralee for day time training would have to leave Cahersiveen very early in the morning and would not return until after 7pm ”*
- a number of those interviewed identified ‘male’s psychology’ as a barrier in terms of taking up education and training. There is an attitude that such course are not for us and to become involved would be to show weakness which is not a masculine way to behave. Also somewhat related to this is that there is no concept of delayed gratification, e.g. in undertaking education and training as an investment in the future in terms of acquiring employment and increasing income
- the dispersed population of the area makes it difficult to justify putting on training courses. One respondent said: *“FAS require 15 people for a training course it is hard to get that number in South Kerry”*
- another barrier identified during interviews was the difficulty in contacting and engaging with men in this age group as they are not members of organisations except the GAA

#### **4.4.1. Health issues:**

Those interviewed mentioned the following health issues as pertaining to males in the 45 to 64 year age group:

- for single men living alone there is a degree of loneliness and isolation which can lead to depression, one respondent stated that the use of anti depressants among this age group would be quite high, and the risk of suicide would be higher than average especially for single men
- another issue was the tendency by some to engage in heavy drinking with the risk of alcohol abuse and associated problems
- many of those interviewed stated that men of this age group did not tend to visit Doctors until they were seriously ill, the idea of the regular check up by your GP is not embraced by many men, this was linked to male psychology as one person said: *“you should be manly and put up with sickness ”*
- diet was also mentioned as another important health issue. There were two points of view expressed, one that self care of men living on their own was poor in relation to diet and some suffered from malnutrition, particularly where they had been living with parents and their mother had prepared meals. Another issue referred to in this regard is the demise of the rural shop and the mobile shops that travelled the countryside

In contrast a number of people pointed out that the men eat a diet of good plain food and the fact that many people live to a great age was proof that their diet must be healthy! It was also reported that a FAS Community Employment scheme in Killarney had run a very successful cookery course for men

- greater publicity around men's health issues was identified as important, e.g. cardiovascular disease and prostate cancer, in the same way as the threat of breast cancer has been highlighted for women. The Department of Health and Children (2000) state that cardiovascular disease and related illnesses is the single largest cause of death in Ireland, in 1997 it represented 43% of all deaths
- another issue is the physical distance from health services located in Tralee especially in the Kenmare and Cahersiveen areas, a respondent said: *"if you have a heart attack on the Beara peninsula you are in trouble due to the distance to hospitals."* This point is reinforced by the Department of Health and Children (2000) who state *"of those dying from fatal coronary artery disease at least 50% will be dead within two hours of the onset of symptoms"* (Page 12)
- the increasing risk of farm accidents with mechanisation and the use of silage pits

#### **4.4.1.1. Health-barriers and difficulties:**

- the tendency of not using medical services until an illness had become chronic was linked to the independent 'hard man' macho culture and a lack of appreciation of the importance of preventative health measures
- the lack of public transport meant there could be difficulty in taking up medical appointments particularly if someone had to travel to Tralee or Cork which are considerable distances from most of the Iveragh and Beara peninsulas, this is a particular difficulty for single people as they may not have anyone to take them to appointments
- national issues pertaining to health were also mentioned such as the long waiting lists for consultant appointments for those with medical cards, and a lack of emphasis on preventative medicine
- a group were identified that do not have VHI cover due to cost, nor qualify for a medical card on age or income grounds
- there is a lack of awareness of what the health services provide, it was suggested that information campaigns should be aimed at the men
- there was differing opinions as to whether the generation after this would have the same attitudes, some argued that younger men would not put up with these conditions, while others said that generational change is not guaranteed as traditional attitudes run deep

- mental health is seen as an important issue in rural areas, in this context a lack of counselling services was mentioned as a difficulty

#### **4.5.1. Social and leisure issues:**

A very high proportion of respondents identified the Public House as the main source of social interaction and leisure activity for men in this age group. One respondent stated: *“the Pub essentially provides group therapy for men.”*

Second only to the pub is the GAA as a source of social and leisure activity for men in rural areas. While men in the age group have mostly stopped playing they are involved as spectators, and in some cases as administrators of local clubs.

Other leisure activities mentioned were:

- card playing (whist) during the winter
- darts in pubs
- beagling in the Cahersiveen area
- rowing, e.g. Seine racing
- fishing
- attending summer festivals and fleadh

Mass, funerals, stations and attendance at marts were said to be other opportunities for social contact.

The historic imbalance between the numbers of males and females was also mentioned, one respondent aged in his fifties stated: *“a lot of men in this area of my age are single because most of the women of the same age emigrated from the area to jobs in the cities or towns.”*

Another issue mentioned is the importance of local state services as a means of social contact, e.g. the Postal services and Police, one person commented: *“during the recent election I was canvassing up the mountains and we called to a house where the two brothers living there said we were the only people to call except the postman since the last election, five years previously!”*

Most respondents believe that there are very little leisure facilities available for this age group. The sporting infrastructure is limited in the area e.g. no swimming pool, and there is also less opportunity nowadays for social interaction because of:

- a general lack of opportunities to meet people
- no dances, ballrooms of romance, rambling houses, and large areas do not have pubs etc.
- no local creameries/fairs, and farmers no longer working together e.g. harvesting
- neighbours no longer calling to each other's houses

A number of people suggested that some organisational structure was required to encourage social interaction e.g. an ICA for men. The social aspect of Community Employment schemes was mentioned in this context, one person said: “*a group of men here who met on a CE Scheme go once a week to Killarney for a swim taking turns at doing the driving.*”

Also referred to was the need for organised excursions, which are seen as particularly important for people living on peninsulas.

#### **4.5.1.1. Social and leisure -barriers and difficulties:**

The main difficulties and barriers identified for men in terms of social and leisure activities were:

- lack of facilities outside of pubs for this age group, as someone said: “*if you do not drink what do you do*”
- limited leisure facilities in the area e.g. no public swimming pool
- the effect of the drink driving laws in curtailing travel to pubs in rural areas
- the historic lack of females living in the area, it was also mentioned that the old practises of matchmaking is finished
- the distance to major centres and limited availability of public transport combined with there being no taxi service in some areas
- the relative isolation of the modern farmer compared to the past, mechanisation and contracting has meant an end to the meitheal (collective help) system, as one person said “*in the past farms were like mini factories with the amount of people involved.*” Creameries and fairs were also important social outlets in the past
- the paperwork required in order to sell farm animals is also cited as having an effect, one respondent stated: “*before a farmer could decide on the spur of the moment to bring an animal to the fair to sell it, now there is a huge amount of paperwork involved and such spontaneous decisions are impossible.*”
- a number of respondents stated that country people are naturally shy and are not as self confident as urban dwellers on account of having less social interaction

#### **4.6.1. Housing issues:**

Differing opinions were given as to whether the condition of housing was an issue for these men. Some people felt that the standard of housing was quite good and it had improved dramatically in the last 20 years. Other respondents stated that some conditions were quite poor with houses lacking basic facilities; this was particularly a problem where men lived on their own.

The main responses were:

- some houses still lack basic facilities, e.g. running water, toilet facilities, no central heating, etc. and poor housing is correlated to poor health
- as stated earlier a number of those interviewed believed that housing was not a problem as the men inherit good quality homes from parents
- single men who live on their own are viewed as being in potentially poor conditions, while their mothers were alive the houses were kept well but after her death things would deteriorate
- private housing is very expensive in the area, however many of the men in this age group would have built before the housing price boom or inherited houses
- the cost of repairs and maintenance is a deterrent to undertaking remedial work on houses
- men in this age bracket are not entitled to Health Board grants until they reach the age of 65
- a number of respondents mentioned that people do not like others entering their homes to do surveying or repair work as they regard it is an invasion of privacy
- a group who seem to be particularly vulnerable are single and separated men who live in towns, they usually live in bed sit type accommodation frequently with quite poor conditions

#### **4.6.1.1. Housing-barriers and difficulties:**

- a number of respondents identified a lack of information regarding improvement grants as a barrier as many people are unaware of their entitlements
- some of those interviewed stated that there remains an ongoing fear and caution around dealing with officialdom, particularly in relation to contact with tax and social welfare staff
- the majority of these men have relatively low incomes so they are unable to afford housing maintenance and repair work
- it was also reported here as elsewhere that farmers have strong sense of pride and self sufficiency and this attitude prevents them from applying for grants, other reasons given for the lack of applications is that there no facility to help people complete forms and low literacy levels
- many of the relevant State Agencies are based in Tralee, a considerable distance from parts of South Kerry, people believe that services are remote from them and not just physically, one respondent said: *“a state agency woman employee came to visit a man who lived off the road a few hundred yards up a boreen, she arrived wearing high heels and having no other suitable footwear had to return to Tralee unable to meet the man.”*
- an issue that was mentioned many times during interviewing are the restrictions being placed on the granting of planning permission in rural areas, this has a number of effects. In the past people could sell a site and live comfortably on the proceeds for a number of years, as one person said: *“the value of the land around here in terms of agricultural use is nil, however as a house site the land has value, restrictions on planning permission are devaluing the only asset many people have around here.”* Another effect of restrictive planning is that persons living alone in rural areas are likely to become increasingly isolated with no new housing in the area

#### **4.7. Method of working with the Men:**

Those interviewed were asked what they thought would be the best way to make contact and work with men in this age group.

All efforts to work with men in this age group must start with the recognition that it will be quite a challenge to access them. They are traditionally not perceived by others or themselves as being a target group, and tend not to attend meetings and engage in-group activity.

The largest proportion of respondents believed that contact would have to be on an individual basis, as one person said: “*initial contact would have to be over the gate.*” This approach would require the input of significant resources to engage with the men.

It was also suggested that someone in a rural resource role is required to engage in animation work with the men in order to get them involved. The character and personality of this person was also deemed important, as he/she would have to be able to relate to the men at their level. The person would need to gain their confidence and have powers of persuasion and coaxing skills. Persons such as CE supervisors were mentioned as being key people who would have contact with these men and understand their mindset. An interesting suggestion made in this context was to incorporate the formation of men’s groups into existing CE schemes.

It is important that someone well known to the men would introduce the rural resource/outreach worker to them.

It was suggested that any men’s project should start with an introductory issue e.g. related to farming such as a vegetable growers co-op or bee keeping. From there the process could move onto training, personal development, health education. It is interesting to note that both the Leitrim project and Tallaght Flexible Training unit start programmes with taster courses consisting of practical skills training and then move onto the softer skills with modules on health education and computer literacy. In Leitrim the process took three years before the men moved onto personal development type modules.

There are other initiatives around the Country aimed at similar target groups e.g. North Leitrim, much of the learning derived there may be applicable in South Kerry.

The small discussion groups used by the Partnership’s Agriculture Co-ordinator were seen as being a good model for working with men in this age group.

Also mentioned in response to the question was the importance of using the existing community infrastructure as much as possible. Organisations such as the GAA, Church, community groups, and farming organisations were all mentioned as having an important role to play as well as being important sources of resources.

A number of communication methods were mentioned that might be effective in reaching this target group:

- notices read out at Mass by the Parish priest or included in Parish newsletters
- adverts placed in pubs, restaurants, marts, community centres (there were differing views as to their effectiveness) any promotion undertaken needs to be continuous to make an impact
- word of mouth was mentioned as particularly effective form of communication
- mail shots where individuals were written to personally
- Radio Kerry and the Kerryman newspaper
- the farming organisations
- the use of a mobile facility to inform people regarding their entitlements

The recommendations made regarding issues effecting this age group are contained in section six.

## **4.8. Men aged 65 years or more:**

This section of the report looks at the cohort of men aged 65 years and more.

### **4.8.1. Health issues:**

Many of the issues mentioned for this age group mirror those for the younger age group. This is particularly the case regarding attitudes to contacting health professionals, the loneliness of men living alone, and difficulties in accessing health services.

The following are the main issues identified:

- the prevalence of the traditional male behaviour of not attending the doctor for check ups and consequent late diagnosis of diseases e.g. prostate cancer
- the importance of the referral network in identifying elderly people in need, this involves co-operation between Doctors, Nurses, Clergymen, and members of community and voluntary organisations
- loneliness in rural areas is a big issue and can lead to mild depression, it is worth noting that suicide is an above average risk with elderly people, 12% of suicides are by people over the age of 65 (Ageing with Confidence, Southern Health Board)
- elderly single men living alone find it particularly difficult to cope, for instance they can suffer from malnutrition due to inadequate diet
- a number of respondents mentioned that men did not utilise day care facilities to the same degree as women, however the figures for the Killorglin Day Care facility show a different picture, with on average 63 men and 81 women attending each week
- age differences must also be recognised as a respondent said *“the over 75s face the most difficulty.”*
- the importance of state services in combating isolation, one person who had been involved with the postal services said: *“I know of one definite case where an elderly person used to post letters addressed to herself so that the postman would have to call and have a chat.”*
- the large elderly population in South Kerry, as Census data shows the proportion of elderly is well above the State average and the population will increasingly age in the early part of the century

- an interesting point made in connection with health concerns the release of patients from the mental health services, it was said they can fall between two stools because Public Health Nurses regarded them as the responsibility of Psychiatric nurses and vice versa. Day centres also provide an opportunity for nurses to meet patients rather than visit them in their own homes with consequent security risk
- the risk of accidents from house fires or traffic accidents when walking roads with no public lighting

#### **4.8.1.1. Health- barriers/difficulties:**

The following difficulties and barriers regarding health were identified:

- lack of public transport to take people to medical appointments, many people rely on neighbours to transport them to Hospital, a number of health personnel interviewed commented that the level of take up of appointments by single people is lower than average
- not having regular medical check ups and not approaching Doctors until too late, as a respondent said: *“you service your car every few thousand miles yet people do not go for regular check-ups.”*
- the lack of medical services in large areas of South Kerry is also mentioned as a significant difficulty. After 6pm a service called Southdoc operates from Killarney where doctors can be driven to patients around the peninsula, some people are reluctant to use the service because they prefer dealing with their own doctor
- elderly people also need help and assistance in filling application forms, a reluctance to do this can lead to entitlements not being availed of, it was also suggested forms could be simplified
- a small number of houses in which elderly people live still lack running water, bathing and shower facilities, one respondent stated: *“in some houses nurses dressing wounds bring water with them as the water in the house would be brown coloured and cause infection if used.”*
- some people are not in the habit of spending money on themselves even though they may have funds, one person said: *“some time ago an elderly person died, and when people entered the home it was realised there was no electricity and thirty thousand pounds in cash was found under the mattress.”*
- men of this age tend to have more difficulty in accepting being placed in nursing homes than women

- there is an issue regarding a lack of follow up when patients are released from hospital
- the diminishing sense of neighbourliness was also mentioned, in the past people tended to call more regularly to one another's homes, during the research a number of times stories were recounted about people being found dead in their houses a considerable time after their death

#### **4.8.2. Social and leisure activities:**

In the main leisure and social activities for this age group were similar to those of the younger age group. The main differences would be higher levels of Church attendance and socialising around religious events. There is a limited involvement with active retirement groups of which there are a number in South Kerry. The main social/leisure activities mentioned were:

- pubs
- card playing
- walking the roads
- community socials at Christmas
- attending GAA matches
- Bingo
- Set dancing
- Mass, funeral attendance and the stations
- Active retired groups (members are mostly women)

The issues mentioned in this context were:

- the importance of day centres in providing opportunities for socialising
- general lack of opportunities/outlets for socialising
- the importance of social company for elderly people as one person said: "*it is very important to listen to their stories.*"
- the role of FAS schemes and other state services in interacting with the elderly
- the need to tackle the transport deficit in the area

- during winter time in particular there is a need for mid week social outlets as there is a long gap from attending mass from Sunday to Sunday
- the requirement to recognise different needs of age groups, e.g. there is a big difference between the needs of a person of 65 and 85

#### **4.8.2.1. Social and leisure-difficulties and barriers**

The following difficulties were identified regarding social activities for men aged 65 years or more:

- lack of transport, no public transport effectively means that retired people cannot use their free travel entitlement, after a certain age many people also lose their driving licenses
- the effects of falling population combined with planning permission restrictions means elderly people will live in increasing isolation in rural areas
- elderly people are reluctant to leave people enter their houses, and have a major fear of burglary, one respondent stated: *“the elderly are terrified when they hear of break ins and robberies up the country.”*
- mechanisation and the general decline in agriculture has led to the dying out of many social activities, nothing has really replaced the creameries, fair days and rambling houses
- the younger members of the extended family are all working and do not tend to visit the older family members often. As mentioned earlier neighbours also do not call to one another’s houses anymore
- another difficulty mentioned is the lack of respite for carers many of whom are elderly themselves, one of those interviewed said: *“I know of a case where a 77 year old man is caring for his 88 year old uncle.”*
- also mentioned as a barrier for social and leisure activity is an innate shyness in rural men and a tendency to adopt the ‘strong and silent’ type mentality and image
- another difficulty is the lack of information regarding services, e.g. lack of awareness of availability of library books for the visually impaired
- increasingly, single people are moving to Towns from the countryside, this can pose difficulties in adjusting to new surroundings and loss of personal contact

### **4.8.3. Housing issues:**

A sizeable proportion of respondents felt that on the whole the standard of housing was quite good for elderly people in South Kerry. However it was also stated that there are still some very poor housing conditions, mainly where people live on their own.

The main issues mentioned were:

- where there is no woman in the house there is likely to be a poor state of repair and maintenance
- elderly people without family have limited knowledge of entitlements and available grants for housing improvements
- a small number of houses still lack basic facilities such as running water, electricity and toilets, details of Health Board grants for housing repairs (see below) show that toilets and sinks were installed in houses during 2001
- there is still some mistrust of the state services still exists in terms of fear of attracting attention in the process of applying for grants
- the importance of community alert in rural areas to provide sense of security for elderly living alone
- the increasing need for and importance of the home help service in assisting elderly people and the benefit to the State of keeping people in their homes in terms of enormous financial savings

#### **4.8.3.1. Southern Health Board housing grants:**

The Health Board provides grants to persons aged 65 years or more for housing repairs. The following information is for the year 2001 (February to October) and applies to the South Kerry area only.

The main works funded were:

- replacing windows
- repairing doors
- installing heaters

Some of the other repairs grant aided were chimney and roof repairs and dry lining walls. In two cases toilets were put in houses and in one case a sink was installed.

Grant payments ranged from £75 to £2000, with an average payment of £754.

Payments were made through community and voluntary organisations in South Kerry. Examples are the St. Vincent de Paul, community councils, community centres, and community care and social services groups.

#### **4.8.3.2 Housing-difficulties and barriers:**

For people over the age of 65 respondents identified the following difficulties regarding housing:

- lack of information for the elderly on available grants
- inadequate budgets for State bodies to meet demand for grants
- poor take up on grants, e.g. in South Kerry the take up of grants is lower than other parts of the County
- reluctance on behalf of the elderly to allow people enter their house
- inadequate funding of the home help service
- elderly men can be set in their ways and hard to change, they tend not to see the need for housing improvements
- the difficulty in dealing with stairs for some elderly people, particularly if living on their own

#### **4.8.5. Method of working with the men:**

Respondents were asked what was the best way of contacting and working with men of this age group. The following were the suggestions, which in many ways reflect what was stated regarding the 45-64 age group.

- use Mass, other Church services and Parish Newsletters to promote awareness and make contact with the men. It was suggested that tea and biscuits after Mass as happens in Britain would be a good innovation and provide an opportunity for social contact
- frequently mentioned is the importance of having a good referral system between the Clergy, Health professionals and community and voluntary organisations. This can be very important in identifying people in particular need
- the importance of one to one outreach work in contacting people and that elderly people must have trust and confidence in the person they're dealing with
- any programme seeking to engage with men in retirement must recognise that there are significant barriers to be overcome in terms of attitudes. These are the men's pride and sense of independence and the difficulty in accessing them due to a reluctance to allow people enter their homes
- a good way of contacting men would be through day and social centres, while the level of men's usage of day centres may be lower than females it still represents an opportunity to interact with men of the age group
- other mechanisms for working or contacting men of retirement age are:

Having a computerised register of over 65s

Providing display stands and advertising at marts and agricultural shows

Working through GAA clubs

Using State employees e.g. postal workers

Radio Kerry

Notes/articles in the Kerryman newspaper

Mail shots

The recommendations made with regard to men aged 65 years or more are included in section six.

#### **4.8.6. Other comments:**

Finally, those interviewed were asked had they any other comments to make in relation to either of the two age groups of men.

- again, the importance was emphasised of FAS Community Employment schemes in rural areas. They are very suitable for part time farmers and have a role in combating isolation among single people. As one person said: “*a number of single men here were on schemes and since they finished they really miss the social side of the scheme.*” Having somewhere to go to work in the morning is very important for men, Owens (2000) cited in O’Raw (2001) suggests from research undertaken that male identity is linked to employment

another point made is that the CE Supervisor frequently has a counsellor like role in relation to men in terms of having someone to talk with about problems. A respondent also commented that CE schemes also could play an important tracking mechanism role for the unemployed

- awareness that both age groups (45-64, 65+) have different needs that require different action programmes
- it was recommended that it is important not to isolate the single from the married men. However, the Leitrim project mentioned earlier focuses its attention on single men only
- the necessity of engaging in preventative health work with men when they are aged 40 to 60 years
- men in this age group pose a particular challenge in that they have traditional attitudes with a strong sense of gender roles
- where people have to look after elderly parents this in itself a huge barrier to participation in employment, education, social activities, etc. Burke (1998) carried out a study on Carers of people with Dementia in the Southern Health Board area and found that 27% of carers were males
- at national level it was suggested that the policy agenda must acknowledge the difference between rural and urban social marginalisation. The former is hidden and distinct in that many of the men referred to in this report would be homeowners, while in urban areas they would live in social housing. Flexibility is required in implementing programmes aimed at countering disadvantage in rural areas
- according to a number of respondents succession issues cause considerable difficulties and a programme around managing succession of farms is required

- according to an interviewee some 3% of elderly persons are vulnerable to elder abuse where they are pressurised by younger relatives to hand over land or property
- a suggestion was that there is an opportunity to create contract and part-time employment in farm relief type services in South Kerry
- the importance of organisations such as the Partnership, community and voluntary organisations working closely with the Health Board
- the feasibility should be looked into of developing a social economy project around rural services provision, shops, post offices, etc.
- the need to create off farm employment opportunities, as a respondent said: *“at the end of the day money can solve a lot of problems.”*

## **5. Conclusions:**

This section outlines the main issues that have emerged from this project.

### **Men as a target group**

During interviews it was obvious to me that initially at least a significant proportion of respondents had difficulty viewing the men as a target group with distinctive needs that required addressing. However, the men face very real barriers in terms of declining farm incomes, limited off farm employment opportunities, and very limited social outlets in part due to changes within society and the rural economy.

Programmes of intervention must take account of two important factors, the individualistic mentality and macho image of men, and that they are not a homogenous grouping. For instance, they include people with disabilities, farmers, fishermen, bachelors, separated men and lone parents.

### **The hidden nature of disadvantage in rural areas**

Along with all rural dwellers the men suffer marginalisation, which is not very visible in the countryside. Public policy needs to recognise that people living in rural isolation should be placed on the social inclusion agenda. Flexibility is required in programmes that recognises the distinctive nature of rural disadvantage.

### **The importance of Community Employment Schemes**

Time and again during the research people stressed the importance of Community Employment schemes for men and communities in rural areas. With income from farming in decline and a lack of employment these schemes are seen as particularly suited to areas like South Kerry. For single men in particular they provide an important social outlet, which can break the sense of social isolation. As one respondent said: *"nobody can put a value, the huge value of work in terms of countering isolation."*

### **Loneliness and isolation**

Single men are particularly prone to feelings of loneliness brought about by social and physical isolation from other people. This can lead to depression and alcohol abuse and ultimately to the risk of suicide.

It is alarming to note that the characteristics of the male over 45 years population of South Kerry correspond to high suicide risk criteria (single, unemployed, low levels of education, membership of lower socio-economic groupings, farmers, high alcohol consumption).

There are large numbers of bachelors aged over 45 in South Kerry. Many women of the same age group migrated from the area in search of employment and never returned. One respondent pointed out that their parents more than likely encouraged them to leave because farming offered such a tough life. The result is that a quarter of men in the area aged 45 or more never married, in the Cahersiveen area almost a third of males are bachelors. While this can be a source of great stories, e.g. one respondent said: *“an elderly bachelor uncle of mine was once asked by the Parish Priest why he had never married, he replied its like this Father, I think you ‘re better spending your life wanting something you don’t have, than having something you don’t want!”* it undoubtedly is the case that many of the men are bachelors not by choice but through a lack of potential partners.

Many of the men do not have relatives living near them; this is in part the consequence of years of out migration from the area. Also neighbours do not tend to visit each other’s homes anymore. These changes increase the sense of isolation and undermine the sense of community in rural areas.

### **Very limited opportunities for socialising**

For men in South Kerry opportunities for social interaction are very limited. The pub, GAA, Mass and the mart are the main outlets. Traditional activities linked to agriculture such as fairs, creameries, and harvesting time have disappeared with farming becoming a solitary occupation. There is a need for social activities to take the place of these traditional outlets.

### **The huge barrier of transport and distance in South Kerry**

A significant difficulty is the general lack of public transport and the distances people have to travel to access certain services. This acts as a barrier in terms of taking up employment opportunities, undertaking training courses, taking part in leisure and social activities, and attending medical appointments, etc. Provision of services is hampered by transport difficulties e.g. one respondent said that the topography of Kerry with its mountain ranges adds 25% to transport costs compared to a flat part of the Country.

South Kerry Development Partnership is currently in the process of developing a transport initiative to help deal with this issue.

### **Interest in practical training**

The men who were interviewed in groups expressed an interest in acquiring practical skills through training courses. The types of course mentioned were stonemasonry, welding, gardening, car maintenance, etc. These are courses that would be beneficial in generating income and the men stated they wanted to see a tangible benefit from training. In contrast, there was little interest expressed in the ‘softer’ type training courses e.g. computer and language training.

## **Lack of preventative healthcare**

A popular comment regarding health for both age groups of men was that they do attend Doctors unless very sick. Having regular check ups is almost unheard of and a change in attitude is required to assist in early diagnosis of disease especially cardiovascular illness and prostate cancer.

## **Low income**

Many of the men have relatively low incomes relying on low farm incomes, social welfare payments, or pensions. This is a major barrier in terms of them improving their quality of life, living conditions, or engaging in social and leisure activities.

## **Limited access to information**

Most respondents reported a low level of awareness of entitlements (a small number of people reported the opposite). A number of state agency personnel commented on the traditionally lower level of take up of grants and entitlements in South Kerry than in other parts of the County. This may be due to the fact that most agencies are Tralee based and consequently have a lower visibility in South Kerry. The development of 'one stop shop units' by the Local Authority will hopefully help redress this situation.

## **High proportion of elderly people in South Kerry**

Census returns show that South Kerry has a high proportion of elderly people in the population and of elderly people living alone. This means there is an acute need for social services for the elderly. With an ageing population for the foreseeable future this need will continue to grow.

## **Small proportion of elderly living in poor conditions**

While the conditions of most elderly men are regarded as having improved over the last 20 years, there are still some people living in poor conditions. There are still in 2002 people living without basic facilities, while I was interviewing one person he said: *"just before you arrived I had a call from a public representative about a man who was living alone with no running water or electricity!"*

Single men can live in particularly poor conditions, especially where they lived with parents who are deceased and there is now no woman in the house.

### **Pride of the elderly**

It is important to take account of elderly people's pride and sense of independence when designing interventions for this target group. Pride can be a significant factor when it comes to working with men but particularly with older men. This finds expression in a reluctance to allow people into their homes as well as a tendency not to apply for grants and entitlements.

### **Importance of maintaining state services in rural areas**

Changes in state agencies have seen increasing rationalisation of services in rural areas. This is a major problem as these services play an important role in countering the sense of isolation in rural areas. Services like health care, the post, and the police are an important part of the fabric of South Kerry and their curtailment would cause serious difficulties. Even a change where the postman would deliver mail to a box rather than drop it in the door would have potentially major repercussions.

## **6. Recommendations**

This section contains the recommendations made during the group discussions held with men in the 45 to 64 age group and during the 48 individual interviews.

### **6.1. Recommendations from group discussions- men aged 45-64:**

The members of the three discussion groups were asked what would they recommend to improve the situation. These were their suggestions:

- it is essential that FAS Community Employment schemes are maintained or a similar scheme is introduced for men in this age group
- men over the age of 50 should have the option of staying on a CE scheme until retirement as there is no alternative employment in the area, a number of people also commented on the rather abrupt termination of schemes
- there is a need for more information to be made available regarding people's entitlements
- information is required on what supports are available for investigating the feasibility of enterprises and what resources are available for setting up businesses
- need for rural repopulation e.g. schemes of houses being built in rural areas to provide accommodation for young people
- the Local Authorities should ease restrictions on granting of planning permission in rural areas this would assist people raise money from the sale of sites
- the feasibility should be examined of establishing a co-operative involving provision of services by skilled men e.g. gardening, electrical repairs as a means of creating employment
- more training courses should be provided in the area, the most suitable types mentioned are; gardening, stonemasonry, welding, house maintenance, and painting
- there is a need for more leisure facilities in the area, e.g. a sports centre in Cahersiveen and a public swimming pool, the relatively small population should not be a barrier to provision of services, as one person said: *"if you use the population as a yardstick for providing services we would have nothing in the area."*

## **6.2. Recommendations from individual interviews-men aged 45-64**

Those interviewed were asked what would they recommend as the most important actions required to assist the men in the 45-64 age group. These are measures that could be taken by the Partnership, any other organisation body or at national policy level. The following were the chief recommendations made:

- there is a need for the co-ordination and organisation of men's groups in order to break down social isolation. This could take the form of providing one to one support with drop in centres and outreach work where men gather. A number of respondents mentioned that the model of the work of the Agricultural Co-ordinator in the Partnership was a good way of working and should be maintained. It is also worth noting that the North Leitrim project emphasise the importance of the men having ownership of the process themselves
- the importance of maintaining Community Employment schemes because of their suitability to areas like South Kerry where many men are essentially part time farmers. It provides much needed off- farm employment and social contact which helps break the sense of isolation. The schemes also play an important role in improving the environmental appearance of villages and the countryside
- training can be an important method to engage with the men. Training in the initial stages at least would have to focus on practical skills such as masonry, welding, etc. before soft personal development type skills could be introduced. Furthermore, any training has to be linked to local needs and it was suggested it be labelled 'men only'. An interesting suggestion was that some people in rural areas considerable distances from hospitals be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The Department of Health and Children (2000) state that most heart related deaths occur outside hospital and that bystander initiated CPR increases pre-hospital survival three to four fold
- the issue of rural isolation and the issues for men in this age group must be placed on the political agenda
- there should be subsidisation if necessary of public transport in the area as this is a huge barrier to participation in the socio-economic spheres. Currently, South Kerry Development Partnership are planning an initiative around provision of transport in rural areas
- in working with men use should be made of the existing community infrastructure organisations such as the Church, GAA, farming organisations, Community Employment schemes, and community and voluntary groups are important parts of the social infrastructure in rural communities, someone suggested:  
*“Community employment schemes are a very useful way of establishing participant's needs”*

- there is a need for more co-operation and co-ordination between service providers, e.g. suggestions were made regarding having only one means test, and flexibility around delivery of services with availability in the evenings and at week-ends. This would increase the visibility of the agencies and increase people's awareness of their entitlements
- social activities need to be developed to replace the traditional meeting places which have died out, one person suggested establishing a singles club in Killarney to address the male /female population imbalance in South Kerry
- a number of respondents made the point that the men in this age group are not a homogenous group in that some of them may be lone parents due to being widowers or separated (in the DED of Banawn in the 1996 Census of thirteen lone parents six were men) and others may have disabilities, the needs of the group may be quite diverse and this must be taken account of in designing a programme
- it was also recommended by a number of respondents that the whole area of planning permission restrictions be re-examined in light of the difficulties being caused for rural dwellers
- an advice service to farmers regarding viability should be provided at reasonable cost
- that lists be compiled of the skills people possess and should be made available to people who require maintenance work

### **6.3. Recommendations-men aged 65 years or more**

Those persons individually interviewed were asked what were the most important actions that could be taken to assist men aged 65 years or more. The following were the main responses:

- the provision of transport featured prominently in the recommendations made by those interviewed. The transport issue is seen as a huge barrier in terms of access to services. A suggestion made is the use of the school buses during the Summer and subsidising mini cab transport for outlying rural areas
- another recommendation highlighted the need to provide more community based day centres throughout the South Kerry area. As one person said: *“if there were more facilities like the day centre in Killorglin in South Kerry it would go a long way to helping the elderly.”*
- the importance of organising community based social activities for the elderly. This helps break the sense of isolation and provides a replacement for the traditional social outings, e.g. fair days, local creameries, etc.
- some elderly people are carers themselves and there is a need to provide some respite for people who are in this position. It was pointed out that these people save the State considerable money and experience considerable degrees of stress in providing care to parents and other relatives
- the need for increased resources to be assigned to the home help service, as with carers such a service saves the State a lot of money while keeping an elderly person living in their own home
- more sheltered housing schemes particularly for single people living in rural isolation. I was told about an elderly man who had lived in a rural area but was now in a Town, the man said it was like being in heaven compared to living in isolation in the Countryside
- it is important that service provision be linked to local needs. Needs can vary from area to area e.g. the requirements of the Beara peninsula are very different to the Cahersiveen area, service providers and others need to take account of this
- the importance of maintaining state services in the area. As well as providing employment they are an important source of contact for elderly people residing on their own. The Irish Examiner of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2002 carried a report of how a postal worker saved the life of a 76-year-old man in Tralee who had been trapped in his bath for 18 hours. This story reinforces the importance of the social contact role played by postal workers

- another suggestion was the provision of pre retirement classes for all persons about to retire. Also mentioned was the need to encourage the development of more active retirement groups and to encourage greater participation by men in them
- efforts should be made to establish men's groups in the same manner that women's groups operate in South Kerry. Such an initiative would require considerable development work involving outreach activity, possibly on a one to one basis where men would be visited at home. This could also be a way of providing information to people regarding their entitlements and assistance could be provided in filling forms
- greater integration and co-ordination between state agencies that provide services to elderly men
- a project that endeavours to link elderly and young people should be initiated, someone suggested it be called 'adopt a Grandad' Another suggestion was made that a German model be adopted where the young people do shopping for the elderly while the latter reciprocate by babysitting

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## **Appendices:**

### **List of questions used in individual interviews**

Name of respondent:

What organisations are you a member of?

What is your position in the Partnership/your organisation?

#### **Men aged 45-64 years:**

Thinking of men aged between 45 and 64 years living in rural areas of South Kerry (outside Killarney) what do you think are their needs in the area of employment and income?

What do you see as the main difficulties and barriers for these men with regard to employment and income?

Thinking of men aged between 45 and 64 years living in rural areas of South Kerry what do you think are their needs in the area of education and training?

What do you see as the main difficulties and barriers for these men with regard to education and training?

Thinking of men aged between 45 and 64 years living in rural areas of South Kerry what do you think are their needs in the area of health?

What do you see as the main difficulties and barriers for these men with regard to health?

Thinking of men aged between 45 and 64 years living in rural areas of South Kerry what do you think are their needs in the area of social and leisure outlets/activities?

What do you see as the main difficulties and barriers for these men with regard to social and leisure outlets/activities?

Thinking of men aged between 45 and 64 years living in rural areas of South Kerry what do you think are their needs in the area of housing?

What do you see as the main difficulties and barriers for these men regarding housing?

What would you recommend as the most important actions the Partnership or others can take to assist these men?

What do you think is the best way of contacting and working with the men in this age group?

**Men aged 65 years plus:**

Thinking of men aged 65 years or more living in rural areas of South Kerry (outside Killarney) what do you think are their needs in the area of health?

What do you see as the main difficulties and barriers for these men with regard to health?

Thinking of men aged 65 years or more living in rural areas of South Kerry what do you think are their needs in the area of social and leisure outlets/activities?

What do you see as the main difficulties and barriers for these men with regard to social and leisure outlets?

Thinking of men aged 65 years or more living in rural areas of South Kerry what do you think are their needs in the area of housing?

What do you see as the main difficulties and barriers for these men with regard to housing?

What would you recommend as the most important actions the Partnership or others can take to assist these men?

What do you think is the best way of contacting and working with the men in this age group?

Do you know of any reports or existing research that relates to the above groups or contains information of relevance to this study?

Have you any other comments or suggestions you would like to make regarding the two target groups?

**List of persons interviewed during course of study:**

John Joe O'Brien	Director South Kerry Development Partnership Limited. Chairman Partnership Transport Initiative, Bonane Community Council, ICOS.
Michael Murphy	Director South Kerry Development Partnership Limited. Director Kerry Co-op. Chairman IFA Food Committee.
Joan Collins	Director South Kerry Development Partnership Limited. Fossa Community Council, IFA, ICMSA, Kerry Mental Health.
Margaret Casey	Director South Kerry Development Partnership Limited. Chairperson Banchara, member Agriculture Committee, Killorglin Community Council, ICA, Citizens Information Centre, and Kerry County Council Community Forum.
Pat Kavanagh	Director South Kerry Development Partnership Limited. Foilmore-Kells IRD.
John Kelly	Director South Kerry Development Partnership Limited. Retired Southern Health Board employee.
John O'Connor	Director South Kerry Development Partnership Limited. ICMSA.
Donal Corkery	Member Agriculture Committee South Kerry Development Partnership Limited. Member Tuosist Development Group.
John Herlihy	Area Manager Kerry South, Department of Social Community and Family Affairs
Hilary Scanlon	Care Group Co-ordinator, Southern Health Board.
Joe Brennan	Co-ordinator VTOS/Youthreach Killorglin and Cahersiveen.
Eilish Ashe	Community Worker, Southern Health Board.
Brendan O'Sullivan	Education Officer, Teagasc.
Michael Costello	Livestock Section, Department of Agriculture.
Geraldine McNulty	Assistant Director Public Health Nursing, Castlemaine to Caherdaniel, Southern Health Board.

Frances O’Connell	Public Health Nurse, Glenbeigh, Cromane and Glencar, Southern Health Board.
Jeremy Sheehy	Community Welfare Officer, Southern Health Board.
Siobhan Griffin	Area Services Centre Project Team, Kerry County Council.
Bob O’Sullivan	Environmental Health Officer, Southern Health Board.
Geraldine O’Sullivan	Manager, Killorglin Day Care Centre.
Rosarie Morrison	FAS Community Employment Supervisor, Glencar.
Patrick Brennan	FAS Community Employment Supervisor, the Glen/Ballinskelligs, Chairman St. Michaels/Foilmore GAA, Coiste Forbhata Na Ghleanna.
Breda O’Shea	FAS Community Employment Supervisor, South Kerry Development Partnership Limited.
John Melia	FAS Community Employment Supervisor, Ozanam Centre, Killorglin.
Patricia Spillane	FAS Community Employment Supervisor, Killorglin Community Council.
Tadgh O’ Donoghue	FAS Community Employment Supervisor, Kilgarvan.
Helen Brosnan	Tuosist Development Group, Tuosist Youth Club.
Sheila O’Sullivan	Chairperson Lauragh Community Group.
James O’Sullivan	Kenmare Conference of St. Vincent de Paul.
Joan Foley	Killorglin Conference of St. Vincent de Paul.
Jack O’Dwyer	Chairman Mid-Kerry Active Retired Group.
Tim O’Sullivan	Chairman, Sneem, Casltcove, Caherdaniel IRD.
Bridie Mangan	Retired Public Health Nurse, now nursing in a retirement home.
Mairead Lynch	Network Co-ordinator South West Kerry Women’s Association, Portmagee Community Development Company Ltd.

Bernadette Kennedy	South West Kerry Women's Association, Chairperson Ballinskelligs Women's Group.
Mary Grandfield	Citizens Information Centre, Cahersiveen.
Bridget Foley	Glencar FAS Community Employment Scheme, Meals on Wheels.
Paul O'Raw	Head of Community Development, South Kerry Development Partnership Limited.
Jane Brennan	Employment Equality Officer, South Kerry Development Partnership Limited.
Joe McCrohan	Agriculture Co-ordinator, South Kerry Development Partnership Limited.
Mary Lyne	Education and Training Co-ordinator, South Kerry Development Partnership Limited.
Paul Sweeney	Co-ordinator Local Employment Service South Kerry.
Breda Buckley	Mediator Local Employment Service, Cahersiveen.
Sinead Whyte	LEADER Plus Co-ordinator, South Kerry Development Partnership Limited.
Richard Mulchinock	Jobs club Facilitator, Local Employment Service, South Kerry.
Claire Thoma	LEADER Development Officer, Kenmare, South Kerry Development Partnership Limited.
Colin Barrett	Transport Co-ordinator, South Kerry Development Partnership Limited.
Anna Langford	FAS Community Employment scheme Employee, South Kerry Development Partnership Limited.

**List of District Electoral Divisions in Partnership sub-areas:**

<b>Greater Cahersiveen</b>	<b>Greater Killorglin</b>	<b>Greater Kenmare</b>	<b>Greater Killarney</b>
Bahaghs	Cloon	Ardea	Aghadoe
Ballinskelligs	Curraghbeg	Banawn	Brewsterfield
Ballybrack	Glanbehy	Cappach	Clydagh
Caher	Maum	Dawros	Coolies
Caherdaniel	Ballinvoher	Dromore	Dunloe
Canuig	Ballynacourty	Glanlee	Flesk
Castlequin	Inch	Glanlough	Headfort
Derrynane	Lack	Glanmore	Knocknahoe
Derriana	Caragh	Greenane	Lahard
Emlagh	Churchtown	Kenmare	Muckcross
Killinane	Curraghmore	Kilgarvan	
Lickeen	Dromin	Loughbrin	
Loughcurrane	Kilbonane	Reen	
Mastergeehy	Kilgobnet	Sneem	
Portmagee	Killorglin	Tahilla	
St. Finans	Miltown		
Teeranearagh	Boolteens		
Valentia	Kilgarrylander		
Castlecove	Kiltallagh		