



**Minister Hanafin visits Newbridge Family Resource Centre, Co. Kildare**

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D. today (*Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2008*) visited Newbridge Family Resource Centre (FRC) in Co. Kildare. Newbridge FRC offers adult education courses, childcare services and a centre in which community based groups can meet.

Speaking with staff at the Centre, Minister Hanafin spoke of the services available at Newbridge Family Resource Centre, saying that **“I can see that this is a centre of activity for everyone in the community. All ages are catered for, from young people in the youth club and homework club to the over 55’s group, all of which meet in the Centre. The childcare service for children aged between 14 months and 5 years and the pre-school, which currently has 36 children, are invaluable resources for the communities of Lakeside, Highfield and Dara Park.”**

Newbridge FRC is one of 107 Centres which are located throughout the country and are funded by the Department of Social and Family Affairs under the **Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme**. The aim of this Programme is to combat disadvantage by improving the function of the family unit. The emphasis in the projects is on the involvement of local communities in developing approaches to tackle the problems they face and on creating successful partnerships between the voluntary and statutory agencies in the area concerned.

Newbridge Family Resource Centre runs a number of adult education courses including a computer course, childcare course, exploring options course and



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sewing and embroidery class and a women's group, parent and toddler group, homework club, youth club, committees for five housing estates and FAS mentoring sessions all meet in the Centre.

Minister Hanafin went on to say **“the After School Activities, Bookmarks and Yard Games Co-operative projects which ran earlier this year were very successful and I'm pleased that the Department of Social and Family Affairs were able to help with funding. The cost of these projects was €5,000 and it shows that a little money and lot of willingness and co-operation can achieve a great deal in communities.”**

Minister Hanafin concluded by paying tribute to the work of those involved in Newbridge Family Resource Centre and wished them every success in their future work.

### **Note for Editors:**

The activities supported by the Family Resource Centres are designed to meet the needs of the local community. They include the provision of:

- information, advice and support to target groups and families in the area,
- practical assistance to community groups such as training, information and advice,
- education courses and training opportunities,
- child-care facilities for those attending courses provided by the project, and
- after-school clubs.

**ENDS**