



NEWS RELEASE

22nd May 2008

**Minister Hanafin officially opens Southend Family Resource Centre
in Wexford town**

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D. today (*Thursday 22nd May, 2008*) officially opened Southend Family Resource Centre in Wexford town.

Speaking with guests and staff at the Centre, Minister Hanafin spoke of the services available at Southend Family Resource Centre, saying that **“the services provided by community resource groups are often emotional and practical lifelines for those who may be going through particularly traumatic situations and experiencing a range of problems that combine to leave them feeling isolated and powerless”**.

Southend Family Resource Centre runs a range of programmes for groups and individuals. These include courses, such as Computers for Beginners and English as a Foreign Language. There is a Youth Drop-in Night and a Young Women’s Group and the Centre is used by a local Youth Club, a Rowing Club, a Football Club and a Drama Group. There is also an advocacy service available to help people with disabilities to access their rights and entitlements.

Minister Hanafin continued **“I am delighted to see that Southend Family Resource Centre welcomes and supports so many members of the local community. I’m told that the Centre was visited over 2,600 times by individuals and community groups during 2007. This shows what a valuable asset Southend Family Resource Centre is to the community it serves”**.



Minister Hanafin concluded by saying that **“Southend Family Resource Centre is not standing still but is continuing to grow and develop - I believe that the Board of Management is in the process of acquiring a purpose built community centre/sports centre. I am happy to say that the Family Resource Centre Programme is also growing. There is provision for a further six new Family Resource Centres for each year of the National Development Plan and the funding for the Programme will reach almost €21.5 million in 2008.**

Minister Hanafin concluded by congratulating those involved in getting Southend Family Resource Centre up and running and wished them every success in their work.

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