



Information and Advice services benefit people in Tallaght

***Minister Hanafin meets staff and volunteers providing service in
Tallaght MABS and CIC***

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D. today (27th February 2009) visited the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) and the Citizens Information Service (CIS) in Tallaght which serve a population of over 100,000 people.

Speaking to staff and assembled guests at the Money Advice and Budgeting Service Minister Hanafin said, **“the service provided by the five staff of the MABS office is an invaluable resource for the people of Tallaght. When people have problems with money they can feel at their most vulnerable. It is important that they realise that advice and guidance is available to deal with problems of indebtedness through the services of MABS. The fact that over 430 new clients approached this service for help during 2008 is a sign of the importance of having this service, particularly in the current economic downturn.”**

The MABS office in Tallaght, whose service also covers parts of Blessington and Saggart, first opened its doors in 1995. Minister Hanafin said, **“research has shown that lack of information about money management contributes to the difficulties that people on low incomes encounter. So I am pleased to see that the Tallaght MABS is also delivering a comprehensive Community Education Programme on all aspects of money management and budgeting to the people of Tallaght.”**



Department of Social and Family Affairs

MABS are funded by the Department of Social & Family Affairs and have offices in 65 locations throughout the country. For 2009, almost €18million has been allocated to fund the service. In 2008 some 16,600 new clients were seen by MABS. An additional 2,400 sought information about budgeting and money management from the local services and the MABS National Helpline received almost 11,000 calls.

Later in the day, Minister Hanafin visited the Tallaght Citizens Information Centre. Meeting the staff and volunteers, Minister Hanafin paid tribute to their work. **“Independent information on rights and entitlements is extremely important for all citizens. There has been a noticeable increase in queries dealt with by the Citizens Information Centre here in Tallaght since 1999 when just over 10,000 queries were dealt with. Last year, in 2008 the 10 staff dealt with over 24,000 queries.”** Nationwide, the CIS dealt with over 1.1 million enquiries in 2008 and almost 2.6 million people used www.citizensinformation.ie.

Minister Hanafin continued **“the introduction of a Disability Advocate Project in 2007 by Tallaght Citizens Information Services has proved an extremely successful project meeting a real need in the Dublin 24 area. The aim of the project is to develop an independent professional Advocacy service that informs, empowers and represents people with disabilities when accessing services. It focuses on targeting those who are marginalized and vulnerable and that is to be commended.”**

The Citizens Information Service provide free independent information and advice in relation to health, social welfare, housing, taxation, consumer matters, employment rights, careers and local information.

ENDS



Editors Note:

MABS is a national, free, confidential and independent service for people in debt or in danger of getting into debt. Professional and confidential advice is available. MABS money advisors help clients to assess their financial situation, make a budget plan for the future and deal with creditors.

The Money Advice and Budgeting Service can be accessed in three ways:

- Through 52 MABS companies operating in 65 locations around the country which provide a face-to face service;
- the MABS website www.mabs.ie which offers an online money management facility and
- The National MABS Helpline is available on **1890 283 438** (for the price of a local call) to take calls from members of the public seeking help and advice

The contact information for local MABS offices around the country is also available on www.mabs.ie

Hays House,
High street
Tallaght

Tel: (01) 4203278

Email: tallaght@mabs.ie



Department of Social and Family Affairs

Citizens Information Centre

The Citizens Information Board (formerly Comhairle) is responsible for supporting the provision of information, advice and advocacy on a wide range of social and civil services through:

- The web-based information sources www.citizensinformation.ie
- The Citizens Information Phone Service, a low call service available Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-9p.m. 1890777121
- The face to face services, the network of Citizens Information Services (CIS) nationwide offering information and advocacy services to the public. Contact information for the network of offices is available at www.citizensinformation.ie

Tallaght CIS (Main Office)

512 Main Street,
Tallaght

Tel: (01) 4515887

Email: tcic@eircom.net

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday: 9.30am to 1.30pm and 2.15pm – 5.00pm (closes 4.30pm on Friday)

Tallaght CIC



The Square Shopping Centre

Level 1,

Tallaght

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday: 10am to 5.00pm (closes 4.30pm on Friday) and does not close during lunch hours