



## **Hanafin opens Ballymun Money Advice and Budgeting Service Offices**

### ***MABS offers practical support to local communities***

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D. today (30<sup>th</sup> January 2009) officially opened new premises for the Ballymun Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) which was established in 1993 and covers all of the Ballymun area.

Speaking with the assembled staff and guests Minister Hanafin said, **“there is a strong sense of community spirit in Ballymun and the Ballymun MABS works closely with a wide range of local statutory and voluntary organisations to provide an integrated system of support for MABS clients.”**

The Ballymun MABS has helped almost 1,000 clients and received funding of over €343,000 under the MABS programme in 2008. Minister Hanafin went on to say **“Since the beginning of the Ballymun Regeneration Programme, the Ballymun MABS has worked in a most practical way with the local community. The six MABS staff in Ballymun work with tenants moving from the flat complexes into their new homes by assisting them with budgeting and managing the costs involved in moving houses. They also highlight the alternative credit options to moneylenders who may have targeted the new homeowners.”**

Research shows that lack of information about money management contributes to the difficulties that people on low incomes encounter. Commenting on this, Minister Hanafin said, **“I am pleased to see that the Ballymun MABS is**



**addressing this issue by providing information and education on all aspects of money management and budgeting. This takes place in the community with education programmes provided to local groups such as womens groups, traveller groups, community education schemes, and people with disabilities.”**

The MABS service has 53 MABS Companies operating a service nationwide in 65 locations. 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.

**ENDS**

**Editor’s 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](http://www.mabs.ie) which offers an online money management facility and
- the MABS national Helpline 1890 283438 (or 1890 BUDGET) which aims to provide ease of access to MABS support for those experiencing debt problems.



## **Department of Social and Family Affairs**

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The contact information for local MABS offices around the country is also available on [www.mabs.ie](http://www.mabs.ie)

### **Contact details for Ballymun MABS are as follows:**

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