



Minister Hanafin visits three Community Facilities in Tallaght

Centres are a focal point for communities to deliver vital services - Hanafin

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D. today (*Friday, 27th February 2009*) visited three centres in the Tallaght area which offer families and communities a wide range of supports and activities from education and training courses to supports for families and counselling services.

Minister Hanafin began her visit to Tallaght in Killinarden Family Resource Centre (FRC) which offers a number of services and opportunities to the local community. Minister Hanafin said **"local people can avail of courses in literacy, personal development and parenting in Killinarden FRC. There is counselling available and childcare for those who are participating in education and training courses. Callers can avail of information on a wide range of issues and services and drop into the coffee shop which is open to all callers."** Killinarden FRC will receive funding of over €140,000 in 2009 from the Family Support Agency under the aegis of the Department of Social and Family Affairs to support its wide range of programmes supporting communities.

Minister Hanafin also visited An Cosán, the Centre of Learning, Leadership and Enterprise in Jobstown. Speaking with the assembled staff and guests Minister Hanafin said, **"An Cosán really is a pathway to greater opportunities for all who participate on programmes. It is quite clear from what I've seen and from the people I've met here that coming to An Cosán is indeed the path to learning and leadership in a community setting. An Cosán offers a variety of courses ranging from childcare to computing and from estate management to literacy. Childcare is available for children aged from three months to four years and free childcare is offered to participants on courses in the**



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Centre.” Over the past three years some €270,000 has been provided by the Department to fund pre-employment education and training programmes for lone parents at the centre. An Cosán also received funding of almost €23,000 in 2008 towards marriage and bereavement counselling services from the Family Support Agency.

The Department also provided €18,000 in funding for an innovative support programme for grandparents. CSO figures for the Tallaght West area indicates an increasing over 55 years of age cohort of population. Between 2002 – 2006, the 55+ group increased by 35%, compared with a national average increase for this age group of 10%. **“Having the assistance of grandparents in the family is the bedrock of support for parents and their children. The life experiences and support from grandparents can help families through times of stress and provide so much stability to children in families”** said Minister Hanafin

Minister Hanafin also met staff and participants availing of services in St. Kevin’s FRC, which has been operating in Kilnamanagh since 1994. Minister Hanafin said, **“St. Kevin’s FRC is a superb resource for young people in Kilnamanagh with summer projects, arts and crafts programme and youth services available. An important element of the service provided by St. Kevin’s FRC is the counselling service and I am pleased to support this work with funding through the Family Support Agency.”** St. Kevin’s FRC is receiving funding of over €113,000 in 2009 for its range of programmes provided.

ENDS

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:



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- 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.

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