



Services provided by South Kildare Citizens Information Service prime example of active citizenship

Minister Hanafin visits Naas Citizens Information Centre

Mary Hanafin T.D., Minister for Social and Family Affairs today (7th November 2008) visited Naas Citizens Information Centre (CIC) which, together with Newbridge and Athy CICs, forms the South Kildare Citizens Information Service (CIS).

Meeting staff and volunteers, Minister Hanafin said, **“Naas CIC was established in 1975 when the staff dealt with 200 enquiries in its first year. This year, the staff are dealing with around 300 enquiries per month. This shows just how valuable the service offered by the CIC to the growing population of Naas and its environs has become.”**

South Kildare Citizens Information Service operates with the assistance of over 60 volunteers. Remarking on this, Minister Hanafin said, **“the Government is promoting ‘active citizenship’ – where citizens get involved in their local communities. The volunteers who give their time to South Kildare CIS are a marvellous example of active citizenship and are to be commended for their generosity of spirit.”**

Naas CIC is one of a network of 106 Citizens Information Centres and a further 162 outreach services throughout the country which provides information and advice in relation to a range of social services. Naas CIC also organises a clinic where solicitors from the Free Legal Advice Centre meet members of the public once a month.

Minister Hanafin went on to say, **“I know that Naas CIC is planning to move to new premises shortly and that there are plans to expand the existing part-time service to a full-time service to cater for the 20,000 people who are living in and around the Naas area.”** The Minister wished the staff



Department of Social and Family Affairs

and volunteers every success with the move and their future work.

The CICs provide free independent information and advice in relation to health, social welfare, housing, taxation, consumer matters, employment rights, careers and local information. Information is also available at the national Citizens Information Phone Service (lo call 1890 777 121 from 9am to 9pm Monday to Friday) and the Citizens Information website (www.citizensinformation.ie).

The Department of Social and Family Affairs is providing over €30 million to fund Citizens Information services around Ireland in 2008.

Editor's note:

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

Opening hours in Naas CIC: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am – 12pm and 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Contact details are as follows:

Telephone: 045 879 489

Email: naas@citinfo.ie

ENDS