



Minister Hanafin officially opens Three Drives Family Resource Centre in Tipperary Town

The newly appointed Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D. today (*Thursday 15th May, 2008*) officially opened the Three Drives Family Resource Centre in Tipperary Town. The centre, which has been in existence since 2002, is expanding to provide even further services for local people and is at the heart of the community in Greenane Drive.

Addressing guests and staff at a special event in the centre in Carronreddy, Minister Hanafin said that **“Three Drives provides a huge support for men, women and children in their locality who are experiencing stressful times in their lives as well as providing key supports to families in today’s changing Ireland.”** In the first four months of this year almost 350 local people have accessed services in the centre. Services range from IT training at all levels, CV preparation, Reading Recovery to Art Therapy, a Young Mothers Group and First Aid Training.

Minister Hanafin said **“there are huge advantages to the community over the years through the development of centres such as this fine one being aided by the Family Support Agency. I believe that families are central to our society and family support is core to the work of all Family Resource Centres. It is evident too, that this is a central issue for the Government. The Government’s support for the Family Resource Centre programme extended to over €21million this year and demonstrates our commitment and support for communities.”** The funding available this year will allow for up to six additional Family Resource Centres to open in 2008, bring the total open throughout the country to 112.

Earlier in the day Minister Hanafin also took the opportunity to visit the Knockanrawley Resource Centre. This centre was established as a community development project and has supported and hosted the Three Drives Family Resource Centre and also the Tipperary Rural Travellers Project in the past. Minister Hanafin said their **“ongoing commitment to encouraging people, groups and the community as a whole to make changes that enhance their lives through the various schemes and training courses it provides are a great credit to all involved.”**

Concluding, Minister Hanafin thanked all those associated with the centre in Carronreddy including the Chairperson Joanne Ryan. Minister Hanafin also paid tribute to the local community volunteers, without whom she said the success of the Family Resource Centres would not be possible.



Department of Social and Family Affairs

Note for Editors:

The aim of the **Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme** is to combat disadvantage and improve the function of the family as a unit. The emphasis in the projects is on the involvement of local communities in developing approaches to tackle the problems they face and on creating successful partnerships between the voluntary and statutory agencies in the area concerned. Family Resource Centres involve people from marginalised groups and areas of disadvantage at all levels in the project.

There are three Family Resource Centres in Tipperary:

Millenium Centre, Ballingarry, Thurles
Spafield Family Resource Centre, Cashel
Three Drives, Tipperary Town.

About Three Drives Family Resource Centre

The courses/programmes running in the Three Drives FRC are as follows;

- Art Therapy
- Women's group
- Young Mothers group
- IT training at all levels.
- CV preparation
- English classes for Foreign Nationals
- Reading Recovery Programme
- Youth Art Programme and performance Art.
- Summer Camps/Halloween & Christmas activities
- First Aid
- Cookery courses for adults and children
- Drug awareness programme
- Assertiveness training
- Art & Crafts
- Cookery for special needs students
- Flower arranging
- Parent & Toddler
- First Aid training
- Alternative Therapies & herbal remedies

For further information please contact Ger Butler at 087 948 3511 or Niamh Fitzgerald at 087 254 7232

ENDS