



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí Department of Social Protection

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Minister Burton opens new offices for the Retirement Planning Council of Ireland

The Minister for Social protection, Joan Burton TD, today (Thursday, 17th May) officially opened the Retirement Planning Council's new offices in Pinebrook House, Harcourt Street in Dublin 2.

Speaking at the opening, the Minister said: **"I want to acknowledge the work which the Retirement Planning Council does in the area of preparing individuals and their families for retirement and for an active life post retirement. The Council, through its courses, plays a key role in informing and educating retirees and others to support them in making the right choices for themselves.**

"It is important that everyone should consider the sort of life they would like to live in retirement, plan accordingly and be aware of issues which may impact upon retirement such as personal finances, health issues, relationship changes and changes to personal routines. The *Statement of Best Practice in Retirement Planning - A Guide for Employers* which the Council has developed and which is being launched today will help to support the awareness of employers of their role in ensuring a smooth transition from work to retirement for their employees."

The Retirement Planning Council of Ireland was founded in 1974. The Council is based in Dublin and provides retirement courses for people in a number of locations including Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford, Tullamore, Dundalk and Sligo.

The Council aims to prepare people for the period of their lives which begins after they retire from work and for this, they have a core team of six trainers with a range of skills and qualifications and from a range of backgrounds all possessing a FETAC Level 6 Train the Trainers qualification.

Minister Burton referred to the sustainability and adequacy issues currently facing pensions systems across Europe and in Ireland and she pointed out that compared to the rest of the population, Ireland's pensioners have the lowest poverty rates (at 0.9%) and are least likely to be at risk of poverty).

"As a Government, it is important that we support active ageing and a high quality of life for people of all ages both during their working lives and post retirement. This is one of the reasons that my Department is actively looking at issues such as barriers to work, education and training for older workers to support those who wish to

remain in work or to take on further training or education with a view to remaining in, or rejoining, the workforce.

To further inform future policy, at my request, the Government recently asked the OECD to examine Ireland's overall pension policy in light of the economic downturn and to ensure that it meets the needs of future generations. It is expected that initial findings will be available from the OECD in September. Consultation will then take place with the the social partners and organisations representing older people and the pension industry. I know the Retirement Planning Council has participated in previous consultation events and I look forward to your continued input in the future."

PRESS RELEASE ENDS