



**Minister Cullen visits local MABS and publishes  
Money Saving Tips Leaflet**

**Minister Martin Cullen TD** this afternoon (Monday 21 January 2008) urged families who are anxious about finances in the run up to their child's First Holy Communion or Confirmation to seek and get advice and support from the **Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)**. The Minister was speaking at the Waterford MABS on Catherine Street at the publication of a new leaflet which aims to provide money saving tips for families who have children receiving First Holy Communion or Confirmation in the coming months.

Speaking to Catherine Street MABS Board of Management and Staff at the publication of the leaflet, Martin Cullen TD, Minister for Social and Family Affairs said: "A Confirmation or a First Holy Communion ceremony is an important day, - a landmark day if you like - and should be a memorable, proud and happy occasion for the child, its parents, grandparents, sponsor, brothers, sisters, class mates and school. However all the pressure of trying to make the day special for the child can cause parents a lot of stress, particularly if they feel costs for the day are starting to increase. Peer pressure, even at this young age can also increase the cost of the day for the family."

Minister Cullen, TD continued: "This leaflet which is available at the Waterford MABS office has very useful tips for parents or guardians about thinking ahead, early planning and budgeting for the day. I would encourage people who feel they need some help with their budgeting and financial planning around this family occasion to get in touch with Anna Walsh and her staff here in Catherine Street."



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Anna Walsh the MABS Money Advice Coordinator added: "Communion and Confirmation celebrations are important milestones in a child's life and so need to be celebrated. MABS advice is that now is the time to start planning for that financial cost. It would be sad if your child's First Communion or Confirmation day resulted in a heavy financial burden for all the family."

Complimenting Waterford MABS Chairperson, Michael Doherty and Money Advice Co Ordinator Anna Walsh on the work of their branch, Minister Cullen said: "MABS help clients to assess their financial situation, make a budget plan for the future and deal with creditors. One of the key objectives of this service here at 26 Catherine Street is to provide intensive on-the-ground work in priority areas on debt prevention and the alleviation of hardship caused by indebtedness. I would encourage people who need help in managing their finances - at any time during the course of the year - to get in touch with MABS for confidential support either through this office, or through the **MABS National Helpline number 1890 283438.**"

Waterford MABS was first established in 1993 in the Ballybeg area of Waterford city and was one of the first of five MABS offices to be set up under an original 1992 pilot programme. The MABS network, which comes under the remit of the Minister's Department of Social and Family Affairs has 65 MABS office locations around the country. Almost €18 million has been provided by the Department to fund MABS in 2008.

Catherine Street MABS is open Monday to Friday from 9:am to 5:pm, telephone 051 857929. It also has nine outreach weekly clinics. A second MABS - the West Waterford MABS - is based at the Civic Offices in Dungarvan.



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Waterford MABS would like to acknowledge the work undertaken by Siobhan Slevin on the content of the money saving tips leaflet published today. Siobhan Slevin is based at Dublin North City MABS.

**ENDS**

### **Editor's note:**

The MABS national telephone Helpline, (lo-call 1890 283438) operates Monday to Friday from 9:am to 8:pm and aims also to provide easy access to MABS advice for those experiencing debt problems.

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