



**NEWS RELEASE**

**June 26 2009**

**Minister Hanafin visits expanded Ballymote Family Resource Centre in Sligo**

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D. today (*Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009*) visited Ballymote Family Resource Centre (FRC) in Co. Sligo which has recently undergone a major refurbishment to enable the centre to expand its services and activities.

Speaking with the assembled staff and guests, Minister Hanafin said **"I am happy that the Family Support Agency has been able to support Ballymote FRC in its development over the years, and in particular, with the recent refurbishment. Services like the Homework Club and Parent and Toddler Groups provide vital support to the families who avail of these services. Through services such as Active Age Groups, supporting Second Chance Education and support to individuals and families around addiction and substance abuse, Ballymote FRC is responding to the diversity of needs in the local community."**

Ballymote FRC has been funded under the Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme since 2001. In 2008, the Ballymote FRC received €37,000 under this programme for the refurbishment of extra space in the Centre. Ballymote FRC is budgeted to receive over €134,000 in 2009 for its day to day funding.

Ballymote FRC is involved in supporting Second Chance Education, Parent and Toddler groups, a Homework Club, Active Age Groups, a Carers Group, Teaching English as a Foreign Language (T.E.F.L.) and various other groups. Minister



Hanafin continued **“Ballymote FRC acts as a focal point for the community of Ballymote. This centre, which is run by a committed and energetic management committee, works well with the community in which it is based particularly with young people, families, elderly and lone parents and also run many successful educational courses.**

**The Government recognises the important role played by community groups around the country in improving the quality of life of people in the community by helping them to change their situation for the better. It is through a combination of local community initiatives on the ground and support from statutory agencies and other bodies that local communities can realise their potential and have a real say in their own development.”**

Ballymote FRC is one of 107 Centres which are located throughout the country and are funded by the Department of Social and Family Affairs under the Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme. The aim of this Programme is to combat disadvantage by improving the function of the family 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.

**PRESS RELEASE 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:

- 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.