



MINISTER CULLEN LAUNCHES BARNARDOS AND FAMILY SUPPORT AGENCY *PARENTING POSITIVELY* SERIES

Minister for Social and Family Affairs **Martin Cullen TD**, today (**Tuesday 27 November**) launched the Parenting Positively series of booklets jointly produced by the Family Support Agency and Barnardos.

The series of nine free booklets provide information and guidance to parents of children between the ages of six and 12 years and cover general parenting skills as well as life issues such as separation, bullying, death and domestic abuse.

Speaking at the launch of the booklets Minister Cullen said: "Being a parent is one of the most important, challenging and yet rewarding roles that anyone can undertake. The vast majority of parents do an excellent job in rearing their children with all the necessary love, care and attention that is required.

"However, with increasing pressures being put on modern families and with many parents not having ready access to the traditional extended family, the development of quality information on positive parenting is a timely and very welcome initiative."

The Minister continued: "These booklets cover general parenting skills but also take us through issues such as helping children cope with and understand separation, bullying, domestic abuse and death. All very serious topics for young minds. Parents have one of the toughest jobs in the world, particularly when faced with these issues which may be having a devastating impact on them personally, but also on their children. The series offers parents and children vital guidance, information and support through difficult times." The Minister added: "I very much welcome that there are booklets for parents to read themselves and then there are the more easier-to-read illustrated equivalent for the young child."

The Minister said that as a resource he expects the booklets will not just be used by parents; "but also by those working with families and children such as teachers, social workers, health professionals and counsellors."

Parenting positively is relevant to the work of the Family Support Agency in its provision of a Family Mediation Service for couples separating; the funding it awards to organisations providing marriage, child and bereavement counselling services and to the 106 Family Resource Centres operating under the Agency's Resource Centre programme. Each year, Barnardos works directly with just



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under 5,000 children and families throughout Ireland delivering services from over 30 locations.

Complimenting both agencies on their collaborative approach, Minister Cullen said: "The publication of these nine booklets marks a further forward step in improved information provision for families. The partnership approach of the Family Support Agency and Barnardos in this exercise is to be welcomed and reveals what can be achieved when agencies come together and work collaboratively."

To obtain copies of these booklets please contact the Family Support Agency (www.fsa.ie) or Barnardos (www.barnardos.ie)

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