



PRESS RELEASE

30/10/09

Minister Hanafin opens new city centre Social Welfare Local Office in King's Inns Street, Dublin 1

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin, T.D., today (*Friday, 30th October*) opened a new Social Welfare Local Office in King's Inns Street in Dublin City Centre. The office, which accommodates over 80 staff, replaces the old office in North Cumberland Street, which was in use for 36 years.

Speaking with staff and guests in the new office, Minister Hanafin said **"staff in this new office process applications for Jobseeker's payments, One Parent Family Payment and Personal Public Service numbers as well as providing information on social welfare services and schemes. The new premises provides modern facilities which offer customers comfortable surroundings and privacy in which to carry out their business."**

In addition to these services, two Facilitators provide a range of support services to groups such as those who are long-term unemployed, lone parents and people with disabilities to further their education and training with a view to finding sustainable employment or to return to the labour market. **"Customers can also avail of the services of the Community Welfare Service of the HSE who are now based here and I welcome this close working relationship between our organisations"**, said Minister Hanafin.

Minister Hanafin went on to remark how the Department of Social and Family Affairs has changed and grown, saying **"the whole of Dublin at one time was served by just four offices, only one of which was purpose built. The**



others were two converted churches and a converted clothing factory. Today the population of Dublin is served by a network of 17 offices based in the communities they serve and thus providing a truly local service. The office we are in today is an excellent example of the type of modern facility that we want our business to be conducted in.”

King’s Inns Street Social Welfare Local Office serves customers from the north inner city to Clontarf, Drumcondra, Glasnevin and parts of Santry while applications for Personal Public Service numbers are processed for customers from the greater Dublin area.

Commending the staff on the efficient and dedicated support they offer to customers, the Minister said **“the staff of this office strive to provide an excellent level of service to their customers and have an excellent record for processing claims for jobseeker’s payment quickly and efficiently using the fast track appointment system where people claiming Jobseeker’s Benefit get an appointment and have their claims decided there and then.”**

King’s Inns Street Social Welfare Local Office is open daily to the public from 9.30am - 4pm (opens Thursday at 10.30am) and can be contacted at (01) 8899500. It is one of some 61 Social Welfare Local Offices providing services to the public throughout the country.

Minister Hanafin concluded by thanking the Office and Area Managers Kathleen O’Donnell and Pat Curley and all the staff of the office for their efforts in transferring the work from North Cumberland St so successfully. The Minister also



Department of Social and Family Affairs

thanked the Office of Public Works and the developers for creating this modern facility for the customers and staff.

ENDS