



## **More than 13,000 people avail of money advice and information services in Thurles and surrounding areas**

### *Minister Hanafin visits Thurles CIC and MABS*

More than 13,000 people in Thurles and the surrounding areas used the services of Thurles Citizens Information Centre (CIC) and Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) in 2007. Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D., visiting these offices today (26<sup>th</sup> September 2008), said that **"this clearly demonstrates the value of these services in the local community."**

Thurles CIC in Croke Street, Thurles, which has been in operation since 1975, is one of a network for Citizens Information Centres and outreach services in Co. Tipperary. Speaking with staff in the Thurles Centre, Minister Hanafin said, **"information, advice and advocacy is available in relation to all aspects of public services and entitlements and a free legal service is offered in Thurles CIC once a month by FLAC."**

The Minister continued, **"in 2007, the five Citizens Information Centres in Co. Tipperary - Thurles, Clonmel, Tipperary, Roscrea and Nenagh - and the outreach services dealt with over 47,000 enquiries from members of the public."** The Minister praised the staff of the Co. Tipperary Citizens Information Service and some 80 volunteers who assisted in dealing with these enquiries.

The Department of Social and Family Affairs is providing approximately €30 million to fund Citizens Information services around Ireland in 2008.

Minister Hanafin went on to visit Thurles MABS who are also involved in providing information through a Community Education Programme and public awareness campaigns. Thurles MABS money advice staff cover the Thurles, Templemore, Roscrea and Borrisoleigh areas.

Speaking at the Thurles MABS office, Minister Hanafin said, **"MABS is a free, confidential and independent service for people in debt or in danger of getting into debt. MABS advice can be accessed by calling into one of 65 MABS office locations around the country for a face-to-face service; through accessing the website or through the lo-call national telephone Helpline number, 1890 283438."**

Almost €18 million has been provided by the Department of Social and Family Affairs to fund MABS in 2008.

Later in the day, Minister Hanafin visited Thurles Social Welfare Local Office which deals with claims for Jobseeker's Benefit, Jobseeker's Allowances and One Parent Family Payment and provides information on the full range of social welfare services offered by the Department. The office has a number of Social Welfare Inspectors and



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a Facilitator as well as 16 staff to deal with a claim load of over 1,500 people currently on the live register in the Thurles area.

Minister Hanafin commented **“the Facilitator in Thurles Social Welfare Local Office is a most valuable resource for the local community. She will work with people who are on the Live Register who are seeking employment or training opportunities. The staff in the office are also available to provide help and advice on the full range of social welfare services and schemes which are available to the wider public.”**

Thurles Social Welfare Local Office at Stradavoher, Thurles, Co. Tipperary opens from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closes at 3 p.m. on Wednesdays).



## Department of Social and Family Affairs

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

The **Money Advice and Budgeting Service** (MABS) provides support to people who are over-indebted and need help and advice in coping with debt problems. Professional and confidential advice is available. MABS money advisors help clients to assess their financial situation, make a budget plan for the future and deal with creditors.

The Money Advice and Budgeting Service can be accessed in three ways:

- Through 52 MABS companies operating in 65 locations around the country which provide a face-to face service;
- the MABS website [www.mabs.ie](http://www.mabs.ie) which offers an online money management facility and
- the MABS national Helpline 1890 283438 (or 1890 BUDGET) which aims to provide ease of access to MABS support for those experiencing debt problems.

The contact information for local MABS offices around the country is also available on [www.mabs.ie](http://www.mabs.ie)

Tipperary North MABS, Friar Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary

Tel:(0504) 23510 and (0504) 23510

Fax:0504 23737

Email: [thurles@mabs.ie](mailto:thurles@mabs.ie)

The **Citizens Information Board** (formerly Comhairle) is responsible for supporting the provision of information, advice and advocacy on a wide range of social and civil services through:

- The web-based information sources [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)
- The Citizens Information Phone Service, a low call service available Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-9p.m. 1890777121
- The face to face services, the network of Citizens Information Services (CIS) nationwide offering information and advocacy services to the public. Contact information for the network of offices is available at [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)

**Thurles CIC, 34/35 Croke Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary**

Tel: +353 504 22399

Fax: +353 504 22488

Email: [thurles@citinfo.ie](mailto:thurles@citinfo.ie)

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri: 10.00a.m. - 1.00p.m. and 2.00p.m. - 4.00p.m.

Thurs evening: 7.30p.m. - 8.30p.m.

FLAC First Thursday of each month: 7.30p.m. - 8.30p.m.

**ENDS**