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Department of Social Protection**

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Minister Ó Cuív visits Navan Citizens Information Centre and Money Advice and Budgeting office.

Minister for Social Protection, **Éamon Ó Cuív** TD this afternoon (2nd Sept 2010) visited and met with staff working in his Department's **Social Welfare Local Office** at Kennedy House, Kennedy Road Navan and the **Local Community Welfare Office**. He also visited the **Citizens Information Centre (CIC)** which is located on Canon Row, Navan.

Speaking with his Department's staff at the Social Welfare Local Office and the Local Community Welfare Office the Minister thanked them for their commitment and said that without their dedication "we would not get our vital work done in supporting our customers who depend so much on our services."

Later in the afternoon, the Minister visited Navan Citizens Information Centre.

A citizen's information service (CIS) has existed in Navan since 1976 and was one of the original key centres established in the country in 1997. In total in County Meath, the Citizens Information Service operates three **Citizens Information Centres (CICs)**. These are in Ashbourne, Navan and Trim. There are a further three outreach services in Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin and Kells.

Speaking today at Navan Citizens Information Centre, Minister Ó Cuív said: "County Meath's Citizens Information Service takes pride on being recognised



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by the public, local agencies and statutory organisations as the best port of call for a full information, advice and advocacy service. I was here in April for the official opening when Navan CIS recently co-located with the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS). Since then they have undertaken initiatives such as hosting outreach initiatives and Q and A sessions on same day in the same location as MABS. Meath CIS is providing a one-stop-location in order to make it easier for clients to move between services and thereby keeping the citizen at the centre of everything they do.”

To date in 2010, Meath’s citizens information service has dealt with 6,310 callers to the centres and to the outreach locations, and have answered a total of 7,999 queries.

The Minister also commended the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) which provides assistance to people who are over-indebted and need help and advice in coping with debt problems.

Minister Ó Cuív concluded his visit by wishing the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and all of those involved in County Meath CIS every success in their future work.

ENDS



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Editor's note:

Contact details for the Navan Citizens Information Centre are as follows:

Meath Citizens Information Service

1 Canon Row (Floor 2), Navan

Tel: +353 46 9074086

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Nationally, the Citizens Information Board 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
- The Citizens Information Phone Service, a low call service available Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-9p.m. 1890 777 121
- 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

The MABS National Telephone Helpline is available from 9am to 8pm, Monday to Friday at lo-call number 1890 283 438 and budgeting and money management information can be accessed 24 hours a day at <http://www.mabs.ie/>.

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