



NEWS RELEASE

December 12 2008

Minister Hanafin visits Croom Family Resource Centre, Co. Limerick

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D. today (*Friday, 12th December 2008*) visited Croom Family Resource Centre in Co. Limerick. Croom FRC operates a mother and toddler group and the Citizens Information Board uses an office in the Centre. The Centre also provides counselling services and facilitates meetings of older people in the community.

The Centre has been funded under the Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme since 2005. In 2008, the Croom FRC received over €85,000 under this programme.

Speaking with staff at the Centre, Minister Hanafin said, **“Croom FRC is located in a very central position on the Main Street in Croom. However, I see that space in the existing premises is limited and I understand the Centre is hoping to secure additional space nearby. This will enable the staff to respond more comprehensively to the needs of the community and to develop support groups for older people, young people, parents and people with disabilities.”**

Croom 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.



Croom FRC is one of the newer Family Resource Centres in the Programme but already it is establishing itself as a wonderful resource centre for Croom and the surrounding area. Minister Hanafin paid tribute to the work of those involved in the Centre and wished them every success with their plans to expand their services.

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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.