



**NEWS RELEASE**

**March 22 2010**

**Minister Hanafin officially opens Clones Family Resource Centre which serves broad community**

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D. today (Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010) officially opened Clones Family Resource Centre (FRC), in McCurtain Street, Clones, Co. Monaghan.

Speaking with guests and staff at the Centre, Minister Hanafin said **“I am delighted that the Family Support Agency has been able to support Clones FRC in its development since 2007. This Centre provides information, advice and support, to lone parents, unemployed people, early school leavers, Travellers, non-Irish nationals and many others in the local community.”**

Clones 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 Centre has been funded under the Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme since 2008 and is budgeted to receive over €103,000 funding in 2010. This funding will go towards the employment costs of a fulltime Co-Ordinator, a part-time Development Outreach Worker, a part-time Administrator and other day to day costs.

Minister Hanafin continued **“Clones FRC offers a wide range of services from a Parent and Toddler group, to a drop in centre for information and advice about education courses and training opportunities offered. It also supports the development of new communities in Clones and I was delighted to hear the FRC hosted a fun integration event with music, food and sport last summer. It is very obvious from the quarterly produced newsletter that Clones FRC is at the very heart of the local community – something that is emphasised by the fact that the application for an FRC in the area was representative of over 50 community and voluntary organisations in Clones.”**

Minister Hanafin paid tribute to the staff and management committee saying **“the staff in the centre are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and well-being of people living in Clones and the wider area. They work hard to identify and address inequality at individual and group level and seek to foster a sense of value within this community. This is particularly**



**important in these difficult times as people face new pressures and fresh challenges.”**

Minister Hanafin concluded by wishing the management committee and all of those involved, including many volunteers, in the Centre every success in their future work.

**PRESS RELEASE ENDS**

**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, advice and photocopying facilities,
- education courses and training opportunities,
- child-care facilities for those attending courses provided by the project and
- running of after-school clubs.

**Clones Family Resource Centre**

4 McCurtain Street

Clones

Co. Monaghan

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**Opening hours:** Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5.00pm