



Citizens Information and Money Advice available under one roof in Navan, Co. Meath

Minister Ó Cuív opens joint premises for Meath Citizens Information Service (CIS) and Meath Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív T.D., today (*Thursday, 29th April 2010*) officially opened the new premises for the Meath Citizens Information Service (CIS) and the Meath Money Advice and Budgeting Service – both of which are based at 1 Canon Row, Navan, Co. Meath.

Addressing the staff, volunteers and invited guests in the new offices, Minister Ó Cuív said, **“this is my first official opening of a joint venture, such as this, since I took up my new post as Minister for Social and Family Affairs and I want to congratulate you on your customer friendly approach in having these complimentary services available to the people of Co. Meath under one roof in a fully accessible environment.”**

Meath CIS has been in Navan since 1976 and has nine full and part-time staff and 18 volunteers to provide free independent information and advice in relation to health, social welfare, housing, taxation, consumer matters and employment rights. The Meath MABS was established in 1996 and four money advice staff give free, confidential and independent money advice. Both organisations also provide outreach services in a number of locations around Co. Meath.

Minister Ó Cuív went on to say **“the population of Co. Meath has increased by almost 50% in the 10 years from 1996 to 2006 – the second highest in the country after Fingal in Dublin. The staff and volunteers of these services provide a first class service to this large and diverse population. Meath MABS delivers a Community Education Programme to a wide and varied number of groups as well as public awareness campaigns involving local media. Meath CIS has also proved itself to be innovative and proactive in providing information to non-Irish nationals who may have language difficulties and it was the first CIS to provide a lo-call service to customers. The CIS is actively involved with a number of local organisations**



Department of Social and Family Affairs

and undertakes a high level of advocacy in the areas of employment and social welfare.”

In 2009, the network of 42 CIS's provided service from 268 locations across the country and dealt with almost 1 million queries while some 19,000 new clients were seen by MABS last year. An additional 3,800 people sought information about budgeting and money management from the local services and the MABS National Helpline received almost 25,000 calls.

ENDS

Note for Editors:

Meath Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)

1 Cannon Row,
Navan,
Co. Meath.
Telephone: (046) 9072836
Email: navan@mabs.ie

The service holds five outreach clinics in Dunshaughlin, Ashbourne, Dunboyne, Kells and Trim.

The National MABS Helpline is available on locall **1890 283 438** to take calls from members of the public seeking help and advice or on their website at www.mabs.ie.

Meath Citizens Information Service (Ltd.)

1 Canon Row,
Navan,
Co. Meath.
Telephone: (046) 9074086
Email: navan@citinfo.ie
Freephone: 1800 206 506

Outreaches are provided in Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin and Kells.

The Citizens Information Phone Service is available on locall **1890 777 121** to take calls from members of the public seeking help and advice or on their website at www.citizensinformation.ie