



**An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection**

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**Minister Burton officially opens Bandon Voluntary  
Employment Service**

***Pioneering community-backed employment service assists in the  
fight against unemployment***

The Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton TD, this evening (29<sup>th</sup> September) officially opened the Voluntary Employment Service at the Riverview Shopping Centre in Bandon. Speaking at the opening Minister Burton said: *"It is very encouraging to see communities taking it upon themselves to assist in the fight against unemployment and it is clear to see that the people of Bandon and its environs have taken up this challenge with gusto.*

*There is no doubt that doing everything feasible to remain active during periods of joblessness does lead to better outcomes for both the individual and for society as a whole.*

*The service pioneered here by West Cork Development, along with their volunteers augurs well for the future of employment, economy and community in Bandon."*

The service, operating since May 2011, provides:

- Computers with broadband access
- Printing & photo-copying for jobseeking purposes.
- Books, pamphlets and similar resource materials for jobseekers.
- A jobs notice board and a training notice board for the Bandon area.
- Information on a wide variety of supports and services available for jobseekers and details of how to access them.
- A training and meeting room is available for use.



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There are also trained volunteers available to assist jobseekers with most aspects of the jobseeking challenge. The service is available three mornings per week and the premises are available to others wishing to provide services to jobseekers.

Minister Burton continued: *"I must commend the way in which all sectors of the community have come together in this venture. The volunteers are selflessly giving their time and skills while local business people have played their part in terms of providing offices supplies, PCs and covering rental costs. I believe that West Cork Development Partnership intends to replicate this model throughout West Cork, beginning with Clonakilty, which will commence operations this autumn. These plans demonstrate how successful the Bandon Voluntary Employment Service has been and I wish you well in these and your other endeavours."*

**ENDS**