



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release

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“Youth Centres and Youth Workers Key to Healthy Local Communities Minister is Told at Wexford Opening” by Leading Youth Organisation

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald today opened a new integrated Youth Information Centre and Youth Cafe in Wexford Town. Ms. Fitzgerald heard presentations about the positive models of youth development that are in every local community around the country. Patrick Burke, CEO of Youth Work Ireland, outlined at the opening the potential for local youth services to play a major role in the social and economic recovery of Ireland. Mr. Burke also emphasised the funding for key local youth services had been massively hit by Government cutbacks in the last number of years and was now close to breaking point. Kieran Donoghue regional Director of FDYS in Wexford welcomed the Minister and said the local facility would be used by thousands of local young people from the area and this was a key impact that the local youth services had in the south east.

“We are thrilled that Frances Fitzgerald was able to open such a key facility in such an important area for us. We have taken the opportunity to showcase how quality youth work can have a huge impact on local communities in areas like Wexford. The Minister has already attended a number of events focussing on the needs and indeed contribution of young people in Ireland today and we have been reinforcing the huge importance of keeping a focus on these young people’s future. The facility in Wexford illustrates the potential for a positive and joined up approach to young people by Government and well supported local voluntary youth services are key to this” Said Patrick Burke, Chief Executive of Youth Work Ireland at the Launch

“There is a huge need for improved facilities in towns in the South East and the Minister has a good understanding of this from what she has seen around the country. The facility she is opening today is illustrative of what good local youth work means to a local community like this and the importance of a local voluntary youth service which can manage and provide such a facility. Young people from all around the area will access this facility. This is important in these areas as there is a huge deficit of leisure and other options for young people. The Minister has seen firsthand some of the key work of local voluntary youth services and we hope she will take away the value of such work for the future” Said Kieran Donoghue of FDYS in Wexford

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