



Youth Work Ireland

**Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
29 April 2011**

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

Youth Work Ireland has today outlined to Taoiseach Enda Kenny the key benefits of active local youth services to local communities. Opening the new Youth Cafe in Drumshambo County Leitrim Mr. Kenny 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. Pat Forde regional Director of North Connaught Youth Service in welcoming the Taoiseach said the local facility would be used by thousands of local young people many from remote rural areas and this as a key impact that local youth services had in the west and north west of Ireland.

“We are thrilled that Enda Kenny 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 and in rural areas like Leitrim. The Taoiseach 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 Drumshambo 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 small towns and rural areas around Ireland and the Taoiseach has a good understanding of this from his own constituency. The facility he 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 Leitrim and surrounding counties 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 Taoiseach has seen firsthand some of the key work of local voluntary youth services and we hope he will take away the value of such work for the future” Said Pat Forde Regional Director of North Connaught Youth and Community Services

ENDS

449 words

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