



Roscommon Women's Network staff and volunteers (and some well-wishers) pictured celebrating after their funding was secured for the long-term. Picture: Andrew Fox

## Future of Roscommon Women's Network is secured

### Praise for Minister – and Senator Kelly

■ EOGHAN YOUNG-MURPHY

The Government have confirmed that the future of Roscommon Women's Network (RWN) in Castlerea is secure, prompting widespread delight.

Serious doubt was cast over its future last year. Proposed changes by then Environment Minister Phil Hogan would have meant that the annual funding allocated to the centre (€66,520) would have no longer been available.

However, his replacement, Minister Alan Kelly, announced on Monday that the scheme would continue and that it would be operated under the aegis of the Department of Justice and Equality.

RWN is one of 17 such networks throughout the country, under the umbrella of the National Collective of Community Based Women's Networks (NCCWN).

The body had previously received €1.3 million a year to provide a



Nora Fahy canvassing Minister Alan Kelly and Senator John Kelly (centre) for support for Roscommon Women's Network last year. Nora has this week paid tribute to Senator Kelly and Minister Kelly for securing the funding.

service to vulnerable women, as well as training and resource centres.

While no exact figures were announced on Monday, Minister Kelly said that the Government would be "contributing significant funding to the scheme to maintain funding at close to his department's 2014 levels".

RWN project co-ordinator Nora

Fahy was ecstatic when the news emerged. "I am delighted," she said. "Projects like ours and other community development projects really have such a positive impact on the community. I would particularly thank Senator John Kelly, who helped us hugely in securing this funding. He was the link between us and Minister Alan Kelly."

### LIVING WITH ADDICTION

Are you affected by someone's problem drinking or drug misuse? You may be trying to cope with someone who has a drug/alcohol problem. If so the Roscommon Women's Network is running a course on Mondays for five weeks starting Monday, March 16th. Contact in complete confidence Rita on 094 9621690 or mary.mccartney2@hse.ie for more details.

### RWN CHARITY SHOP

Have you a few hours to give to your local charity? Roscommon Women's Network is currently looking for volunteers for the RWN Charity Shop, preferably somebody who would be available to volunteer two mornings or afternoons per week and there are also some openings for Saturdays. Experience is not essential but would be an advantage. For more information please contact Rita on 094 9621690.