

Tánaiste hopeful on interim funding for Roscommon Women's Network



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TANAISTE ANAN BURTON has given a positive indication that interim funding will be secured for the Roscommon Women's Network after she paid a recent visit to the Co. Roscommon based centre.

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- Dr. Máiread M O'Donoghue

The Tánaiste recently visited Roscommon Women's Network on foot of an invitation and briefing by Labour Senator Joan Kelly. Roscommon Women's Network is one of 67 projects around



The members of the board of Roscommon Women's Network at their recent AGM.

the country funded through a grant from the Department of Social Protection. The Roscommon Women's Network is a community based women's centre which was set up in 2009. It is currently funded by the Department of Social Protection through the National Community Activation Programme (NCAP) as of January 1st, 2015. Under the former Minister Phil Hogan's measures groups and organisations would be able to come on board to deliver work under NCAP.

Tánaiste Joan Burton said that she anticipated that this project would continue. "It is my understanding that Minister An Kelly will be visiting Roscommon in the next few weeks. I have proposed that we would visit RWN for a longer visit early next year. She was very interested to hear more stories from the women supported by RWN, she seemed genuinely interested to hear about the work and the women who are working with the women spoke passionately about what the centre meant to them and how it had impacted on their lives.

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Of the 159 participants, 126 progressed onto further education and 31 are currently progressing towards a degree. This is a significant achievement for both staff and participants and is a shining example of the outcomes that RWN are capable of producing," said Ms Farrell.

Chairperson Tara Farrell also highlighted the success of the RWN in achieving PETA's award. Since Nov 2011, 85 trainees have attended RWN Training Services. 39 achieved PETA's major awards, 16 of which were employed in the area.

"Women told their stories, described opportunities valued and the support they received from the network. It was so overwhelming by the amount of support present for RWN on the day. Joan and her team are working tirelessly to ensure that this is one story that does not drop off the map."

Among the many successful projects undertaken by RWN during the year, the chairperson highlighted the Equality for Women Measure, which ran from 2010-2012 and commenced in June 2013.

RWN door...and how two women said RWN actually saved their lives," said Ms Eddy.

The Tánaiste noted that she liked the idea and evidence of the success of the Roscommon Women's Network.

Local GP Dr. Máiread M O'Donoghue was also in attendance for the Tánaiste's visit.

"RWN project is by far the most successful service for me as a GP ever had. It has opened up a myriad of possibilities for women who come in this door, and there is ample evidence of this. RWN is a shining example of the outcomes that RWN are capable of producing," said Dr. Máiread M O'Donoghue.

This was reiterated by Labour Senator Joan Kelly.

The Tánaiste's visit to RWN comes in the wake of recent visits by the Minister for Health, Dr. Leo Flanagan, TD Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality and Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with special responsibility for Equality, New Communities and the Minister of State Alan Kelly previously indicated that the possibility of interim funding could be secured and Minister O'Riordan's visit was part of an investigation into the Roscommon Women's Network. RWN is a community based women's centre which was set up in 2009. It is currently funded by the Department of Social Protection through the National Community Activation Programme (NCAP) as of January 1st, 2015.

Board and staff overwhelmed by amount of support for RWN

THE RESPONSE to the rallying cry from RWN on the issue of funding for the Roscommon Women's Network was overwhelming. The Board of Management, Tara Farrell, said that over 250 people from the local community turned out to support RWN at a public meeting Monday at the end of June.

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Two long serving members retire

LONG SERVING members of the Roscommon Women's Network have retired after many years of service and dedication.

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