

Women of county plan to resist the closure of Roscommon Women's Network



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Nora Fally

(RWN), now under new proposals by Minister Phil Hogan, Roscommon Women's Network is currently in danger of losing its core funding of €66,220. RWN can no longer afford the funding on an individual basis and the centre could now close at the end of this year.

"Centres will feature have to compete against each other to deliver what we do," says Ms Fally. "It is being acknowledged that the funding of €66,220 is not enough to cover the permitted by national organisations. Society can only be sustained or considered on a commercial basis and only for the country basis and only for the delivery of the programme in its entirety. National organisations and those working exclusively on a single issue basis will not be in a position to tender to deliver work under the SCAP," explained Ms Fally.

This means that the RWN cannot tender to continue in its current form with women from disadvantaged communities. This funding for the 17 locally based projects working with women and families on the ground, including the work of the Roscommon Women's Service, will no longer receive funding.

The RWN's current manager is Ms Fally, who has 27 years experience in the sector and a solid management team.

"The

Project Co-ordinator with RWN, Nora Fally, explained that 5,000 women and their families had used the services of the centre in the past. She said an additional €20,000 was drawn down in funding for other educational and employment initiatives. "RWN is a real epiphany and a one-stop shop for training, support and services and that core funding of just over €66,000 is excellent value for money," said Ms Fally.

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Retention of RWN an issue for forthcoming by-election

THE LEFT is set to play a key role in the retention of the Roscommon Women's Network in the by-election on July 12. The party has called on the public to support the centre, which it describes as "an important part of our local community". The centre, which is run by the National Collective of Community Organisations (NCCO), provides a range of services to women and their families, including a drop-in service, a support group for women with disabilities, and a programme for women with mental health issues. The centre also offers a range of training and support services for women, such as domestic violence support and advice on legal issues.

PHILIP HOGAN

Philomena Horigan and MEP Lake "Mung" Flanagan at a public meeting in Castlebar to discuss the future of the Roscommon Women's Network.

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New regulations threatening RWN

THE EFFECTIVE week due through the National Collective of Community Based Women's Networks (NCWN), which includes Roscommon Women's Network, is being threatened by new structures and regulations being imposed by a change in government policy. This is according to independent MEP Marian Harkin following a meeting with Roscommon Women's Network last week.

There are many issues arising from the new government

agreement process, which is supposed to deliver year local government community services so no one may say any new service will compete on a cost benefit analysis with last being currently delivered by Roscommon Women's Network. This arises from the large voluntary movement in Roscommon and other women's networks. This is very in 2014 as the

Hague rule of law and the project in County Roscommon

in which the budget of a €200,000 project went and information was released.

"I will be writing to the Minister and the Department of Health and Social Care, and other relevant bodies regarding a continuation of funding to Roscommon Women's Network,

and pointing out that other centres, having regard to the experience of other centres, have come forward in quality and cost effectiveness than those that could be introduced by the being delivered by organisations like Roscommon Women's Network with the big voluntary effort involved."

Independent MEP Marian Harkin concluded.



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