

# Women's Network continues its fight for survival

NCCWN set to deliver Oireachtas presentation this week

BY MAIREAD O'SHEA

THE NATIONAL Women's Collective of Community-based Women's Network (NCCWN) which is the lead agency for groups such as Roscommon Women's Network has written an open letter to Minister Phil Hogan seeking support for the retention of 17 projects around the country. The NCCWN is also set to deliver a presentation on the

viability of the networks to Minister Frances Fitzgerald at the Oireachtas this week.

Roscommon Women's Network is one of 17 projects around the country currently funded through a national budget of €1.3million under the National Collective of Community based Women's Networks (NCCWN), but under new proposals by Minister Phil Hogan Roscommon Women's Network is currently in danger

of losing its core funding of €66,520. RWN cannot tender for the funding on an individual basis and the centre could now face closure at the end of the year.

In an open letter to Minister Phil Hogan, NCCWN stated that through its 17 local Women's projects it engages with women from the most disadvantaged communities in the country.

"As the only national programme specifically targeted at women from disadvantaged communities, the NCCWN and its community based women's projects have demonstrated that we are an experienced and essential part of the infrastructure, both locally and nationally.

NCCWN's current annual budget is € 1.3 million, it employs 43 staff across 17 projects and has engaged with 36, 589 women in 2013," reads the letter.

Project Co-ordinator with RWN, Nora Fahy explained that 5,000 women and their families had used the services of the Roscommon Women's Network in the past year and an additional €270,000 was drawn down in funding for other educational and employment initiatives. "RWN is a real epicentre and a one stop shop for training, support and services and that core funding of just over €66,000 is excellent value for money," she said.

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