



Highlights from the Family Resource Centre 2010 Annual Report

The aim of the Family Resource Centre (FRC) programme is to combat disadvantage and improve the functioning of the family unit. The programme emphasises involving local communities in tackling the problems they face, and creating successful partnerships between voluntary and statutory agencies at community level. FRCs involve people from marginalised groups and areas of disadvantage at all levels, including on their Voluntary Management Committees. Since the FRC programme began in 1994, the number of core-funded FRCs has increased from 10 to 106.

The FRC programme is funded through the Family Support Agency at the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. In 2010, Family Resource Centres provided the following services:

- Over 1,600 existing community and voluntary groups were supported by their local FRCs in areas such as use of premises, support in securing grants and assistance in establishing a group / organisation.
- Over 30,000 people took part in education, training and self-development courses offered by FRCs in 2010.
- FRC staff and volunteers directly provided 136,675 people with information or advice during 2010. A further 56,030 people were referred onward to other organisations or services.
- Over 20,000 professional counselling sessions were delivered during the year. These included relationship counselling (9,337 sessions); bereavement counselling (3,849 sessions); counselling sessions concerned with separation (3,014 sessions) and other counselling on other issues (4,531 sessions).
- FRCs received 295,395 visits by individuals to use front-of- house administrative supports (including computers, phones, photocopiers, etc.). A further 33,395 visits were made by community groups to use these facilities.
- A total of 1,109 people served as Voluntary Directors within FRCs. Collectively, they contributed more than 44,857 voluntary hours fulfilling the duties associated with this role. This equates to a contribution of 1,282 working weeks.
- A total of 2,783 volunteers were involved in the delivery of tasks ranging from renovating community facilities to supervising youth groups at their local FRC. Their work input – if compensated for at the minimum wage – would amount to €5.7 million.
- Core funding granted by the Family Support Agency to the 106 FRCs that contributed to the national programme database in 2010 amounted to €14.6 million, an average of €138,164 per FRC. FRCs attracted a further €22 million from other funding sources bringing the total operating budget of all FRCs to €36.7 million.
- All FRCs have 'core' staff, funded by the Family Support Agency through the FRC's core funding allocation. In 2010, this core staff comprised 318 people filling 256 full-time equivalent positions.

ENDS.

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