

## PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### **“Coming to my Family Resource Centre is like coming home”, Oireachtas members to hear of impact FRCs having in communities**

- *Family Resource Centres renew their call for adequate funding in Budget 2025 -*

A community member of Hill Street Family Resource Centre (FRC) will outline the support her FRC showed to her, and the impact it had on her life – including after the Dublin Riots earlier this year – at a briefing to Oireachtas members today (24.09.24) in the AV room in Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

The briefing is part of the [Family Resource Centre National Forum's](#) (FRCNF) calls for a renewed Government commitment to increase core funding for all 121 FRCs to €240,000, ahead of Budget 2025.

For Budget 2025, the FRCNF has identified the required level of funding per FRC as €240,000, for them to be able to adequately provide the supports and services required of them and to realise the full potential impact of the National FRC Programme.

#### **Zuzana's Story**

Zuzana Serova, a community member of the Family Resource Centre in Hill Street, Dublin 1, shared her story as to how the centre has supported her: “As a mother of two children, living in Dublin City, I became involved with the Hill Street Family Resource Centre many years ago. Through the centre I have joined playgroups, I have completed a parenting skills programme, I have attended a course on preschool preparation for my son – but above all, I have felt supported within my community.

“I moved to Ireland in 2007, and as an immigrant in this country, I will never forget the response of the centre, following the riots in Dublin City. The next day, I received a phone call from Hill Street FRC to invite me for a coffee to come in and talk about any concerns I had, and what they could do to make us feel safe. I was really touched by the lengths they went to, to ensure we felt welcome in the community. That's why coming to Hill Street Family Resource Centre feels like home for me.

“Resources and support, like those that we receive from Hill Street, are so important to parents like me. People in every town and village in Ireland should have access to these supports, and it is only through providing adequate funding for FRCs to allow them to do the work they do best, that we can even begin to achieve this.”

Echoing Zuzana's comments, **Fergal Landy, CEO of the FRCNF** said, “We are renewing our call to Government for Budget 2025 to maximise the potential of the FRC National Programme

to increase its capacity to deliver for children, families, individuals, and communities throughout Ireland, and in doing so, provide additional supports to both urban and rural communities coping with many challenges such as the housing crisis, poverty, the cost of living, and promoting inclusive communities for all. Our 121 FRCs cannot continue to deliver for communities without adequate funding.

“When FRCs are adequately funded, they are extremely effective at leveraging up to three times more funding from other government and philanthropic sources and can then involve the community in the planning of integrated supports to meet the diverse range of needs.”

“In every corner of the country, from Ballymun to Boyle, from Ballybofey to Ballyduff, the FRC National Programme plays a vital role in providing supports to communities. However, FRCs have long experienced a reduced level of core funding, in comparison to similar organisations, and we are now urging the Government to put communities at the heart of Budget 2025 and invest where it is needed most.”

Further information about the FRCNF is available here: <https://www.familyresource.ie/>

## **ENDS**

**Contact: Meadh Whelan / Niamh Breathnach, Alice Public Relations, Tel: 085-203 9693 / 085-1461231, Email: [media@alicepr.com](mailto:media@alicepr.com)**

## **Notes to Editors**

The FRCNF pre-budget submission is available here: [FRC National Forum Pre Budget 2025 Submission.pdf \(familyresource.ie\)](#)

### **Available for interview:**

- Fergal Landy, CEO of the FRCNF.

### **About the FRCNF**

The National Family Resource Centre (FRC) programme is Ireland’s largest national community development and family support programme and is core funded by Tusla – the Child and Family Agency whilst leveraging additional funding from other sources in line with local need. There are currently 121 Family Resource Centres (FRCs) in Ireland represented by the Family Resource Centre National Forum supporting and empowering individuals and families, young and old, in both urban and rural communities.

Follow the FRCNF on Twitter, @frcnf, [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).