

Press release 6/6/06

CentreCare says one billion Housing programme vital to address ongoing problems with homelessness in Dublin

CentreCare has said it hopes that today's funding announcement by the Minister for Housing will help address the urgent accommodation problems that still exist in Dublin, particularly for single homeless people.

Speaking as they launched their annual report, Yvonne Fleming, head of CentreCare (*a project of Crosscare, a social care agency of the Dublin Diocese*) said that despite the economic boom they still dealt with over two and a half thousand cases relating to accommodation and social welfare last year.

Two of the major problems on the ground, according to CentreCare are the lack of available flats to rent for single homeless people, and the high number of people living in long-term emergency accommodation.

Ms. Fleming said that the Minister's announcement of a one billion euro allocation for local authority housing programmes was most welcome. She added it was crucial that the programmes would be implemented with speed to help address the ongoing problems they see on the streets of the capital.

In 2005 CentreCare

- Worked on 2,653 cases relating to homelessness, social welfare, and related matters.
- Continued to run Outreach services in food centres helping those most in need.
- Trained 22 agencies on assisting people with finding private rented accommodation and related social welfare issues.
- Provided an easy to read 'Map of Homeless services' for direct distribution to those facing a housing crisis.
- Continued with advocacy programmes with statutory and voluntary agencies.

The CentreCare annual report for 2005 is available on request from 01-8726775 / 8746915

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