

**PRESS RELEASE**

**28 May 2024**

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**Family Resource Centre, Gorey officially opened**

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On Thursday 23rd May, Minister James Browne and Cathaoirleach of Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District Cllr. Pip Breen were delighted to formally open the Family Resource Centre at its new premise in McDermott Street, Gorey.

When news broke that their former premises in Charlotte Row was to put on the market, District Manager, Philip Knight and Emer Hickey, Family Resource Centre Manager recalled meeting in the kitchen of the old Family Resource Centre to discuss the future. “It was frustrating, I could see the fantastic work that was being done by these amazing people,” said Philip, “Fortunately, Director of Service, Liz Hore came on board and really championed this project from a Council perspective.”

Emer Hickey had found a suitable building in the form of the old Credit Union building and she and the FRC Board took the bold decision to purchase the property. With financial support from Tusla, the Department of Rural and Community Development (under the Buildings at Risk and Community Recognition funds), and Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District, Wexford County Council the property has been purchased outright and renovated to provide a much needed community facility in Gorey’s town centre.

Emer Hickey thanked all those who had supported the Family Resource Centre in getting to this stage, TUSLA, Wexford County Council, Tom Fortune and the Credit Union. She had particular praise for her co-workers and volunteers who had kept services going throughout the renovation process.

An Cathaoirleach of the Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District Cllr Pip Breen said: *“This is a fantastic resource for the people of Gorey and I would like to pay tribute to those who work here to provide a much needed service to the community.”* He went on to thank his fellow elected members for the commitment and support they had given to the project.

Minister James Browne reflected on his early meetings with Emer and her team in his speech. He thanked Minister Heather Humphrey’s for her continued support of community projects noting that she “had been a good friend to Co. Wexford.” Then he caught the mood of the room perfectly as he said: *“at the end of the day this is not about funding or Government Departments or Councils but of a community coming together to provide a service for the community.”*

ENDS

