

The launch of 'Supporting Families, Building Communities' attracted the following national media coverage:

- RTE Six One News report by Eileen Whelan – The piece can be downloaded from this link: www.rte.ie/news/2006/0621/6news.html

Scroll down the page, and click on the Heading '**Brennan launches family resource centre strategy**' - You must have realplayer installed on your computer. To download realplayer, visit the Realplayer site: www.real.com

- Radio Interview with Packie Kelly by Karen Coleman, Newstalk 106
- TG4 interview with Denise Feeney, National Forum Board Member, which also carried a report from St Andrew's Families Resource Centre, Pearse Street, Dublin
- Interview with Packie Kelly and Minister Brennan on INN Radio
- Newspaper coverage in The Irish Times and Irish Examiner:

Support strategy for needy families - The Irish Times, Wednesday, 22nd June, Page 3

Carl O'Brien, Social Affairs Correspondent

Pressures on families over commuting and access to affordable childcare are among the factors leading to unprecedented demand for support from State-funded family resource centres.

The Family Resource Centre's national forum, which launched a three-year strategy yesterday, said the State's 90 centres were now the main vehicle for delivering support to families in need.

The centres offer a range of supports aimed at combating disadvantage and enhancing the function of the family unit such as homework clubs, pre-school facilities, welfare advice, counselling and parenting advice.

Forum chairman Packie Kelly said the growth in the number of resource centres was in response to a range of factors.

"The emergence of family resource centres over the past decade is a direct response to the growth in diversity of the family unit in terms of size, structure and needs. It is also a response to the pressures that face families in terms of commuting to work, accessing childcare and participating in training and education."

The strategic plan sets out areas of growth and policy development which the forum says will provide resource centres with a much stronger voice at local and national level.

Minister for Social Affairs Séamus Brennan said the target set under the National Development Plan to fund 100 family resource centres would be met by the end of this year.

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Irish Examiner.com - 21/06/2006 - 10:17:43 AM

Family resource centres aiming to deliver social change

Family resource centres are now the main vehicle for delivering community development and family support, according to the Family Resource Centre National Forum.

Social and Family Affairs Minister Seamus Brennan today its three-year strategic plan 'Supporting Families, Building Communities' in Dublin today.

"(This) plan sets out key areas of growth and policy development which will give us a much stronger voice at local and national fora," said National Forum chairperson Packie Kelly today.

"To help promote more family-friendly policies and initiatives, we will be participating on an increased number of policy-formation bodies, and seeking representation on Government advisory committees. Issues including childcare provision and support for vulnerable and disadvantaged families will be central to our work.

"By 2009, we expect to have strengthened our voice and role to such an extent that we will be considered as an essential player in the social partnership process."

Family resource centres offer a range of support and initiatives aimed at combating disadvantage and enhancing the function of the family unit.

Homework clubs, pre-school care facilities, welfare advice, counselling and parenting advice are among the diverse initiatives available at the centres.