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SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS IRELAND WELCOMES GOVERNMENT REPORT ON ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Social Entrepreneurs Ireland has welcomed today's publication of the report of the Taskforce on Active Citizenship including the aim to increase the pool of people actively engaged in their community, participating in the democratic process and participating in other forms of civic engagement. The report provides a clear set of targets and social entrepreneurs, as one of the driving forces in promoting active citizenship, can play a key role in helping to meet these targets according to Seán Coughlan, Managing Director, Social Entrepreneurs Ireland.

“Social entrepreneurs are innovators and visionaries, inspirational leaders that are committed to tackling social problems and finding long term solutions. They offer one of the most effective ways to encourage people get involved and make a positive contribution to their communities. We believe that the Report on Active Citizenship will provide a significant boost to social entrepreneurs such as Caroline Casey, a member of the Taskforce on Active Citizenship and a Social Entrepreneurs Ireland awardee, in helping them develop their projects and increase civic engagement from all members of our community” he said.

Social Entrepreneurs Ireland was set up to support social entrepreneurs in their early stages of development and offers a range of supports including financial assistance, training, mentoring and access to a growing network of other social entrepreneurs. To date, Social Entrepreneurs Ireland has supported forty nine innovators across the island of Ireland, committing over €1.4 million in direct funding to their projects. Among the projects support by Social Entrepreneurs Ireland include projects on suicide prevention; sustainable tourism; the provision of computers and computer skills training for schools and colleges in Africa; integration of ethnic minorities in Ireland through sport; mental illness; social exclusion; a Travellers' Theatre Company and a project to bring music to every primary schoolchild in Ballyfermot and beyond.

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