CHILDREN’S UNIT AND ROTUNDA FOR CONNOLLY CAMPUS

Children’s and Maternity Services for Blanchardstown

Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown continues to grow and develop. In August, a planning application was lodged for the New Children’s Hospital and its two satellite centres at Blanchardstown and Tallaght. Three years ago, on foot of advice from a panel of experts, the Government decided to re-locate the main building of the New Children’s Hospital, new academic and research centres and the Coombe maternity hospital to the campus of the largest adult teaching hospital in the country at St James’s. This is by far the best site on medical and health care grounds and it will mean that the largest number and widest range of specialists, facilities and equipment in the country will all be on the one campus thus giving sick children the best chance when they most need it. There will be 1,000 parking spaces and a dedicated Luas stop. The location is strongly supported by all three existing children’s hospitals who are keen to move there and patient groups like the Irish Haemophilia Society and Cystic Fibrosis Ireland.

The Government also decided that two easily accessible satellite centres of the New Children’s Hospital should be built in Blanchardstown and Tallaght. The Blanchardstown Children’s Unit will include a Local Emergency Department or Urgent Care Centre, where you will take your child when they are sick, instead of Temple Street. It will be open from 7.30am to 11pm and will have observation beds. It will have rapid access out-patient clinics where you will see a consultant if referred by your GP, and operating theatres for dental surgery. Staff will rotate from the main hospital to the satellite centres, ensuring consistency and a high standard of care. All things going to plan, construction in Blanchardstown will start next year and the new Children’s Unit will be up and running and seeing patients in 2017.

The Rotunda Maternity Hospital is also on the move and will be co-located with Blanchardstown. It’s a great hospital but its buildings and facilities are old and no longer fit for purpose. In a couple of years, we will have a full suite of modern medical facilities on our doorstep in Blanchardstown - maternity, children’s, adult, long-term care and hospice with specialist centres like the Mater, Beaumont and St James’ not far away.

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€282K FOR SPORTS CLUBS IN DUBLIN WEST

Sports clubs in Dublin 15 will benefit from a new round of capital grants of €282,000 recently allocated by Sports Minister Michael Ring (FG). This comes on top of €2 million in grants allocated to 30 local clubs in Dublin 15 & 7 by Minister Varadkar when he was in the post. Funding was also provided to renovate and re-open the De Paul Swimming Pool on Navan Road. In government, Fianna Fáil, the Greens and Independents scrapped the sports grants as a cost saving measure. Recognising the important link between physical activity and health and well-being, and the contribution that clubs make to the community, the grants were restored by this Fine Gael/Labour Government.

It’s taxpayers money well spent. So long as we keep the recovery going and the economy strong, another round will be advertised for clubs to make an application in 2016.

1. GAELCOLAISTE - Minister Varadkar has added his support to calls for an Irish language secondary school for the D15 and D7 area.
2. CHRISTMAS BONUS - The Christmas Bonus was abolished by former minister Mary Hanafin who is running for the Dáil again. It’s the same old Fianna Fáil. It was partially reinstated last year and will be increased again this Christmas. A Christmas bonus will be paid to pensioners, recipients of the carers’ allowance, one-parent family allowance and disability allowance, among others.
3. WATER CONSERVATION GRANT - If you have registered with Irish Water, you are entitled to a €100 grant. The grant is intended to help reduce the cost of water conversation measures such as replacing or repairing leaking taps and fittings or buying water collection devices like a water butt. For more information or to apply on-line go to - www.watergrant.ie
4. More Gardai, More Garda Cars - Justice Minister Frances FitzGerald (FG) has secured Government approval to recruit 500 new Gardai next year in addition to those recruited this year.

SECURING THE RECOVERY

Fine Gael is prioritising job creation, because more jobs mean less tax for people already working and more revenue to provide better services. We are also committed to ensuring that work is rewarded and communities across Ireland benefit from the recovery.

1,300 NEW JOBS PER WEEK IN 2015

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410,000 FEWER PEOPLE PAYING FIANNA FÁIL’S USC

REWARDING WORK

- We are making changes to the income tax system by increasing the standard band by €1,000. We are making it fairer and reducing the tax burden on people.
- Fine Gael will have scrapped the Universal Social Charge for 500,000 low paid workers by next January.
- The Back to Work Family Dividend allows jobseekers retain €30 per week for each child for the first year back in employment.
- We have increased the minimum wage.

400,000 EXTRA OVERSEAS VISITORS IN 2015 COMPARED TO THIS TIME LAST YEAR

SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- We have protected the old age pension, while introducing free access to GP services for everyone 70 and over and for all children under 6.
- €4bn Social Housing Strategy launched to deliver 35,000 homes by 2020.
- 550 new Gardai have been recruited by this Government and €27.5m invested in new Garda vehicles.
- In the lifetime of this government over 150 schools will have been built, together with 100 large-scale extensions.
- Fine Gael has provided 46 new Primary Care Centres with a new one opening every month.

FINE GALE IS THE PARTY THAT will secure the recovery by focusing on job creation and rewarding work so that we can look forward to a future of prosperity, opportunity and peace of mind.

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