

A recent development for the Cornmarket Project in Wexford has been the introduction of a new programme for offenders and substance misusers called **REFRAME – Restorative Focussed Rehabilitation And Motivation Enhancement**. The new programme was launched in Dublin on 1st April 2014 at the National Social Inclusion Forum which was held in Croke Park. The programme provides a comprehensive rehabilitative structure for an additional seventy offenders and substance misusers. Each participant on the new programmes will receive a CE payment while they engage for at least a one year period, five days a week, in evidenced based rehabilitation programmes designed to develop relapse prevention skills, strengthen desistance and lower recidivism. In addition, another important element of **REFRAME** is the involvement of offenders in work designed to “give back to the community”. One aspect of this restorative approach is for programme participants to engage in Tidy Towns work brigades as volunteers in support of the work of local committees. In addition, through the existing strong linkages already forged with the Wexford Campus of Carlow IT, tutors from the college's art department will give expert advice and support to participants on the programme in the design and commissioning of murals to enhance spaces that are prone to graffiti in local communities. The development of these new programmes has been made possible by the allocation of seventy Rehabilitation Community Employment Scheme places to the Cornmarket Project by the Department of Social Protection. The new schemes are being rolled out in Wexford Town, Gorey, Enniscorthy and New Ross. Commenting following the launch of the new programmes, Michele Weir, Senior Probation Officer for Wexford, stated that the new **REFRAME** programmes will be of great assistance to the local probation team in enabling offenders to engage in meaningful and structured rehabilitation programmes thereby contributing to the creation of safer communities by reducing recidivism. In addition, the developments have been welcomed by Wexford County Council who are supporting the horticultural element of the programme by providing allotments and other resources. The development of the new **REFRAME** programmes is also being assisted by Wexford Local Development through the provision of premises and other support as the Cornmarket Project



expands the **REFRAME** programmes into other areas of County Wexford. Additionally, an important element of the new programmes is the support of the Local Employment Service in each town in engaging with **REFRAME** participants to enhance their prospects for progression into further education, training and the labour market.

*Photograph shows Minister Joan Burton TD congratulating Paul Delaney, Coordinator of the Cornmarket Project, at the launch of the project's new REFRAME programme in Croke Park on 1st April 2014.*