



Pictured left: New Knocklofty residents Karen Daly and Marcus McGrath in the grounds of their new home

Rehab Goes Down on the Farm!

REHAB HAS VENTURED INTO PASTURES new by opening its first rural residential service for people with disabilities, which was recently officially opened by Mr Martin Cullen TD, Minister for Social and Family Affairs. Situated three miles from Clonmel, and named after the nearby village, Knocklofty provides residential and day services for people with disabilities from the local area.

Comprised of both houses and apartments, it will eventually be home to 13 residents, six of whom have already moved in. It boasts state-of-the-art facilities, and its residents can enjoy a wide range of pursuits including arts and crafts, computer training and pottery. As the development was designed specifically in the context of a rural environment, residents can also participate in gardening and light farming, with the grounds featuring landscaped communal gardens, a pond, a barn, a piggery, and there are even plans for a hen house!

Residents will also be able to get involved in the community as there is a vehicle onsite to bring them to nearby Clonmel where they can visit the RehabCare resource centre, go shopping, take a trip to the cinema and avail of other local amenities.

Speaking to *Rehab News* at the opening, Angela Kerins, Chief Executive, Rehab Group, said, "Many people with disabilities in rural areas face a choice between either leaving their community to move into supported accommodation in urban areas or remaining with their parents. The opening of Knocklofty is an important step in enabling people with disabilities in rural areas to live independently where they grew up and to continue to play an active part in the life of their local community."

Knocklofty is the first residential service for rural people in a rural setting developed and built by Newgrove Housing Association and operated by RehabCare. Construction began in January

2006 funded with the support of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Waterford County Council and the Health Service Executive. The land was donated by local man Donal McGrath whose son Marcus is one of Knocklofty's first residents. The local community has been involved in Knocklofty from the beginning, as the Clonmel Lions Club and the Tipperary Association for Special Needs both made valuable contributions. ■

Who to contact

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