

In the Line of Duty

A native of Portumna, Co. Galway, Anne Rabbitte was first introduced to politics in 2014 when she was elected as a member of Galway County Council, before going on to become a TD in the Galway-East constituency in 2016.

A *anne is a busy mother to three equally busy children* – Fiachra (17), Caoimhe (16), and Aoibhinn (14) – and her stepson Paudie (30). With the sudden passing of her husband Paddy in 2011, and three young children under the age of nine, Anne had to learn how to juggle the demands of home, work and extracurricular activities very quickly. She also had the added pressure of providing for the family which was no mean feat.

As well as tackling the daily issues of being a single parent, Anne took a career break from the financial sector to run a childcare facility and spend more time with her young family. Her experience and working knowledge resulted in her appointment to the Fianna Fáil front bench as spokesperson for Children and Youth Affairs in 2016. This deep understanding of the issues and challenges faced by parents across the country has continued to inform her approach to politics. During her time in the Dáil, she has focused her energies on a range of issues such as affordable childcare, child safety and protection, children in care, mental health, cyber security, gambling addiction and parental bereavement leave.

Before entering the world of politics, Anne worked in the banking sector in Galway for over 25 years. She offered support and advice to a range of clients from



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individuals, young families and those planning for retirement, to start-ups and established businesses. Her depth of knowledge and expertise in the area of finance and investment has been cultivated over many years. It is a valuable skill that she intends to put to good use, should she be elected as an MEP for the Midlands North-West constituency in the European Elections on the 24th of May. “If I get elected, I intend to target and maximise EU investment, to enhance and support the potential of the Hidden

Heartlands and the Wild Atlantic Way, and strengthen the western economic corridor in the process,” explained Anne.

Anne is also extremely passionate on the subject of women in politics. “I’m often asked about women running for office and it’s great to see an increasing number of women putting themselves forward for election. By simply putting yourself forward, you’re empowering other women and inspiring them to consider a role in politics too. It’s so important that we support and help each other. But we must also remember that while we are a voice for women, we’re a voice for men too, and we need to ensure that we reflect all of our constituents. I’ve met so many people over the past number of years who’ve been left with nowhere to turn. These people often end up on the doorstep of a TD’s office as a last resort, and that simply isn’t right. We need less bureaucracy and more transparency in our system to make sure it’s working as well as it should be for everyone. I feel privileged that I’m in a position to offer a voice to those who go unheard. Helping people has always been a driving force for me, and I’m only ever a phone call or an email away if needed.”

Anne is a Fianna Fáil MEP candidate for the Midland North West constituency, and will run for the European Elections on 24th May.