

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALONE urges communities to consider their older neighbours during the current severe weather conditions

Charity reminds the public that older people can be seriously affected by adverse weather

Dublin, November 25th 2009 ALONE, the Dublin-based charity dedicated to combating isolation and loneliness among older people, has urged communities across the country not to neglect older people during the severe weather conditions being experienced. Older persons can be more at risk during the winter season, but are particularly vulnerable given the drastic weather fronts the country has been witnessing since the weekend.

“It is vitally important that while individuals and communities are coming to terms with the effects of the harsh weather conditions on their own lives, that they also take into consideration their older neighbours and family members who are living alone and may be vulnerable,” commented Seán Moynihan, CEO of ALONE.

He continued, “The flooding that has been experienced in the last few days across parts of the country, along with high winds and heavy rainfall, can have a debilitating effect on some older people living alone. Daily routines can be disrupted, and certain people may have difficulty accessing supermarkets or fuel supplies, not to mention simply needing to have a friendly ear to listen to their concerns. ALONE encourages communities across the country to be mindful of the needs of older people in their families or their community. The simplest action of calling on an older person can have a huge positive effect on their quality of life.”

ALONE was established in 1977 to combat loneliness and isolation among older people. The organisation provides housing for older people in need, and a valuable befriending service carried out by a team of dedicated volunteers. While Dublin-based, the message of the organisation is applicable nationwide – the public must value older people in the community, and should check on those who may be at risk or vulnerable. The charity is in the process of reinvigorating the organisation, and will be launching its Christmas campaign in the coming weeks.

ALONE can be contacted for advice and assistance at (01) 679 1032, where they can provide information on services available to older persons, and practical assistance where necessary.

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