

ALONE's Sean Moynihan Attends Housing Summit 'ALONE reports utter desperation among older people looking for housing'

Sean Moynihan, CEO of ALONE is attending Ireland Housing Summit in Dublin Castle, today, Friday 20 June. The summit seeks to discuss the current housing position in Ireland and help to establish short term solutions.

Moynihan is attending the conference in order to ensure that older people aren't left out of the conversation as ALONE has seen a dramatic increase in the number of older people coming to them for housing in recent times. "Yesterday we were allocating one of our smaller studio apartments and the feeling of utter desperation among the applicants was palpable. These older people, aged between 62 and 88, were all desperate to get the place. We are hearing that because of their age and the fact they are on rent supplement they are being totally locked out of the private rental sector, leaving many with simply nowhere to go."

ALONE recognises that while short term solutions are necessary, the government needs to look at long term solutions to tackle the housing crisis for older people. With our ageing population, older people are the next big crisis. Currently ALONE is working on a housing partnership model that seeks to expand housing services for older people. The model will also address the current housing problem for homeless and older vulnerable people before it escalates even further. Currently there are 4,765 older people awaiting social housing, many of whom have complex needs. ALONE's model of supportive housing is significantly more cost efficient than long term residential or hospital care.

CEO Sean Moynihan continued, "ALONE wants to be part of the solution to the current housing crisis, by providing social housing and supports to older people on the social housing and homeless lists. ALONE is happy to partner with government departments, financial institutions, and other housing agencies. However, the government needs to begin to incentivise not for profit housing agencies instead of developers. By doing this the result will be a 100% social dividend as the houses will remain a resource for vulnerable older people for long into the future."

ALONE provides a befriending service, permanent housing, and an emergency community response service to older people in need. The charity is celebrating its 37th anniversary in 2014. Older people in need of assistance can contact ALONE on (01) 679 1032.