



Helping older people in need

## **ALONE Expresses Disdain Over Threats Of Additional Charges To Nursing Home Residents Under The Fair Deal Scheme**

ALONE has expressed strong concern at the National Treatment Purchase Fund's suggestion that Carysfort Nursing Home passes on cuts in Fair Deal Funding to their older residents - at an additional cost of €60 a week.

Sean Moynihan, CEO of ALONE said, "We are extremely concerned for older people who are living in nursing homes under the Fair Deal Scheme. These people have already in some cases surrendered their pensions, their assets and their properties in return for their accommodation and care in their latter years. Under the Fair Deal Scheme some older persons receive as little as €30 a week in expendable income – how are they meant to fund an extra €60 a week? This added expense will be passed on to their families, many of whom are already struggling financially – or even worse – what about older people who have no families? What happens to the older people who can't pay another €60 a week but who have already put everything they have into the Fair Deal Scheme?"

He continued, "ALONE works with older people in the community every day and we know that in their own home community is where they want to be, it's where their families want them to be and it's where their communities want them to be. The Government needs to invest money into community supports and sustainable housing for older people. The cost of Nursing homes aren't sustainable and the majority of older people would rather be in their home community than lose their independence by entering a nursing home in an unfamiliar area, separating them from everything they have ever known."

ALONE denounce the notion of any additional costs being passed on to older people under the Fair Deal Scheme and ALONE calls on the Government to invest money into local supports and sustainable housing for older people within the community.

For those with concerns about an older person's welfare, ALONE can be contacted on (01) 679 1032.