

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local candidates in support of ALONE

The charity thanks local candidates who have pledged their support to ALONE's nationwide housing campaign

Dublin, 16th May 2014 ALONE, the charity that cares for older people in need, has been campaigning for local Government to address the housing needs of vulnerable older people. The campaign asks local Government candidates to pledge their support and state that if elected, they will make suitable housing for older people a priority.

Across the country more than 100 candidates have pledged their support to the campaign. Candidates who have pledged their support from County Cork include:

- Tim Brosnan
- Joe Carroll
- Ger Gibbons
- Patrick Gerard Murphy
- Barry MacGill
- Kevin O'Keefe

Speaking about the cause local candidate for the Bantry area, Patrick Gerard Murphy said, "This is an excellent initiative and should be supported. Bantry Area has one of the highest waiting lists in Cork County per head of population and I meet people every day who are on the Housing List for years and years - this needs to be addressed ASAP".

Currently there are over 2,000 boarded up social housing units across the country and 4,765 people over the age of 60 living in shocking housing conditions or without a home at all. With regard to these stark facts, Sean Moynihan, CEO of ALONE said, "This crisis needs to be addressed immediately as it will take years to fix and the government need to come up with creative solutions to the problem. The government needs to focus on backing the community and voluntary sector who will help build a long term social infrastructure instead of incentivising large developers. We have a proven track record and commitment to providing housing solutions for the most vulnerable people in our communities but we need support.'

ALONE acknowledged that some initiatives have been announced this week, however so far there is no information as to the details of the plan. 'Specific support has been announced for every other section of the community, including first time buyers, however older people are the fastest growing demographic and there is absolutely no plan in place for them.'

Committing to being part of a solution, Moynihan made a call on government to work in partnership with ALONE: "We are asking local government to release these social housing units and derelict sights to ALONE and other social housing providers so that we can provide homes to the most vulnerable older people in our society. ALONE will pay to renovate these properties and then support older people to live in these new homes. We need support from local councillors on this, which is why we are so grateful to local election candidates who have stood up and raised their voice in support of the housing needs of older people. A home is a right, not a privilege."

ALONE can be contacted on (01) 679 1032 for those who have concerns about their own wellbeing, or the wellbeing of a vulnerable older person in the community or visit www.alone.ie

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About ALONE:

Established in 1977, ALONE provides vital supports to the one in ten older people who are in need. The charity provides a volunteer befriending service, campaigning services, a community response service and provides 100 age-friendly homes to older people in need. ALONE receives no state funding for their day to day activities, it is through the donations from members of the public that the organisation can carry out its essential activities.

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