

“An older person became homeless every three days in March”
ALONE highlight the homeless crisis with older people in 2015

Dublin, 17th April 2015 ALONE have released data from Dublin City Council that shows that on average, one older person became homeless every third day in the capital during March.

This dramatic figure exists despite the fact that the government has taken the retrograde step of opening up hundreds of bedsits in the city, which are used to house older and single people.

Sean Moynihan, Chief Executive Officer of ALONE commented, “ALONE has been campaigning for many years to highlight the fact that older people are the next big housing crisis. Many of the older people who come to us for help are doing so because they have lived in private rented accommodation and they have to leave for one reason or another. Once they lose their tenancy it is virtually impossible for them to secure alternative accommodation.”

Moynihan continued, “Older people can’t compete in the private rental market. They are not seen as attractive tenants by landlords in the private rented sector as they have fixed income and often higher support needs. As our ageing population continues to soar, this crisis is only going to get worse. The government needs to provide alternative housing options for these people.”

Moynihan concluded, “Some older people who are homeless simply have a housing need, but many also have complex support needs. They may have found themselves in this situation because of poor mental health, physical problems, isolation or addiction problems. Long term supports need to be put in place to ensure they can remain in the community.”

“With no increase in rent supplement these people won’t be able to secure new homes. We are asking the Government to explain what they are going to do to address this issue ”

For those who have concerns about their own wellbeing, or the wellbeing of a vulnerable older person in the community, ALONE can be contacted on (01) 679 1032. To make a donation and help aid ALONE’s work visit www.alone.ie