

Press Release

27th September 2016

Leading NGOs Call for Increased Investment in Home Care in Budget 2017

A group of Ireland's leading not for profit organisations and campaigners came together today to call for increased investment in home care in Budget 2017.

The majority of people coping with the effects of ill health and disability, which includes a large number of older people and people with chronic and long-term progressive illnesses, want to remain living in their own homes, and to die at home if that is their wish. As a society we are failing to provide these people with the support they need.

Home care is often seen and used as a solution to the hospital crises, but it should be seen as an integral part of long-term care in its own right.

The difference that appropriate home care can make to a family cannot be underestimated - it can support people to live well in the community, to stay out of hospital and long-term residential care, and to remain in their own homes with their families throughout their lives.

Home care is also vital in supporting Ireland's 200,000 family carers, who provide the vast majority of care for people at home. The system relies heavily on these carers who provide nearly €4bn worth of care every year and who need our support.

Research recently published by the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice in UCD, Age Action, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland and the Irish Association of Social Workers found that more than half of older people could remain in their own homes instead of going into long-term care if more home support services were available.

The report also showed that a multiple of resources are being invested in long-term care rather than in community-based care, despite the fact that Government policy is to support people to remain at home.

Our ageing population requires a significant annual increase in home care support. The cuts to home care provision over the years have not been restored to the levels required to keep pace with the significant ageing demographics. Provision needs to increase by 4% per year to merely keep pace with these pressures. Research from Care Alliance Ireland suggests an ongoing deficit of 1.6m home care hours in 2016.

This group is calling on the Government to urgently increase investment in home care in Budget 2017 so that people can remain living in their own homes for as long as possible.

This call is supported by the following organisations:



ACQUIRED
BRAIN INJURY
IRELAND



Active
Ageing
Partnership



GET INSPIRED WITH ACTIVE
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ACTIVE RETIREMENT
IRELAND



AgeAction

For all older people

Age &
Opportunity
Life is for
Living.



ALONE

Helping older people in need



THE ALZHEIMER
SOCIETY of IRELAND



Care
Alliance
Ireland



Family
Carers
Ireland
Fairness for Carers



IASWI
Irish Association of Social Workers
Cumann na hÉireann um Oibríthe Sóisialta



IRISH HEART
FOUNDATION
Fighting Heart Disease & Stroke



The Irish
Hospice
Foundation

Striving for the best care
at end of life for all



MS Ireland
THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND



NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE
of IRELAND

sage

Support & Advocacy Service
for Older People

third age

Responding to the Opportunities
and Challenges of Ageing in Ireland

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