**IMMEDIATE RELEASE – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd 2018**

**THE ORCHARD RESPITE CENTRE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA TO REOPEN UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF MOWLAM HEALTHCARE**

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland’s Orchard Respite Centre in Blackrock, Co Dublin, which provides 11-respite beds for people with dementia, is reopening shortly under the management of Mowlam Healthcare.

Mowlam Healthcare, the largest private healthcare operator of quality nursing home care in Ireland, signed an Operating Agreement with the ASI to manage The Orchard Respite Centre last November on a not-for-profit basis.

This specialist residential respite centre offers weekly stays for persons with dementia in a safe, friendly environment with stimulation and activity. This provides a short break from caring for the caregiver and also for the person with dementia.

The quality of care provided to people with dementia by Mowlam Healthcare will be of the highest standard, and the centre will be registered by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA).

Mowlam Healthcare has recently rolled out Memory Care nationwide – their model of person-centred specialist care for people designed to ease the symptoms of dementia for an enhanced quality of life, and empower individuals through the appropriate therapy – and will contribute to the ongoing enhancement of care for the respite centre residents of The Orchard.

The number of people with dementia in Ireland is expected to more than double over the next 20 years, from 55,000 today to 113,000 in 2036.

**The Alzheimer Society of Ireland CEO Pat McLoughlin:**

“The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is delighted that the respite facility in The Orchard will be up and running again shortly. I am certain that the new partnership with Mowlam Healthcare will provide high-quality continuity of care to people with dementia. We appreciate the financial support and assistance that has been provided by the HSE which will ensure the reopening of this service.

“This 11-bed unit has been temporarily closed since January 2017 and I am delighted that to say that over the last number of weeks the ASI has been working with Mowlam Healthcare to ensure that the 11-bed respite centre will reopen shortly. The service gives the opportunity for both the person with dementia and their carer to experience a short break.”

**CEO of Mowlam Healthcare Pat Shanahan:**

“Mowlam Healthcare is delighted to partner with The Alzheimer Society of Ireland to reopen this excellent and much needed residential respite centre in Blackrock, Co Dublin. This is a welcome addition to our provision of individualised care for residents with dementia at 29 centres around the country.

“Our Memory Care programme is built around understanding our residents. Residents are always treated with dignity and respect, and our skilled care team provide companionship, compassionate care, and an enhanced quality of life, in a comfortable and safe community. We are delighted to bring The Mowlam Way to The Orchard Respite Centre.”

**ENDS**

**For more information contact The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Communications Manager Cormac Cahill on 086 044 1214 or cormac.cahill@alzheimer.ie**

**NOTES TO THE EDITOR:**

 **More information:**

If members of the public are looking for more information on the service and are interested in discussing the availability of respite beds, please contact Siobhan Laffey, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, 086 1851 111 or siobhan.laffey@alzheimer.ie

**About The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI):**

The ASI is the national leader in advocating for and providing dementia-specific supports and services and each year the organisation provides more than one million hours of community-based dementia-specific care throughout Ireland.

**The ASI provides the following services:**

• National Helpline

• Social Clubs

• Support Groups

• Day Care Services

• Home Care

• Dementia Advisor Service

• Mobile Information Bus

**Helpline:** The Alzheimer Society of Ireland National Helpline is open six days a week Monday to Friday 10am–5pm and Saturday 10am–4pm on 1800 341 341.

**Website:** www.alzheimer.ie

**Twitter:** @alzheimersocirl

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/TheAlzheimerSocietyofIreland/

**About Dementia:**

• The number of people with dementia in Ireland is expected to more than double over the next 20 years, from 55,000 today to 113,000 in 2036.

• Dementia is progressive. There is currently no cure. Dementia is not simply a health issue but a social issue that requires a community response.

• Each year over 4,000 people develop dementia. That’s at least 11 people every day and anyone can get dementia – even people in their 30s/40s/50s.

• The overall cost of dementia care in Ireland is just over €1.69 billion per annum; 48% of this is attributable to family care; 43% is accounted for by residential care; formal health and social care services contribute only 9% to the total cost.

• The Alzheimer Society of Ireland National Helpline is open six days a week Monday to Friday 10am–5pm and Saturday 10am–4pm on 1800 341 341.

Figures referenced to Cahill, S. & Pierce, M. (2013) The Prevalence of Dementia in Ireland

**About Mowlam Healthcare:**

The largest and one of the most respected providers of nursing home care in Ireland, with over 28 locations throughout the country. Mowlam is a national healthcare leader, committed to clinical excellence, compassion, and improving the health outcomes for older people in their care. Everyone’s clear focus is 'To Enhance the Quality of Life for Older People' - this is The Mowlam Way.

Mowlam is leading the way in Ireland with a unique Continuum of Care offering – the most appropriate care, in the most appropriate setting, supporting people who need additional care, or specialised services, offering seamless transitions through levels of clinical care, as a person’s health care needs change.

Mowlam Healthcare provides a comprehensive range of specialist care services:

Health Care At Home – Home Help, Home Nursing Care & Community Support

Transitional Care – rehabilitation, post-acute medical care and step down care

Residential Care – respite care, dementia care, long term care, complex care and palliative care

Our care follows critical and clinical best practice, focusing on optimal outcomes for our residents, and reduced hospitalisations.

**Website:** www.mowlamhealthcare.com

**Facebook:** @MowlamHealthcare