**IMMEDIATE RELEASE – WEDNESDAY, 18th SEPTEMBER 2019**

**THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF IRELAND’S HEAD OF OPERATIONS RECEIVES ALL-STAR THOUGHT LEADER AWARD AT ALL-IRELAND BUSINESS FOUNDATION CEREMONY**

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland’s Head of Operations Siobhan O’Connor has received All-Star national recognition as a Thought Leader from The All-Ireland Business Foundation at the TRIBE Gathering and Business All-Star Accreditation Ceremony at Croke Park last week.

The All-Ireland Business Foundation is the national body responsible for accrediting best-in-class Irish businesses as Business All-Stars and is responsible for overseeing the All-Ireland Business Summit and All-Star awards, ongoing All-Star accreditation, Thought Leader awards and promoting peer dialogue among members.

This is an outstanding achievement for Siobhan, whose career has covered all aspects of business including sales, finance, operations, technology, ISO certification and compliance. Siobhan is also an accomplished and persuasive negotiator with over 20 years’ experience in the office supplies industry in senior management roles with her last role being Managing Director of Codex Office solutions.

Siobhan is now bringing this experience to the charity sector with The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, the national leader in advocating for and providing dementia-specific supports and services.

The ASI is a national non-profit organisation, a person-centred, rights-based and grassroots led with the voice of the person with dementia and their carer at its core. The ASI also operates the Alzheimer National Helpline offering information and support to anyone affected by dementia at 1800 341 341.

 **The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Head of Operations Siobhan O’Connor said:**

*“I am delighted to receive this award from The All-Ireland Business Foundation earlier today. I really believe in first-class customer service to clients, building and maintaining existing relationships and developing a ‘can do attitude’ with the client always at the forefront. That has attitude has really helped me in the private sector and I am looking forward to bringing the same approach, commitment and passion to my role with The Alzheimer Society of Ireland.*

*“I am also very passionate about all aspects of Corporate Social Responsibility. From supporting DePaul Ireland in their annual raft race to fundraising for the Beaumont Foundation and St Francis Hospice. I also really believe in in training and upskilling and investing in people, an open and inclusive communicator and an avid supporter of the Great Place to Work. I am really grateful to the All-Ireland Business Foundation for the future opportunities this might bring for The Alzheimer Society of Ireland in the years ahead.”*

**Further Information:**

For all media enquiries, please contact The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Communications Manager Cormac Cahill on 086 044 1214.

**Notes to the Editor:**

**About The Alzheimer Society of Ireland:**

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](http://www.alzheimer.ie/)
**Twitter:** @alzheimersocirl
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/TheAlzheimerSocietyofIreland/](http://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 an umbrella term used to describe a range of conditions which cause changes and damage to the brain.
• Dementia is progressive. There is currently no cure. Dementia is not simply a health issue but a social issue that requires a community response.
• The majority of people with dementia (63%) live at home in the community. Over 180,000 people in Ireland are currently or have been carers for a family member or partner with dementia with many more providing support and care in other ways.
• 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.
• 1 in 10 people diagnosed with dementia in Ireland are under 65.
• 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

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

**ENDS**