**IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Tuesday, 18th February 2020**

**141,200 people will be living with dementia in Ireland by 2050 – new Alzheimer Europe report**

* Ageing population means rates will rise from an estimated 55,000 today
* People with dementia will represent 2.49% of population by 2050
* There are 11,000 new cases of dementia in Ireland each year

A new report from ***Alzheimer Europe*** which has been published today states that the overall numbers of people with dementia in Ireland will more than double from an estimated 55,000 in 2018 to 141,200 in 2050 due to a predicted increase in Ireland’s population over the coming 30 years. This means that as a percentage of the overall population, people with dementia will represent 2.49% in 2050 compared to 1.09% in 2018.

Ireland exceeds the broader European trend of the numbers of people with dementia almost ***doubling*** by 2050. A key factor for this change appears to be the ***significant increase*** in the numbers of people aged over 60, and in particular, the over 85 age range, which will more than triple between 2018 and 2050.

The report, ***Dementia in*** ***Europe Yearbook 2019 ‘Estimating the prevalence of dementia in Europe’***, found that while healthier lifestyles and better education to have contributed to a reduction of the prevalence of dementia across Europe, an ageing population means that the number of people living with the disease is set to increase substantially in the years ahead.

This increased number of people living with dementia in Ireland will place greater pressure on care and support services and points to the need to substantially invest in dementia care services in Ireland. There is a ***crisis*** ***in dementia care*** and access to community dementia-specific services across Ireland depends on where you live and no county in Ireland has even a minimum level of support.

This report highlights the pressing need for a ***National Dementia Registry*** for Ireland, which is currently at an early stage of development and will require further investment in the future. This is necessary in order to collect information on dementia in a reliable and accurate way. Currently the lack of joined up recording of dementia diagnoses means Ireland does not have access to an accurate picture of the numbers of people living with the condition in Ireland so we can adequately plan treatment and care pathways for the thousands developing this condition every year.

***The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Head of Advocacy & Public Affairs Tina Leonard said:*** *“The overall picture is extremely stark as Ireland now faces a full-blown public health crisis with a predicted 141,200 people living with dementia in Ireland by 2050. This will exert extreme pressure on stretched dementia supports and services which are already in a state of crisis. The new Government must finally tackle the crisis in dementia care.”*

**ENDS**

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

***About The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI):***The ASI is the national leader in understanding and providing dementia-specific supports and services. With a national network of over 120 specialist services, 900 staff and 300 volunteers, each year they provide almost 900,000 hours of community-based, dementia-specific care throughout Ireland. For more information see www.alzheimer.ie.

***About Alzheimer Europe Report:***  
Alzheimer Europe has launched a new report presenting the findings of its collaborative analysis of recent prevalence studies and setting out updated prevalence rates for dementia in Europe. The report states that the number of people with dementia in Europe will almost double by 2050, increasing to 14,298,671 in the European Union. View report on [www.alzheimer-europe.org/](http://www.alzheimer-europe.org/) (Ireland on page50-51)

***Brain Health:***  
While there is no cure for dementia, growing scientific evidence indicates that you can help to reduce your risk of developing dementia in 5 simple ways: be physically active; eat a healthy diet; take care of your heart; mentally challenge your brain; and be socially engaged. <https://alzheimer.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/ASI-BrainHealth-Brochure-website-1.pdf>

***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/)

**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.  
• There are 11,000 new cases of dementia in Ireland each year. That’s at least 30 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*

*\*Figure referenced from Pierse, T., O’Shea, E. and Carney P. (2018) Estimates of the prevalence, incidence and severity of dementia in Ireland*