**IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Monday, 28th February 2022**

**The Alzheimer Society of Ireland delighted to announce opening of new day care centre for people living with dementia in Laois**

***\*Picture attached and interviews available on request***

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI) is delighted to announce the opening of our ***new day care centre*** in An Garran, Kiln Lane Mountrath, Co Laois.

The ASI has ***struggled*** for a long time to find a location in Laois to support people living with dementia and their families. Now, the day has finally come.

While The ASI has a ***long history*** of delivering homecare and day care at home service in Laois, bringing people living with dementia into a day care centre in the community for social engagement and activities will be so valuable to all.

There are ***962*** people living with dementia in Laois.

The ASI provides ***several services in Co Laois*** including a Dementia Adviser, Online Family Carer Training, Online Family Carer Supports, Home Care Services, National Virtual Dementia Choir, Memory Technology, Memory Clinic and Local Health Services. For a full list of services, visit: alzheimer.ie/county/laois

***For more information***on our new day care centre, contact Laois Day Care centre manager Grainne Roche Duff on grainne.rocheduff@alzheimer.ie or (087) 607 5037.

***The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Interim CEO, Siobhan O’Connor said:*** *“I am so delighted to open this day care centre today to support the people living with dementia and their families in Laois. I would like to thank several people who made this happen. Firstly, Paul Ahearn from Respond who identified our need and has made this wonderful location in the community available to us. Our Manager, Grainne Roche Duff, who along with our long serving Homecare Co-ordinator, Ann Munnelly, is making all this happen; their passion and enthusiasm inspires me today and reinforces why we do what we do. Also, to mention The ASI Support Manager, Margaret Maher, and the HSE for making the funding available to deliver the service.”*

**ENDS**

 **For media enquiries and more information, contact The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Communications Officer Niamh Burke at niamh.burke@alzheimer.ie or (086) 0295634**

**NOTES TO THE EDITOR**

***About The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI):***The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is the leading dementia specific service provider in Ireland. The Alzheimer Society of Ireland works across the country in the heart of local communities providing dementia specific services and supports and advocating for the rights and needs of all people living with dementia and their carers. Our vision is an Ireland where people on the journey of dementia are valued and supported. A national non-profit organisation, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland advocates, empowers and champions the rights of people living with dementia and their communities to quality support and services. The Alzheimer Society of Ireland also operates the Alzheimer National Helpline offering information and support to anyone affected by dementia on 1800 341 341.

***The ASI turns 40 (1982-2022):***

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland celebrates 40 years in 2022. There have been so many milestones achieved since 1982 when carers Winifred Bligh and Imelda Gillespie held their first meeting and changed the face of dementia care in Ireland forever. 40 years on, and The ASI is now a national organisation providing support, services and care to the 64,000 people living with dementia and their family carers in Ireland today. In 2022, we want to mark this milestone and our many achievements together with our staff, branches, volunteers and supporters.

***Alzheimer National Helpline:***

For more information on our supports and services during this challenging time, please contact The Alzheimer Society of Ireland National Helpline. The Helpline is open six days a week Monday to Friday 10am–5pm and Saturday 10am–4pm on 1800 341 341. Email at helpline@alzheimer.ie or via Live Chat at [www.alzheimer.ie](http://www.alzheimer.ie)

**ABOUT DEMENTIA**

* There are 64,000 people with dementia in Ireland and the number of people with the condition will more than double in the next 25 years to over 150,000 by 2045.\*
* 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.\*\*
* 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.
* 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 Alzheimer Europe (2020) Dementia in Europe Yearbook 2019 ‘Estimating the prevalence of dementia in Europe’*

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