

“The Carers Association voice their shock at Governments suspension of funding for Community supports to older people “

The Carers Association are utterly shocked to hear today of Governments decision to suspend funding the Community Support for older people scheme with immediate affect.

This scheme, costing in the region of 4.2 million per annum, provided over 11,000 older people in 2008 with social alarms and pendants allowing them to continue living in their own homes whilst maintaining their independence and security. This gave older people and their families a great “peace of mind” knowing that there is somebody at the end of a phone who can immediately respond to their emergency call and reduced the isolation felt by older people living on their own, particularly in rural areas. Other security measures such as smoke alarms, chain locks, outside security lighting were also funded under the scheme which further enhanced that feeling of safety.

“As an organisation working with carers, many of whom are themselves over the age of 65, these pendants were often seen as a lifeline to older people and, in some cases, were the difference between people remaining in their homes or having to go into residential care” says Enda Egan, CEO, the Carers Association.

“Given the recent increase in attacks on older people in their homes and our ageing population, (number of people aged 65 to increase by 59% by 2021 and a further 142% by 2061) surely this decision is the wrong one and should be reversed with immediate affect” adds Mr Egan.

Suspending this grant is a direct attack on older people in our society ,who have worked all their lives and contributed enormously to our economy. In the long term this will end up costing government more not to mention the undue emotional stress it will cause our older people, their families and their carers.

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