



Emigrant Support Service



ADVICE &
INFORMATION



OUTREACH
VISITS



HOUSING
ASSISTANCE



CONNECT

From the Chairman's Desk

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There's a great feeling of Summer around this neck of the woods what with loads of good weather and abundant greenery, flowers in full bloom and birdsong.

Mindfulness charges us to blot out all problems of the world and just enjoy the moment. There will always be problems in the world. Nothing is more certain. Yet sometimes we have to stop and wonder how cruel deeds can be visited on innocent people in the name of religion.

The Manchester massacre is a case in point. How a young Manchunian in his early twenties could have got caught up in something so horrific that caused him to become a suicide bomber and mass murderer of neighbouring family members and young children is hard to understand. Those who prey on immature and vulnerable minds to commit such atrocities need to be sought out and stopped. The response of the already scarred people of Manchester was uplifting where a shrine appeared in the middle of that scarred city dedicated to love not hate.

These are a people who are entitled to be bitter and cynical yet have risen above all of that by coming together to support each other in their terrible grief. That is not what those perpetrators of such heinous deeds wanted or expected.

God help those families who have been robbed of their loved ones, and God bless those who can turn the other cheek.

So long for now,

Dr Jerry Cowley

Chairman - Safe Home Ireland



Housing Opportunities



A Housing Association in **Banada, Co. Sligo** (close to Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo and Charlestown, Co. Mayo) has a 2 bed room property available. There is a limited transport system in place and the scheme is set in a rural location so it may be most suitable for people who can drive or those with family living in the area. There is a no pets policy in place in this scheme. Maximum weekly rent is €73



Our near neighbours at **St. Brendan's Village in Mulranny, Co. Mayo** have a one-bedroom property available. Maximum weekly rent is €79

In both cases, preference will be given to Safe Home applicants originally from the relevant counties or those with strong family links in Sligo/Mayo. However, applicants from other counties may also apply.

People who are registered and approved by the relevant Council (Sligo County Council re Banada and Mayo County Council re St. Brendan's) can apply for assistance with their rent. Those who are not on the relevant Council housing list will have to meet the full rent costs from their own income.

Please contact the Safe Home office for more information on both schemes.

New cancer support service for Irish people in London

The Safe Start Foundation (1 Bridgehill Close, Wembley, London HA0 1EP) recently launched a support and advice service for Irish people who have received a diagnosis of cancer. This also applies to people who are caring for a friend/family member with cancer. Some of the services provided are;

- Self-help groups
- Monthly health awareness sessions
- Closed online forums

If this applies to you or anyone you may know, you can **contact Clare O'Donnell (Irish Cancer Support Worker) directly: Tel: 0208 900 0001**

Returning to Ireland - Information session in London for any agencies working with the Irish Community; A free information session on returning to Ireland will be held on Wednesday 7th June 2017 from 11am to 2pm at the London Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square, London, NW1 9XB.

The event is open to any non-profit organisations in London who provide support to Irish emigrants, as well as recipients of Emigrant Support Programme funding and member organisations of the Irish in Britain.

The session, run in partnership with The London Irish Centre and Irish in Britain will be facilitated by Sarah Owen of Crosscare Migrant Project and our own, Karen McHugh, Safe Home Ireland.

The aim of the session is to provide practical information to agencies working with the Irish community in Britain that will assist them in responding to general queries from Irish emigrants who may be considering returning to Ireland.

Topics will include: Irish Social Welfare Payments, Social Housing, Medical Cards, Homelessness and returning in crisis. A general overview of the services provided by Crosscare Migrant Project and Safe Home Ireland will be outlined as well as a guide to making referrals to either/both organisations. **Capacity is limited to a maximum of 30 people, so book early to avoid disappointment! Please register your attendance as soon as possible at: <http://bit.ly/2q8FBuz>**

Dates for your diary: up-coming information sessions in Manchester & Liverpool

Our Outreach Officer, Brenda, will be in the UK in June to carry out home visits with Safe Home clients. During her trip, Brenda will also be hosting three **information sessions on returning to Ireland;**

1. Monday 19th June - 12 - 2pm at St Kentigerns (St. Kents) Irish Social Club, 36 Wilbraham Rd, Fallowfield, Manchester, M14 7DW.

2. Tuesday 20th June - 11am - 1pm at The Irish World Heritage Centre, Irish Town Way, Manchester M8 0AE

3. Wednesday 21st June - 2 - 4pm at Irish Community Care, 151 Dale St, Liverpool, L2 2AH

For more information, please contact the Safe Home office on 00 353 98 36036 or email: brenda@safehomeireland.com

Advice from Returnees

Car Insurance; 78 year old Leo (recently returned from Western Australia to Co. Mayo) advises people to ensure that they bring home proof of their no claims bonus. This will be required when seeking affordable car insurance options in Ireland. Most companies require a 5 year no claims history. Car insurance quotes for returning emigrants tend to be a lot higher than people anticipate. This is the case even when the driver can produce a 5 year no claims history, as only a very limited number of companies will provide quotes to holders of licences from outside of the EU. However, without the 5 no claims history, the options are even fewer and the quotes that people are getting can only be described as astronomical. As Leo did not have 5 year no claims bonus, he is still reeling from the quote that he received for 3rd party cover only €6170[⊕]

Some advice from Leo on banking matters; For anyone who intends lodging a foreign bank draft here on their return to Ireland e.g a closing balance from bank account/s abroad. Please be aware that drafts from foreign banks can take up to 6 weeks to clear. Irish banks do not tend to approve any form of 'bridging' loan in the interim. Given this, it is wise to have some alternative funding source to tide you over during the waiting period.

More on driving in Ireland

Motor tax rates in Ireland tend to be high in comparison to rates in the UK. This is particularly true where people have older cars with bigger engines. It may be worthwhile doing a little research on whether taking your car to Ireland with you, as opposed to buying one here when you arrive, is the most cost effective option.

You can find more information on motor tax in Ireland via www.motortax.ie or email: motortax@dtas.ie

Driving in Ireland on a Foreign Licence: If you have a driving licence issued by an **EU/EEA** member state you can drive in Ireland as long as your existing licence is valid. If you wish to exchange your driving licence for an equivalent Irish driving licence, you must do so within 10 years of your driving licence expiring.

If the foreign Driving Licence has expired, it must be accompanied by a letter of entitlement / driver statement from the Issuing Authority. Certified translations are required for all Letters of Entitlement which are not in English or Irish. Translations must be provided by a reputable company who must be a member of the Irish Translator and Interpreters Association. The letter of entitlement must be submitted together with the certified translation.

Please note! Applications to exchange a licence may take 2/3 months to process as the National Drivers Licence Service here will need to contact the original licensing authority

Where a driving licence or international driving permit has been issued on foot of an exchange from a country that Ireland does not have an exchange agreement with (e.g USA) then Ireland cannot exchange the driving licence.

In these circumstances you may drive in Ireland for the duration of a temporary visit (up to 12 months). If your stay in Ireland will be more than 12 months you can apply for an Irish driving licence **but you will need to go through the full driver licensing procedure.** You must first pass a driver theory test, apply for a learner permit, complete a course of Essential Driver Training (EDT – 12 driving lessons) and pass your driving test in Ireland. If you pass your driving test, you can then apply for a full Irish driving licence.

- Cost of a standard theory test (for a car) €45
- Cost of a standard driving test in Ireland is €85
- The fee for exchanging a foreign driving permit for an Irish driving licence is €55.

Notes! Fees above vary depending on the category of vehicle in question, e.g. increased rates for trucks or larger vehicles.

Any required eyesight tests or medical examinations are **not** free of charge.

You can find out more about Irish Driving Licences by contacting the National Driver Licence Service, **(in writing)** Po Box 85, Southside Delivery Office, Cork
or via their website: www.ndls.ie

Safe Home Ireland is supported by the Emigrant Support Programme via:



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