

# 2017

# SAFE HOME IRELAND

## OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



Emigrant Support Service

## OUR WORK

Established in 2000, Safe Home Ireland is the only rural based, outreach support service for people who are considering moving or returning to Ireland. We originally supported older Irish born emigrants to explore the option of returning to secure accommodation back in their native counties. We now offer an information, advocacy and outreach service to anyone, regardless of age or circumstances, who may be considering moving or returning to Ireland. Our head office is located in Co. Mayo and our outreach offices are located in Co. Kerry and Co. Galway.

Since our inception, Safe Home Ireland has supported 1,978 people return 'home' to live. Our applicants have come from all corners of the globe and to all 26 counties. For the majority, their return was a positive lifelong dream and could not have been fulfilled without the intervention and support of Safe Home.

## OUR VISION

To ensure that anyone considering returning or moving to Ireland is given every opportunity to make an informed decision.

## OUR MISSION

To act as the link for Irish emigrants, both at home and abroad, by providing advice, information, guidance and supports for those seeking permanent repatriation as well as those who chose to stay in their adopted country.

## OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### SUSTAINABILITY

We continued to work towards securing and strengthening our capacity in order to meet the increased demand and need of our support service. During the year we explored many new sources of funding and sponsorship and particularly 'in kind' support. We reviewed many of our internal policies and systems to ensure compliance and good governance and are pleased to welcome two new Directors to our Board of Management.



### NETWORKING, REPRESENTATION & PROMOTION

In 2017, we continued to advance the Safe Home brand nationally and globally. We carried out extensive UK outreach and facilitated 15 information clinics covering Birmingham, Manchester, London, Coventry and Sandwell. We were invited to present at several forums and conferences in Ireland and the UK and were fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with American, Australian and Canadian Irish Welfare Groups at the Global Irish Forum in May 2017.

We met with several public representatives, including both Ministers and Senator with Responsibility for Diaspora Affairs, MEP's, local politicians and the Lithuanian Ambassador. In addition we featured in high profile publications and conducted several radio and print media interviews, including GAA Magazine, St. Patrick's Day Magazines, Connect Ireland, local radio, Irish Times Abroad. In November, we led a global Webinar in partnership with the US Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform, which has over 3,000 views to date. Our overall social media and print contacts increased by 29% during the year.



### DIRECT SUPPORT

We pride ourselves on our frontline information, advocacy and outreach service which supports people before, during and after the moving process. Year on year demand for our direct support services have increased but we noted a considerable increase in 2017. Our total client interventions increased by over 52%; our outreach support visits by 70%; information requests increased by 6.5%; accommodation secured by 32% and new housing applications increased by 10%.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## STAFF

## OUR TEAM

CHAIRPERSON: DR JERRY COWLEY    SECRETARY: MICHAEL JOE GINNELLY  
DIRECTORS: MARY WOOD // TERESA GALLAGHER // TERESA COWLEY // TERESA HANLEY // PADRAIC GRENNAN // ORLAGH MCHUGH  
CEO: KAREN MCHUGH    COORDINATOR: MARY ANN FADIAN  
OUTREACH & ADVOCACY OFFICERS: BRENDA FLEMING // NOREEN MULRINE

# 2017

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## OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



We have a proven history of over 17 years of working with/for the Irish emigrant community and are the only holistic front line national support service for people before, during and after the moving process. Our four areas of work are:

- ADVICE & INFORMATION**
- OUTREACH VISITS**
- HOUSING ASSISTANCE**
- CONNECT**

# 3,673

client interventions



## ADVICE & INFORMATION

We provide an information, advice and advocacy service to anyone (regardless of age or circumstances) who may be contemplating returning or moving to Ireland. This is particularly important for people who are unsure where to start or what to do to begin with.

# 706

information requests

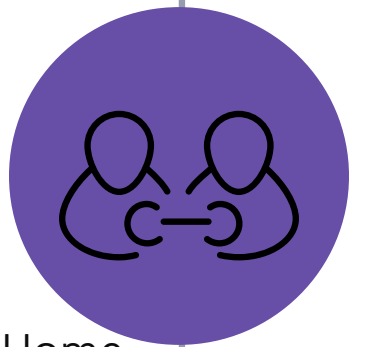
**77%** of queries are from Irish-born people.

**15%** 2nd generation



117   
47 **164**

## OUTREACH VISITS



As part of our outreach work, we carry out home visits with Safe Home housing applicants throughout the UK, so that we can meet with applicants in their own homes to go through the application process in detail and answer any questions they may have.

We also provide an outreach and advocacy service to people who have returned home (regardless of age, circumstances or location), who need assistance with general readjustment and integration in Ireland.



## HOUSING ASSISTANCE

We assist qualifying Irish born emigrants to return home, primarily to social housing schemes back in their native areas. We do not manage or build any properties of our own but we work in conjunction with Housing Associations who provide housing for our qualifying applicants throughout Ireland.

# 283

Housing Applicants

**117**   
Resettlement Support Visits

**70**   
Accommodated

**64**   
New Applications

**91%**   
of housing applicants based in UK

**1,978**   
people accommodated since 2000

people in contact

# 989



**1,312**

receive Newsletter **961**



## CONNECT



We act as a link with home for emigrants. We do this primarily through our monthly Newsletter and e-bulletin, which is disseminated globally as well as through our social media platforms. We realise that 'Coming Home' is not for everyone but staying connected with Ireland is particularly important for most emigrants.

