



SAFE HOME IRELAND
EMIGRANT SUPPORT SERVICE



ADVICE &
INFORMATION



OUTREACH
VISITS



HOUSING
ASSISTANCE



CONNECT

April 2022 – Issue 241

Welcome from our CEO

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Safe Home office hours:

Monday to Thursday:

9.00am to 5.00pm

Friday:

9.00am to 4.00pm

Thinking of returning or moving to Ireland?

Get in touch!

Safe Home Programme CLG
trading as Safe Home Ireland
Charity No: 20049119
Company Reg No: 351678

Welcome to our April Newsletter! We hope you had a lovely Easter and half term break, wherever in the world you might be!

Following a recent Governance review and skills audit, our Board is seeking new voluntary Directors to join the team. Previous experience of serving on a non-profit board would be a bonus and an initial commitment of three years is preferred. Applications are also welcome from people living outside of Ireland – see page 3. for more information and how to apply.

We are pleased to be partnering with Mayo County Council to host, *The Scattering and the Gathering* to mark [Home to Mayo 2022](#), on Monday 2nd May, in [Mulranny Park Hotel](#). Home to Mayo is part of the Global Irish Festival Series, which is a joint initiative between Fáilte Ireland and the Department of Foreign Affairs. Our event includes a guided walk with Michael Joe Ginnelly on the famous Mayo Greenway; a Talk with author [Ultan Cowley](#) about Mayo's experience of emigration and a Concert with our Ambassador, [Seán Keane](#). Tickets are available from our website and locally in Mulranny Post Office, Mulranny Park Hotel and Achill Sound Post office. Contact our office if you would like any further information.

One week later on 12th May, in the [Ardhowen Theatre](#), Enniskillen, there will be another concert led by our Ambassador [Seán Keane](#) and supported by Fermanagh based [Tully](#), who are a harmony folk group with a varied and rich background in classical, folk, traditional and roots music! This concert has been organised by Friends of Safe Home Ireland and is our first concert to be held in the North of Ireland so we are extremely excited! There are a limited number of tickets still available but get booking fast as this event is close to being 'sold out'.

With the support of the [Community Foundation for Ireland](#), we are currently conducting an impact assessment of our work. We plan to carry out a series of interviews with people who returned home since our inception in 2000. We will also interview a range of service providers in Ireland and abroad to seek their views of our model, what works well and what we can improve on. If you are willing to participate in this process, please contact our office and we can tell you more about it!

**Until next month, take care, stay safe and keep in touch from
Karen, the Staff, Board and Friends of Safe Home Ireland**



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



An tAire Ceannasach Éireannach
Department of Foreign Affairs



Pet Travel between Great Britain and Ireland

The UK's departure from the EU has resulted in a change in the rules for pet travel between Ireland and the UK. The rules for travel to and from Northern Ireland have not changed.

Pets travelling from GB to Ireland must be;

1. Microchipped before the rabies vaccination is administered (Pets may be tattooed instead of microchipped, only if tattoo applied before 3rd July 2011);
2. Vaccinated against rabies by a vet

Since 1st January, 2021, in addition to the above requirements, each pet travelling, or returning, from GB to Ireland;

1. May only enter Ireland through certain Travellers' Points of Entry: Dublin Airport, Rosslare Port, Port of Cork at Ringaskiddy, Shannon Airport and Cork Airport, and Dublin Port.
2. Must travel with either a health certificate issued by a UK official vet or an EU pet passport.

Note! EU pet passports issued by Northern Ireland will remain valid if they have been marked with a sticker by the issuing vet in Northern Ireland. If required, contact your local issuing vet in Northern Ireland for information.

An EU pet passport that was issued in GB will not be valid for travel to the EU, even it was issued before January 2021. Pet owners are advised to retain any GB issued EU pet passport, as it may contain important information about vaccinations, treatments, etc. This passport and animal health certificate should accompany the pet during travel from GB to Ireland.

3. Dogs travelling from, or returning from, GB to Ireland will require treatment against Tapeworm by a veterinarian 24 to 120 hours (1 to 5 days) before arrival in Ireland. If travelling with a passport issued in Ireland, this treatment may be entered into the pet passport by a UK vet. If the pet does not have an EU pet passport, the pet must be accompanied into Ireland by a health certificate issued by the UK authorities. A health certificate is required before each entry into the EU. Pet owners should contact the UK authorities for information on how to apply for this health certificate.

For more information, email your query to; livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie **Tel:** + 353 1 607 2827

Dog Licences – Ireland

Annual Dog Licence - €20

Lifetime Dog Licence - €140

Licences can be purchased at local post offices or online via; licences.ie

Banking in Ireland

With more and more services and Government agencies signposting customers online or using centralised call centres to 'field' calls from clients and the public, it can often be very difficult and stressful to find the answers to queries or deal with stressful situations that life can present us all with from time to time.

We are heartened to learn that the larger Irish banks now offer dedicated support phone lines for older and vulnerable customers. Bereavement Support teams are also available, as are sections specifically tailored to people who may be returning/coming to live in Ireland. To find out more, drop into your local branch or go online to the relevant bank and search under whichever of the above services you are seeking. Alternatively, please contact the Safe Home office and we will be happy to assist in getting the information for you.

Frequently Asked Questions – Health care in Ireland

I am an Irish citizen and will be moving back to Ireland shortly. I have been told that I will need to be 'ordinarily resident' in order to access health care in Ireland. I am not sure what this term means.

Q. Can you please clarify that for me?

A. The term 'ordinarily resident' in relation to accessing health care in the public system in Ireland means you must satisfy the Health Service Executive (HSE) **that you have been living in Ireland for at least a year OR you intend to live here for at least one year.**

To establish that a person is ordinarily resident the HSE may require back up evidence, some examples;

- Proof of property purchase or rental, including evidence that the property is the person's principal residence (for example, proof of rent from the local authority)
- A letter or statement from a financial institution (for example a bank statement or credit union statement)
- A current utility bill (such as a gas, electricity or phone bill)
- A current car or home insurance policy in your name
- An official document from a government department (for example, a notice of assessment from Revenue or proof of rent from the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme)

Note! The above documents must be dated within the last 12 months.

I don't think that I will qualify for a Medical Card under the income/means testing guidelines when I move back to Ireland.

Q. Does this mean that I will not be able to access any health services?

A. Even without a full Medical Card, once someone is considered 'ordinarily resident' in the State, they can avail of health care within the public system, albeit in a more limited capacity.

Depending on circumstances and in some cases, age, there are a range of schemes /other avenues that may be applicable, in summary;

GP visit card – This card allows the holder to visit their GP for free. The allowable income levels to qualify for the GP visit card are higher than for the Medical Card. If you are turned down for a Medical Card on the basis of income, you could still qualify for the GP visit card. **Note!** there is free GP care for everyone over 70 years of age, regardless of their income. Free GP care also applies to children under 6yrs; this is expected to be expanded shortly, to include children aged 6 and 7rs.

Long Term Illness Scheme – If you do not have a Medical Card but suffer from certain medical conditions/disabilities, you may qualify for a Long Term Illness Card, regardless of your income. The card will cover the treatment and drugs relating to the specific condition that is approved under the scheme.

Drugs Payment Scheme (DPS) – Under this scheme, regardless of income, an individual or family will pay no more than €80 each calendar month for:
approved prescribed drugs and medicines
rental costs for a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine or rental costs for oxygen

Medical Card under EU regulations – If you move to Ireland and are in receipt of an EU State Pension and are not in receipt of any pension /income from the Irish State, and are not employed or self-employed here, you can qualify for a Medical Card, regardless of your income.

Important Note! Although Britain has left the EU, the UK State Pension is still accepted as a 'qualifying payment' under this scheme, due to pre-existing Common Travel Area arrangements.

For more information on any of the above, please see; **www.hse.ie** OR **Tel:** + 353 1240 87 87

Join our Team Become a Board Member

Following a recent governance review and to ensure effective succession planning, Safe Home Ireland Board is seeking expressions of interest from individuals with experience and background in the following areas:

- Financial Management;
- Risk Management, Technology;
- IT/ IT security;
- Marketing, public relations, social media, digital influencing and fundraising;
- Corporate social responsibility and Environment Social and Governance (ESG).

Responsibilities will include:

- An understanding of and commitment to Safe Home Ireland values, mission and vision;
- Providing input to the strategic direction of the Charity;
- Ensuring that the Charity is complying with its charitable purpose for the public benefit;
- A commitment to the highest levels of corporate governance;
- Ensuring that all legal, financial obligations and other requirements are met;
- Acting in the best interests of Safe Home Ireland.

Board Terms and Requirements:

- There are generally six board meetings per year, normally held on Wednesday afternoons via Zoom;
- Additional time will be required for preparation and reading of materials for meetings, as well as participation in established sub-committees (Audit & Risk and Fundraising) and others sub-committees as required.

Applications are welcome from people living outside of Ireland and an initial commitment of three years is preferred. See our website [HERE](#) for more information on our services, activities and impact.

For further information and/or to have an informal chat contact Karen Mc Hugh, Chief Executive Officer on +353 87 977 5080 or email at karen@safehomeireland.com Application form and CV to be submitted as part of the process. Closing date for receipt of applications is Monday 16th May 2022

What is a JAM Card and who can use one?

JAM Card allows people with a learning difficulty, autism or communication barrier tell others they need 'Just A Minute' discreetly and easily.

Those with a communication barrier are often reluctant or unable to tell others about their condition. JAM Card allows this to happen in a simple, effective non-verbal manner. JAM Card was originally developed for those with learning disabilities and difficulties. However, it can be used by anyone with a communication barrier.

For instance, JAM Card can be used by people with Asperger's or autism. It can also be used by those who have a brain injury and people who otherwise feel self-conscious about their ability to effectively communicate when engaging with others.

Many of the larger Irish retailers and some of the transport providers (Bus Eireann, Irish rail, Dublin Bus) are now JAM Card friendly. For more information or to request a JAM Card, please visit;

www.jamcard.org