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Housing and Care for Older People Newsletter

Number 2 January 2008

PSSRU
University of Kent

THE EXTRA CARE HOUSING INITIATIVE

The Extra Care Housing Fund was announced by the Department of Health in 2003 to develop innovative housing with care options for older people and stimulate effective local partnerships between health, social services and housing agencies and providers. The Fund provided £87 million for local authority social services departments and housing associations to help create around 1,500 units of accommodation during 2004–2006, and a further £60 million during 2006–2008. Around 400 bids were submitted for these funds, and 61 were successful. The successful schemes include both new build and remodelled schemes, although some of the new-build schemes also involve the remodelling of existing buildings as part of the development.

PSSRU EVALUATION

The PSSRU is undertaking an evaluation of the new-build schemes funded in 2004–2006. The October 2006 issue of this newsletter outlined progress in developing the research. Since then, 15 of the 22 schemes have opened, and the research is well underway. An initial report (www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/dp2506_2.pdf) and a summary of initial findings (www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/rs047.pdf) focusing on the first eight schemes that opened, are now available from the PSSRU website.

The evaluation is being conducted over the period from 2006–2010, to track the outcomes for the older people who move into the schemes. Inevitably, with such large-scale projects, a number of schemes have experienced delays, in some cases involving the complete re-design of the building. In order to have sufficient time to follow up the residents and to complete the analyses and

prepare a final report, it has been agreed to restrict the main evaluation to the 19 schemes due to open by Summer 2008. Table 1 gives details of these schemes, and Figure 1 shows their locations.

Two main sets of information are being collected about people moving into the schemes. First, information is being collected on the demographic characteristics and care needs of residents. Second, new residents are being asked to complete a questionnaire about their expectations of extra care and their experiences of moving into the scheme, assisted, where necessary, by a local interviewer employed by the PSSRU. Six months and 18 months after moving in, further information is being collected to identify residents' current level of physical and mental functioning and their use of care services. In each case, the completion of the questionnaire is subject to the consent of the resident or their representative.

Table 1: New Build Schemes – Opening Dates, Sizes and Tenure

	Total units	To rent	To buy
Opened in 2006			
Brighton & Hove	38	38	0
East Riding	39	33	6
Enfield	48	48	0
Havering	64	59	5
Northamptonshire	270	122	148
Peterborough	40	40	0
West Sussex (Horsham DC)	40	30	10
Opened in 2007			
Blackburn with Darwen	48	40	8
Bradford	46	32	14
Darlington	42	42	0
Ealing	35	35	0
Milton Keynes	258	100	158
North Yorkshire	39	39	0
Rotherham	35	22	13
Wakefield	45	41	4
Opening in 2008			
Derbyshire	43	20	23
Hartlepool	242	97	145
Stoke-on-Trent	75	50	25
West Sussex (Crawley BC)	39	39	0

Figure 1: New Build Schemes – Locations and Opening Dates



ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

In addition to the work funded by the Department of Health, the PSSRU has been awarded funding for three further studies that will complement the main evaluation. As described in the previous newsletter, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation is funding a project on social well-being in extra care housing (see www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/dp2524_2.pdf). The JRF is also funding an in-depth study in one scheme to investigate the costs of extra care to all relevant parties. The third study is a joint project with colleagues from the University of Sheffield, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), to examine the relationship between the design of schemes and the well-being of the users. Funding has also been agreed to collect comparable information about a second scheme in Wakefield.

Evaluation of the Rowanberries Extra Care Scheme, Bradford

Little information is available on the cost consequences of extra care housing. This study has been designed to investigate and compare costs to all stakeholders before and after residents move into extra care. It aims to:

- Identify residents' circumstances prior to moving into extra care
- Identify the costs falling on different parties, including informal carers, before and after the move
- Develop a methodology for collecting comprehensive cost data

Soon after moving into the scheme, information was collected from the residents, or their proxy, about the social care, health and housing resources used, the quality of care, and unmet needs prior to moving in. Information is also being collected from informal carers about the costs to them and their circumstances before and after the move. Detailed information on the resources used by residents is also being collected six months after moving in, to examine changes in levels of unmet need, quality of care and carer involvement. The report from this project is due in Spring 2008.

EVOLVE (Evaluation of Older People's Living Environments)

A wide range of styles of extra care housing is being developed, but there is little research evidence underpinning the design of schemes. This project will build on an existing evaluation tool developed by the Sheffield team to assess the extent to which buildings meet the needs of users. The aims of the project are to develop and validate a new tool (EVOLVE) that can:

- Be used at all stages of building design, from inception to evaluation following occupancy
- Identify design and environmental features associated with well-being and a higher quality of life for residents
- Describe the range of extra care housing available
- Be usable across the range of purpose-built housing and care settings available for older people

The project has been funded for three years, from October 2007 to September 2010, and will be supported by a project advisory group of experts in the field. The first stage of the project is currently underway. This involves the collection of evidence from design guidelines, literature and building reviews, together with information from focus groups and interviews with users, designers and commissioners of extra care schemes, to inform help the development of the evaluation tool.

The Sheffield team consists of Judith Torrington, Sarah Barnes, Kevin McKee, Alan Lewis and Alison Orrell. For further information contact Alan Lewis or Alison Orrell (telephone 0114 2220301, emails A.Lewis@sheffield.ac.uk, A.Orrell@sheffield.ac.uk).

FEEDBACK DAY

In November 2007, a meeting was held to update representatives of the schemes and policy-makers on the evaluation, and to present some early findings. Jeremy Porteus chaired the meeting and provided a policy overview.

During the morning, members of the research team gave an overview of the evaluation, a description of the characteristics of the residents, an analysis of residents' views and reasons for moving into extra care, and preliminary findings from the study of social well-being.

Four workshop sessions were held in the afternoon, on the design of extra care housing (Judy Torrington); the development of guidelines on social well-being (Sarah Vallely); the development of a kitemark for housing with care (John Galvin); and extra care for people with dementia (Sue Garwood).

The documents for the meeting and copies of the presentations can be downloaded from the PSSRU website: www.pssru.ac.uk/events/ech2007.htm.

TEAM MEMBERS UPDATE

Ann-Marie Towers returned from maternity leave in Summer 2007, Jacquetta Holder (formerly Williams) married in 2006 and Lisa Callaghan (formerly Nash) married in 2007.

Currently, we have 16 local researchers: Joice Amos, Sue Blackford, Rosemary Carlson, Marion Cole, Vicki Cook, Lynne Cullens, Angela Grimsdell, Chris Hall, Lynda Hance, Hilary Poole, Zoe Poole, John Rushton, Becky Smith, Bernard Styan, Janet Wistow and Julie Yazdanjoo.

CONTACT US

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The **PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES RESEARCH UNIT** undertakes social and health care research, supported mainly by the Department of Health, and focusing particularly on policy research and analysis of equity and efficiency in community care, long-term care and related areas — including services for elderly people, people with mental health problems and children in care. Views expressed in PSSRU publications do not necessarily reflect those of funding organisations. The PSSRU was established at the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1974, and from 1996 it has operated from three branches:

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London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE
University of Manchester, Dover Street Building, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

Further details of PSSRU research and publications (many of which are available for free download) are available from the PSSRU website or the unit librarian in Canterbury (01227 827773; e-mail pssru_library@kent.ac.uk).