

# Housing and Care for Older People Newsletter

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# PSSRU

at the University of Kent,  
the London School of Economics  
and the University of Manchester

## THE EXTRA CARE HOUSING INITIATIVE

This newsletter outlines current activities and progress to date on the PSSRU's Evaluation of the Extra Care Housing Initiative. £87 million has already been made available by the government to local authority social services departments and housing providers to create up to 1,500 extra care housing places over 2006–2008. To date, funding has been agreed for 22 new-build schemes opening between April 2006 and Spring 2008, and these schemes form the basis for the evaluation. Table 1 shows details of the schemes, while Figure 1 shows their locations.

## THE RESEARCH AIMS

As described in our project outline, the aims of the study are to evaluate and learn from the extra care schemes from

their initial implementation to following older people's experiences and health in the longer term. The objectives are to identify:

- The models and characteristics of extra care housing schemes, their advantages and disadvantages
- Circumstances and factors that influence the feasibility and success of the schemes
- Views, experiences and characteristics of the people who live in the schemes
- Views, experiences and characteristics of care and support staff
- The impact of design characteristics on the success of the schemes
- The role of and interaction with the local community
- Cost-effectiveness of different models
- Long-term outcomes for individuals, such as their health and quality of life
- The role and potential of such schemes in the overall provision of care for older people

The Department of Health funding of the evaluation forms part of the five-year rolling programme funding of PSSRU. This has the advantage that we can track longer term outcomes for both individuals and schemes than would normally be possible. However, it is insufficient to cover all of these objectives so we are seeking funding in order to ensure that as comprehensive and valuable an evaluation can be undertaken as possible. The aim is to focus on particularly relevant aspects of schemes in their evolving development. We are pleased to say we have been successful in obtaining funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) to evaluate social well-being in extra care housing. As well-being, particularly social well-being, is a fundamental outcome for residents this will clearly be a key element of the evaluation.

**Table 1: New Build Schemes – Opening Dates and Sizes**

	Total units	To rent	To buy
<b>Opening 2006</b>			
Brighton & Hove	37	37	0
East Riding	39	33	6
Enfield	48	48	0
Havering	62	57	5
Northamptonshire	270	125	145
Peterborough	40	40	0
West Sussex (Horsham DC)	40	30	10
<b>Opening 2007/2008</b>			
Blackburn with Darwen	48	40	8
Bradford	46	32	14
Cheshire	232	207	25
Darlington	42	42	0
Derbyshire	43	20	23
Ealing	35	35	0
Hartlepool	225	115	110
Liverpool	49	49	0
Milton Keynes	250	100	150
North Yorkshire	36	36	0
Rotherham	35	22	13
Staffordshire	27	21	6
Stoke-on-Trent	53	53	0
Wakefield	45	41	4
West Sussex (Crawley BC)	50	41	9

**Figure 1: New Build Schemes – Locations and Opening Dates**



## PROGRESS AND PLANS

### Extra Care Housing Initiative Evaluation Meetings

In October 2005 a meeting was held in London with representatives of the schemes to outline and discuss the research. The meeting consisted of presentations by Jeremy Porteus and Rachel Kirkland of the Department of Health and Ann Netten of PSSRU, followed by small group discussions. Ann's presentation covered the background and aims of the evaluation, the main research questions and the planned stages of work, as well as outlining plans to seek extra funding for 'add-on' projects to complement the evaluation, such as the social well-being study. The small groups were asked to discuss local and national research questions and practical concerns, and a report of the discussions was circulated after the meeting.

We are planning to hold another meeting in late Spring 2007, again for representatives of the schemes, when we will report back on work completed by then and discuss our preliminary findings.

### Subsequent Meetings with Individual Schemes

After the October 2005 meeting, we began to set up meetings with representatives of those schemes due to open first. At a first meeting, which is usually attended by representatives from social services and the housing provider among others, information about the scheme is obtained and the research discussed. A second meeting is then held to discuss arrangements for the first stages of data collection in more detail. At these early stages, a local researcher is recruited to liaise with the scheme, get to know the residents and explain the research to them, and help with filling in forms as required.

To date, we have met with ten of the schemes, and are in the process of setting up initial meetings with more of those opening in early 2007. Eight local researchers have been recruited so far, and we hope to interview more in the near future.

## Research Materials

Since the meeting in October 2005, we have also developed our research materials, including to date an information letter for residents, a consent and information leaflet, a questionnaire to gather information about residents at the assessment stage, and a questionnaire for residents to complete asking about their expectations and experiences of moving into the extra care housing scheme. We are very grateful to those early opening schemes and their residents, as well as to our local service user groups, who helped in the development process.

### Social Well-Being in Extra Care Housing Project

As part of the wider Extra Care Housing Evaluation we are carrying out a project on social well-being in extra care housing, funded by the JRF. The aims of this project are to identify:

- Residents' expectations and experiences of a variety of approaches to developing social activities
- The relative effectiveness of these in fostering individual social well-being and a supportive and encouraging social climate

The first stages of this project are underway. These include a review of the relevant literature with the aim of informing the development of the research materials, alongside obtaining more information about each scheme's planned approach to activity. The overall time frame for this project is from June 2006 through to March 2009.

## Advisory Group

The social well-being project has an Advisory Group, whose role includes providing advice and support for the overall project; providing information about work in progress elsewhere, or policy and practice developments, as a context for the project; reviewing the progress of the project, its timetable and future plans; providing a channel for JRF to keep in touch with the work; and providing a forum to focus on dissemination of the research findings.

We are grateful that the JRF are happy for the Advisory Group to play a role in the wider evaluation, and to provide some support to this in addition to the smaller project.

## TEAM MEMBERS UPDATE

Various changes to the Housing and Care Team have occurred of late. Ann-Marie Towers is currently on maternity leave until Summer 2007, while Jacquetta Williams returned from maternity leave in September 2006. Laura Dawson has left the PSSRU for a research post in Birmingham, and two new members of staff, Theresia Bäumker and Lisa Nash, joined the team in Summer 2006.

As mentioned above, we have employed eight local researchers to date. They are: Joice Amos (covering the East Riding Scheme), Angela Grimsdell (Brighton and Hove and both schemes in West Sussex), Sue Blackford (Peterborough), John Rushton (North Yorkshire, Bradford and Wakefield), Zoë Benedetti (Havering), Hilary Poole (Northamptonshire), Christine Hall (Enfield) and Chris Paige (Rotherham).

## 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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