

# EVALUATION OF THE ROWANBERRIES EXTRA CARE HOUSING SCHEME IN BRADFORD

# PSSRU

*Outline of a research project funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation*

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## BACKGROUND

The PSSRU is currently undertaking a longitudinal study of 22 new-build extra care schemes funded under the first two rounds of the Department of Health's Extra Care Funding Initiative in 2004–2006. £87 million was made available to create approximately 1,500 extra care housing places. Extra care housing seeks to promote independent living, provide an appropriate housing environment and allow access to health and social care services that are responsive to the residents' needs.

There is a systematic lack of evidence about the cost consequences of extra care housing. This study provides an opportunity to investigate costs to all stakeholders before and after residents move into extra care housing, and in the process develop a methodology for collecting comprehensive cost data. This study will take place in one of the 22 schemes. Rowanberries in Bradford opened in April 2007 and is a 46-unit joint project between social services and MHA. The scheme provides for a range of care needs and offers a mixture of tenures and extensive communal facilities.

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## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principal aim of the study is to assess the comparative cost to the resident before and after their move to extra care housing, and to achieve as true a comparison as possible.

The objectives are to

- Report on the residents' circumstances prior to moving in, and on their costs prior to and after their move to the extra care scheme.
- Identify the burden of cost falling on the different parties under the different arrangements, including informal carers.
- Evaluate whether the methodology for collecting the comprehensive cost data is practical and feasible.

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## METHOD

The 13 month project (April 2007–April 2008) will collect data over and above that already being collected as part of the Department of Health funded evaluation. Interviews with all residents, or their proxy, will identify in more depth the unmet needs, social care, health and housing resources used and quality of care prior to moving in. The interviews will also identify the residents' informal carers, who (if the resident agrees) will be sent a self-completion postal questionnaire covering direct and indirect costs incurred by them, and their circumstances before and after the move. Interviews on resource use at six months after moving in, which are also to be conducted for the Department of Health funded evaluation, will be extended for all residents to inform the analysis in terms of changes in unmet need, quality of care and carer involvement.

The analysis will draw on data collected by this study and the main Department of Health funded evaluation.

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## OUTPUTS

A report and summary of findings should be available in early summer 2008.

The study should increase the evidence base about the cost consequences of extra care housing to all stakeholders and, by reflecting and allowing for changes in need, quality of care and resource use, should enable us to provide a better comparison of the cost of caring for an individual before and after their move to extra care than is available at present.

There are challenges to collecting this type and level of data from a vulnerable group at a time of important change in their lives. In addition to substantive findings the study should help inform researchers about methods for establishing this type of data in the future.

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## RESEARCH TEAM

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