

AN EVALUATION OF THE NEW POCKLINGTON PLACE, CHATHAM ROAD, BIRMINGHAM

PSSRU

Outline of a research project funded by Thomas Pocklington Trust

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BACKGROUND

Extra care housing is a development of sheltered housing that aims to meet residents' housing, care and support needs, while helping them to maintain their independence in their own private accommodation. The accommodation might be in a block of flats, a group of bungalows or a small village, with meals, domestic support, and leisure and recreation facilities provided. Support and care is available 24 hours a day. The housing might be owned, rented, part owned or leasehold.

In 2004–05 and 2005–06, the government made £87 million available via the Extra Care Housing Fund for the creation of up to 1,500 extra care places. Further funding, totalling £140 million, has been allocated for 2006–10. The Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) is currently undertaking an evaluation of 19 new build schemes that were allocated funding in 2004–06. In addition to the research funded by the Department of Health, the PSSRU has been awarded funding to undertake further studies that will complement the main evaluation. These include a study of social well-being in extra care; a study of the costs before and after residents move into extra care; and a joint study with colleagues from the University of Sheffield to develop a tool to assess and evaluate the design of extra care.

Thomas Pocklington Trust provides housing, care and support for people with sight loss in the UK, and funds a programme of research on the prevention, cure and alleviation of blindness. In January 2008 the Trust opened its first extra care scheme in Birmingham, believed to be the first extra care scheme aimed specifically at providing housing for people with sight loss. A second scheme, in Plymouth, opened in June 2009. The Trust has commissioned the PSSRU to extend the evaluation of schemes supported by the Extra Care Housing Fund to include the Birmingham scheme and, subsequently, the Plymouth scheme.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main PSSRU evaluation aims to examine the development of the schemes from their implementation, and to follow residents' experiences and health over time. A particular feature of the evaluation is to compare explicitly costs and outcomes with those of residents moving into care homes, using data from previous PSSRU studies of care homes and their residents.

The PSSRU evaluation provides a framework for the collection of comparable information from the two Thomas Pocklington schemes. Sight loss affects over 1 in 8 people aged over 75, rising to 1 in 3 of those over 90, and by including the Thomas Pocklington schemes it is hoped to raise the profile of sight loss and highlight the role of housing in supporting people with sight loss.

A preliminary review of the experiences of residents and staff of the move to the new extra care scheme in Birmingham, and their perceptions of the new services available, was undertaken in Summer 2008. The PSSRU study is intended to complement and build on the preliminary review, to provide comparative information to that collected in the main evaluation.

The objectives of the study in Pocklington Place are to:

- Compare the views, experiences and characteristics of the residents with those of the residents in the 19 schemes in the main evaluation
- Identify the specific needs and circumstances of residents with sight loss
- Examine the outcomes for residents, in terms of their health and quality of life

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- Examine staffing and care arrangements, and the services provided to residents
- Identify the impact of sight loss on the costs of extra care housing
- Examine the costs of providing care for people with sight loss in different settings
- Examine design issues for people with sight loss living in extra care

METHOD

Data will be collected using selected questionnaires developed for the main evaluation, amended to record information on sight loss. Financial information will be extracted from records and the accounts for the scheme. The collection of information about individual residents will be subject to consent by the resident or by a personal representative. Ethical approval for the study has been received from a local research ethics committee within the NHS National Research Ethics Service.

The information to be collected includes:

- Information about residents at assessment, completed from records
- A questionnaire to residents about living in Pocklington Place, approximately 12 months after moving in, completed by the resident or, more likely, by interview
- Information about residents 18 months after moving in, completed by interview with residents and staff
- Questionnaires completed by the scheme manager and the care manager
- Financial information relating to the resident's previous accommodation, obtained from records
- Scheme accounts

TIMETABLE AND OUTPUTS

The project will run from February to December 2009.

Thematic reports, drawing on the data collected for Pocklington Place and in the main evaluation and associated studies, will be prepared for Thomas Pocklington Trust. Subject to the Trust's agreement, these may be made available via the Trust or from the PSSRU. Feedback to residents and staff will be provided using the Trust's newsletters and internal meetings. More general articles and presentations on the research on extra care will draw on the findings, in order to raise the profile of sight loss and highlight the role of housing in supporting people with sight loss.

RESEARCH TEAM

The full team working on the evaluation of the extra care schemes supported by the Extra Care Housing Fund includes:

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Details of outputs from the work on extra care are available at www.pssru.ac.uk/projects/echi.htm.

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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