



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

“Housing Options for our Ageing Population” Interdepartmental/Agency Implementation Group

Second Report of the Implementation Group

Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

housing.gov.ie

Table of Contents

Foreword	4
1. Introduction	6
2. Implementation Group	6
3. Implementation Group Sub-Groups	7
4. Methodology/Governance	8
5. Progress to June 2020	9
Research undertaken:.....	9
1. Subgroup 1 - Building and Planning Related Aspects of Housing with Support.	11
2. Subgroup 2 - Health and Social Care Aspects of Supported Housing	18
3. Subgroup 3 - Integration and Overarching Aspects of Housing with Supports ..	24
4. Subgroup 4 – Development of a Housing for Older People GIS Decision Making Support Tool	32
Appendix 1 – Terms and Conditions of the Implementation Group	34
Appendix 2 – Membership of Subgroups	39

Foreword

As Independent Chair to the Implementation Group, I am very pleased to present the second report to the relevant Ministers in the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and the Department of Health.

The approach we have taken to this work is cross-departmental and involves a wide spectrum of stakeholders ranging from people who are involved at the frontline of service delivery to those with responsibility for policy development. Most importantly, our Group has very strong participation of older person representatives. We recognise that there is a real opportunity to make a lasting difference, and that working together across all domains is the way to achieve that.

In 2019 we established three sub-groups of the overall Group, each focusing on a particular theme and the various actions relevant to that theme. The first sub-group is chaired by Mr Barry Lynch (Meath LA) and is addressing building and planning related aspects of housing with supports; the second is chaired by Mr Niall Redmond (DOH), and deals with health and social care aspects; and the final sub-group deals with integration and overarching actions, and this group is chaired by Ms Caroline Timmons (DHPLG). Since our first report we have also established a fourth sub-group to address the development of a GIS decision support tool for housing for older people, and this group is chaired by Mr Jack Keyes of Age Friendly Ireland. Each group reports on progress to the overall Implementation Group.

We have continued to seek input from people or groups with relevant expertise in areas relevant to our remit, either through the sub-Groups or at the overall Implementation Group. This will help to ensure that we are as informed as possible as we pursue implementation of the actions in the policy statement. The body of this report outlines the progress made on each recommendation by the implementation sub-groups to date in 2020.

There is no doubt that strong Ministerial support is crucial to maintain the current cross-departmental, multi-stakeholder approach. With the recent formation of a new Government, it is important to ensure that this Ministerial support continues to provide momentum and drive to the work of the Group as we seek to implement the recommendations on housing options for older people.

Housing Options for our Ageing Population

I want to particularly thank the members of the Group, the chairs and members of the sub-Groups and the excellent secretariat for continuing to make progress throughout the first six months of 2020, despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has impacted all of us, but of course those in the Health sector most severely. While there is no doubt that momentum and progress has been impacted by the pandemic, significant progress has still been made, as can be seen in this report. I hope that as we face into the second half of 2020, we can continue this effort.

Leo Kearns

Chairman

1. Introduction

On 27 February 2019, the Joint Policy Statement “**Housing Options for our Ageing Population**” was launched by Mr. Damien English T.D., Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal with Mr. Jim Daly T.D., Minister for Mental Health and Older People.

The joint Policy Statement was developed by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) and the Department of Health (DoH), with support from key stakeholders including the HSE, the Housing Agency and Age Friendly Ireland. The policy statement was also informed by stakeholder engagement events in November 2018 and February 2019 and builds on policy as outlined in **Rebuilding Ireland** and the National Planning Framework 2040.

The purpose of the Statement is to provide a policy framework to support our ageing population in a way that will increase the accommodation options available and give meaningful choice in how and where people choose to live as they age. The core aim is to increase the options available to older people and to facilitate the integration of supports in a more coherent way, particularly between the housing and health sectors, with a view to facilitating people to live at home with dignity and independence for longer. It identifies a programme of 40 strategic actions to further progress housing options for older people under the themes of data gathering, collaborative working, delivering choice, support services, comfort and safety and maintaining momentum.

2. Implementation Group

The Policy Statement set out that in order to deliver on the actions, an Inter-departmental/agency Implementation Group would be established, including membership from the two Departments, the Health Service Executive (HSE), local authorities and relevant stakeholders.

Mr. Damien English T.D., Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal and Mr. Jim Daly T.D., Minister for Mental Health and Older People established the Implementation Group and appointed Mr Leo Kearns as Independent Chair in June 2019. This Group is responsible for progressing the actions set out in the Policy Statement with a view to contributing towards the objective of supporting older people to live in their own homes and communities with dignity and independence for as long as possible and, in so doing, to progress the development of various housing options and improving the integration of services and inter-agency collaboration.

Housing Options for our Ageing Population

The Group of 22 consists of subject matter experts drawn from the following organisations:

- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
- Department of Health
- Department of Rural and Community Development
- County and City Management Association
- The Housing Agency
- Age Friendly Ireland
- The Health Service Executive
- Irish Council for Social Housing
- Older People's Council

Since the establishment of the Group there has been a very high degree of commitment by all those involved and the cross-departmental, multi-stakeholder approach has provided the group with the opportunity to work in a collaborative way to achieve the objectives of the policy.

The first meeting of the Group took place on the 10th September, 2019 with the second meeting taking place on the 3rd December 2019. At the December 2019 meeting the [First Report of the Implementation Group on Housing Options for Our Ageing Population Policy Statement](#) was agreed and it was published in January 2020.

3. Implementation Group Sub-Groups

Arising from the Implementation Group four sub-groups were established to examine specific actions from the policy statement. Some actions are linked and are being worked on collaboratively by the subgroups e.g. action 2.3 which is linked with action 5.9 and is concerned with the mapping of housing need to ensure that housing developments which include housing for older people are provided in the right areas. Each of the sub-groups reports back on progress to the Implementation Group. Work on a number of other actions, by their nature, is being led by the two Departments directly and also feeds into the work of the Implementation Group.

The four sub-groups established to support the work of the Implementation Group are:

Sub - Groups	Chair	Specific Actions
Sub-group 1 - Building and planning related aspects of housing with support	Barry Lynch, Director of Housing, Meath County Council	Specific Actions 3.4, 4.12, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 6.1, 6.4
Sub-group 2 - Health and social care aspects of supported housing	Niall Redmond, Principal Officer, Department of Health	Specific Actions 2.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.7, 6.3
Sub-group 3 - Integration and overarching aspects of housing with supports	Caroline Timmons, Principal Officer, Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government	Specific Actions 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.7, 4.8, 4.11, 4.13, 5.10
Sub-group 4 – Development of a Housing for Older People GIS Decision Making Support Tool	Jack Keyes, Age Friendly Ireland	Specific Actions 2.3, 5.9

As noted above, work on some actions is being led directly by the Departments rather than the Group but updates on progress feeds directly into the Group who are able to provide feedback and help to ensure an integrated and overarching approach for implementation of the policy objectives.

4. Methodology/Governance

The Implementation Group is jointly sponsored by the Assistant Secretary with responsibility for Housing Policy, Governance and Legislation in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) (now DHLGH) and the Assistant Secretary with responsibility for Social Care in the Department of Health (DoH). The terms of reference of the Group can be found at Appendix 1.

The Chair has overall responsibility for providing leadership and coordinating the work of the Implementation Group. He will meet the Implementation Group sponsors biannually to report on progress, raise any issues and provide a general view on the progress of the work programme. He will report to the Minister with special responsibility for Housing and Urban Development at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Minister with special responsibility for Mental Health and Older People at the Department of Health on a bi-annual basis.

The Implementation Group will assist both Departments in its implementation of the joint policy statement and is expected to maintain high standards of probity in the way it conducts its activities and this is supported in the Implementation Group's **Terms of Reference and Engagement**.

The Implementation Group is committed to operating in an open and transparent manner, and includes the management of all real and potential conflicts of interest of members, and others involved in assisting in the implementation of the joint policy statement on Housing Options for Our Ageing Population. Similarly, DHPLG and DoH staff are bound by the **Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviour** (2004) in the discharge of their duties, which includes avoiding conflicts of interest.

5. Progress to June 2020

Research undertaken:

Health Research Board Housing with Support for Older People-An Evidence Brief¹

The Health Research Board (HRB) was due to provide a draft of their research on 6th May 2020 which will examine the approaches OECD countries have taken to providing housing with support for older people and outline international evidence on the matter. However, due to the disruption of the pandemic, time was lost on this project and, accordingly, an extension of time was granted to the researchers.

The final report will be available in August 2020.

Housing Agency- Thinking Ahead - The Financial Benefits of Investing in Supported Housing for Older People²

The Housing Agency are progressing a paper which examines the costs and the benefits to the State of an expansion in the provision of Supported Housing for older people. The paper explores the costs of providing a range of supported housing options, grouped into three distinct stages: Independent, Assisted, and Specialised, in line with Stages 4-6 referred to in the 'Housing Options for an Ageing Population' Policy Statement. The paper compares the costs to the State of providing supported housing to a number of alternative scenarios where it is assumed that supported housing is not available.

The paper establishes that there is a strong positive financial benefit to the State from the provision of Supported Housing – Independent, Assisted and Specialised. Benefits accrue through reduced health and social care needs, along with a reduced requirement for more expensive nursing home beds. It was further established that

¹ Authors: Camille Coyle, Olivia Cagney, Sarah Buggy, Gerald O'Nolan, Doireann O'Brien, Louise Farragher, Jean Long. HRB

² Author: Roslyn Molloy and Rory Mulholland. The Housing Agency

Housing Options for our Ageing Population

there are benefits from the provision of both a social model of supported housing and a privately funded model.

The Financial Benefits of Investing in Supported Housing for Older People has been updated with the recommendations from the last implementation group meeting and is now being finalised for submission to the Implementation Group Sub-Group 3.

Mature Homeowner Survey

A research project, examining mature households' preferences in respect of housing, is underway. This delivers on a commitment made in Housing Options for our Ageing Population. The survey explored the housing circumstances and attitudes of households composed of homeowners aged 55+ with a view to generating policy relevant findings.

A focus of the survey was the attitude of mature homeowners toward seeking housing better suited to their circumstances (typically, trading down) or to relocate from areas of high demand to lower demand. Preliminary results were presented in November 2019, which indicated that most mature households have limited interest in downsizing, but that there are cohorts which may be open to downsize under certain conditions. The overall size of the cohort that suggested they may be interested in the option of rightsizing if purpose-built housing for rightsizing existed is circa 17.5%.

Drafting of the research paper is at an advanced stage; the paper has been circulated among relevant senior staff in the DHLGH and the Department of Finance for comment, prior to finalisation.

Rightsizing Options in Social Housing

Age Friendly Ireland are carrying out a Study on the awareness, perceptions and experiences of older people towards right-sizing. As part of this research, a questionnaire on right-sizing was developed and rolled out throughout the country. The survey covered social demographics, geographic locations and household occupancy, both private ownership and social tenancy. In order to gather qualitative evidence to support the findings of the questionnaire, a number of focus group sessions were organized in four counties. In addition, a number of specific case studies of people who had right-sized, or who were exploring options to adapt their homes or make a move to more suitable accommodation, were identified for further examination. Though this research, a user friendly guide to Right Sizing is also being developed. This report and the guide are currently being finalised and will be provided to the Implementation Group in September 2020.

Department of Health Research

A research assistant is working with the Department of Health on further research to assist with the implementation and policy development arising from Housing Options for Out Ageing Population.

1. Subgroup 1 - Building and planning related aspects of housing with support

Three meetings of the subgroup have taken place in 2020. The first meeting was held on the 30th January 2020 in the Custom House, Dublin 1, the second meeting took place on the 17th April 2020 via Webex and the third meeting took place on the 8th May via Webex.

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 1

Actions	Update (June 2020)
<p>Action 2.3 - Based on demographic projections to 2031, investigate the potential of the following three settlement types to meet the housing and associated service needs of older people:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A small / medium sized town 2. A suburban area 3. An inner city / urban centre <p>Within each of the chosen locations map the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Existing land use and ownership 2. Vacant sites and buildings 3. Existing housing 4. Existing and proposed infrastructure and services 5. Any proposed new housing and other developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While this action has been transferred to subgroup 4, it remains on the agenda as the work of that subgroup will impact on subgroup 1 (update provide at subgroup 4 below). It is envisaged that the role of the Age Friendly Technical Specialists will feed into this action in the local context.

Actions	Update (June 2020)
<p>6. Deliver proposals demonstrating the capacity of each of the areas to meet the future housing needs of older people.</p>	
<p>Action 3.4 – Develop a Design for life rating mechanism for homes that will measure the energy-efficiency and age-friendliness of homes to enable them to be truly sustainable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A literature review of various rating systems and other relevant documents has been drafted by Age Friendly Ireland. This paper reviews literature and research from international, European and Irish sources. It references the systems currently available to assess age friendly, universal design and lifetime adaptable homes. It includes a review of studies such as the SLIOTAR Housing Research report (2016) and makes recommendations for the broad categories to be included in an Irish rating system for Age Friendly Housing which include the critical elements of design, build, external space, public realm and access to services. • Meetings and engagement with Home4Life which is an EU funded consortium developing a pan European rating system, funded by Horizon 2020. This system is at an advanced stage and is currently being piloted in a number of countries in Europe. The group has selected a number of Irish sites to be part of this pilot.

Actions	Update (June 2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A database is being populated to compare various rating systems and frameworks side by side, in order to better understand the most common features required for Age Friendly Housing. In addition to the core considerations in the SLIOTAR Report this matrix provides an assessment of which indicators are used by the following documents, and others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ World Health Organization ○ Centre of Excellence in Universal Design Building for Everyone ○ The Green Council ○ Lifetime Homes (UK) ○ Lifemark Homes (New Zealand) ○ Irish Wheelchair Association ○ Dementia Friendly Homes ○ Part M ○ Fingal Lifetime Adaptable Home • Owing to the detailed and technical nature of the various systems, this work is still in progress. • Senior technical staff in Kildare County Council and Westmeath County Council are working on an in-house system for assessing age friendly and universal design housing. Their work advances the Fingal 'Ten Ways to Create a More Lifetime Adaptable House' project. • An initial draft of an Age Friendly assessment system for housing have been devised, outlining the categorisation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical • Technical • Social • Cost

Actions	Update (June 2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is envisaged that a number of indicators will be included. This initial draft needs to be refined, with reference to technical specifications for door widths, shower dimensions and other specifics. It will cross reference with the Age Friendly site selection system (Age Friendly Housing should be embedded in an Age Friendly Community and should therefore achieve a certain percentage score on the site selection criteria). Key features such as level approach, level access at rear, external lighting, communal space, internal storage space, accessible bathroom, alarm/security features, emergency call or panic button function, will be included in this system. <p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of matrix with additional data. • Further engagement with Home4Life to share learning. • Refinement of categories in draft Age Friendly Rating System with technical specifications. • Piloting of Age Friendly Rating System with members of Older People’s Councils. • Production of final tool for presentation to the Subgroup overseeing this action.
<p>Action 4.3 – Review guidance in the area of development contribution exemptions. The aim is to incentivise particular forms of development in high-density urban areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft paper has been prepared on how the system of development contributions operates in local authorities, and is currently being reviewed within the Department.

Actions	Update (June 2020)
<p>Action 4.4 - Action 4.4 - Ensure that 50% of apartments in any development that are required to be in excess of minimum sizes are suitable for older people/mobility impaired people and develop a template layout guide for same.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the text of the final draft of DHLGH Standard Unit Design Templates is currently under review and expected to open for public consultation in 2020. • Once finalised this template will achieve the objectives of this action.
<p>Action 4.6 – In partnership with industry, introduce measures to ensure that over a five-year period delivery is increased to ensure that 30% of all new dwellings are built to incorporate Universal Design principles to accommodate our ageing population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NDA are carrying out a Cost Benefit Analysis of providing universal design in new housing. The document is at an advanced stage and NDA expects to be in a position to submit it to DHLGH before the end of July 2020. • No decision can be made on this action until an agreed UD costing is available. • If and when decisions on costings are agreed there is the possibility of pilot project on the social housing side.
<p>Action 4.11 - Develop and roll out an awareness campaign on the benefits of incorporating principles of Universal Design in partnership with Fingal County Council and the national Age Friendly Ireland Programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area managers will be appointed in Age Friendly Ireland divisions. It is envisioned that this programme will be formally launched when appropriate. • Printing of 10 Ways to Construct a More Lifetime Adaptable and Age Friendly Home booklet has been suspended as a relaunch of the document is currently in progress which will have each local authority involved. (see action 3.4). • An overall awareness campaign is required when a decision on universal design is made.

Actions	Update (June 2020)
<p>Action 4.12 – Issue planning guidelines for the development of residential care homes and primary care centres to ensure that they are appropriately designed and located in areas with access to transport and amenities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kildare Age Friendly Programme, with the support and direction of Age Friendly Ireland, and in partnership with Wicklow Age Friendly programme agreed to lead out the process to develop Age Friendly Guidelines for Primary Care Centres using Athy (Kildare) and Baltinglass (Wicklow) as pilot sites. In keeping with the WHO criteria a four Stage Approach of Set Up, Consult, Plan and Implement was adopted and a set of guidelines which were scheduled for launch had to be put on hold in April 2020 due to the pandemic.
<p>Action 5.9 – Explore that developments (and specifically those for older people) are constructed in areas that are close to essential services, promoting the use of brownfield sites and explore the optimum locations that would lend themselves to becoming "age friendly neighbourhoods".</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action transferred to subgroup 4.
<p>Action 6.1 – Ensure that renewable and energy efficient systems are included as standard in all new dwellings to alleviate fuel poverty in the future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) Regulations and Major Renovation regulations came into effect on 1st Nov 2019 for new and existing dwellings commencing construction. New builds must achieve an energy and carbon emissions performance 70% better than 2005 requirements, which typically are of a BER A2 standard. • This will assist with ensuring that fuel poverty is not an issue in new developments. 500,000 homes retrofitted to a B2 standard, or the most optimal equivalent, is part of the solution.

Actions	Update (June 2020)
<p>Action 6.4 – In partnership with the Department of Justice develop National Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) guidelines for planning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHLGH will liaise with the Department of Justice regarding the development of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) guidelines. • Through the Housing & Public Realm Training the principles of CPTED are widely shared with key practitioners and officials. AFI have worked with AGSI at national level and examined the UK approach to implementation of CPTED Guidelines at implementation level.

2. Subgroup 2 - Health and social care aspects of supported housing

Subgroup 2 has not met in 2020 because of the pandemic and is likely to be in abeyance for some time.

The subgroup has considered a number of aspects of the actions assigned to it and discussed how those actions might be progressed. It intends to produce a master project initiation document (PID) which will set out key work and sub-actions that need to be put in place to deliver the relevant policy statement actions. Progress has been made across all actions and these are outlined in the table below.

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 2

Actions	Update (June 2020)
<p>4.1 Increase the funding of the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme, review the guidelines of the scheme, and streamline the application process and management of the scheme across all Local Authorities</p> <p>4.2 Work closely with local authorities to review the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme and the waiting lists in place for adaptations and publish this data on a yearly basis. This will identify any barriers and gaps at local and national level and help to streamline the process to ensure timely intervention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €73.75 million funding allocated for Housing Adaptation grants for older people and people with a disability in 2020. This is an increase of some 3.5% on the 2019 allocation. • DHLGH is in ongoing engagement with local authorities and stakeholders regarding the Housing Adaptation Grant. • A review of application forms for the scheme has been undertaken and finalised. • Building on the review carried out, the development of a revised user-friendly application form was rolled out in Q1 2020. • It is proposed to review implementation of the streamlined application process and applicant waiting times across 31 local authorities in 2020. • Under the umbrella of the National Positive Ageing Strategy, key stakeholders have produced a report following an examination of the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme. DHLGH is in engagement with the stakeholders on the findings of the report and how these may be considered further in 2020. • A PID is under development to set out further actions and timelines in 2020.

Actions	Update (June 2020)
<p>5.1. Consider how home supports in supported housing models could be incorporated into the statutory home support scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding was secured for the testing of a reformed model of Home Support service delivery in 2020, as part of the work on the design of the new scheme. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the testing programme will not now take place in 2020.
<p>5.2. In line with Sláintecare explore the structure of community based social care supports and consider the role, model and expansion of services such as day care and ancillary services including meals-on-wheels aimed at keeping older people in their communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DoH had set up an expert group including representatives from HSE Home Supports and Environmental Health Services to develop a guidance pack for MoW providers, including nutritional guidelines, and had met with the HSE's National Dietetic Lead in relation to that aspect of the project. The expert group had not met prior to the redeployment of resources and the project is now on hold. • Separately, a research assistant is engaged in preparing an information brief on existing guidelines, standards and operational aspects of MoW provision internationally.
<p>5.3. Introduce (on a pilot basis) a community grant scheme for older people services for community and voluntary groups to provide small one-off grant funding to improve or expand existing community-based services for older people or to provide seed funding for new initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €1m Community & Voluntary Support Grant for Older People services completed. Minister announced the recipients in November 2019. • The Scheme will support 151 projects across the country. Approximately €250,000 of the funding will be dedicated to dementia related initiatives. Highlighted service developments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 90 additional day care places per week. ○ 20,000 additional meals and wheels per year. ○ 13 new/expanded social centres. ○ 19 Befriending projects.

Actions	Update (June 2020)
<p>5.7. Promote the use of Support Co-Ordination Services to ensure that a collective approach to the provision of services is delivered at local level. This will include mapping and signposting of all local services such as home supports, befriending, meals on wheels, transport services, activities, services, health and wellbeing programmes, specific services, training & education and technology supports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the response to COVID-19 and in line with the National Action Plan, Social Care Support Co-ordination was identified by the DoH as providing a mechanism to mobilise a whole of Government response to support communities, including vulnerable older people. It is intended to work in cooperation across local authorities, the HSE, the Department of Rural & Community Development and the voluntary sector. This model led by local authorities in collaboration with other sectors including the community and voluntary organisations, will evolve as the response to the disease evolves in line with public health modelling and decision making. This may not be scalable in the long-term. • Building on previous work that Age Friendly Ireland had conducted around developing an Age Friendly Portal/website for each of the 31 Local Authority Age Friendly Programmes, AFI have now developed a portal that will enable all national and local information to be mapped on each of the 31 websites in a user-friendly format so that it is accessible by all citizens particularly the ageing population. This will be a part of the work of the mapping subcommittee under the National Implementation Group. Collaborative work is developing within DHLGH to align this work with previous work AFI carried out on a mapping exercise in Fingal Age Friendly Programme and the Dublin City Age Friendly Programme. This work involves the layering of various sources of information including GIS, Health Atlas and others so that a one stop shop of information can be accessible to enable older people and practitioners to access this information in a timely way and create opportunities service utilisation in a user friendly way to increase access to local services.

Actions	Update (June 2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Friendly Ireland have been working with Meath County Council’s GIS department to develop a user-friendly platform to enable easy access to information on local community and voluntary service providers. This platform is available on all 31 Age Friendly Programme websites and is mapped with local service information. As a result of COVID 19 and the establishment of the Community Response Groups in each local authority, the mapping of community and voluntary services became a core element of the national response. In Meath County Council, the Public Participation Network, as part of a pilot, now have an online interactive map that lists community and voluntary groups which are offering supports for people affected by Covid. Other counties are also developing their mapping resources, which will feed into the larger national mapping project being managed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage supported by Age Friendly Ireland. • In relation to Support Co-Ordination Meath County Council Chief Executive and Age Friendly Ireland met with Sláintecare in January 2020 to discuss a previous proposal to Sláintecare in early 2019, on collaboration between Local Government and Department of Health/HSE. The proposal looked at piloting integrated health, housing and social support co-ordination hosted in the local government sector in partnership with DoH and key stakeholders.

Actions	Update (June 2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="667 271 1433 551">• The meeting addressed the use of the iHouse platform (in the context of Meath initially) to identify older people (aged 70+ and 80+) on the social housing tenancy list to cross reference their uptake of the Housing Adaptation Grant and link the wraparound support role to 3 Tenant Liaison Officers. <p data-bbox="703 591 1426 792">This data has been captured and cross referenced retrospectively to identify older people who have had housing adaptations and may need additional wraparound supports. (Since January 2020 this data is now captured in the system).</p> <p data-bbox="703 831 1433 1536">A workshop with the TLO's and key stakeholders was scheduled for late March but had to be postponed due to Covid-19 and conflicting emergency meetings. The establishment of a nationwide local community response coordinated by 31 local authorities, the establishment of 31 local telephone numbers and the protocols in place for integrated physical and social responses to older people referred into the system has in effect accelerated this cross sectoral local response. It has demonstrated the capacity of local government, in partnership with cross sectoral agencies, to mobilise and lead the co-ordination of the delivery of a range of wraparound supports that have enabled older and vulnerable to people to live in their own homes while cocooning with access to the supports they need.</p> <p data-bbox="703 1574 1433 1816">Data is being captured on the nature of the calls and the types of services they require. Whilst in the main Covid related there is opportunity to examine the structure and measure its capacity in terms of the wider support co-ordination role including the link to physical housing needs.</p>

Actions	Update (June 2020)
	<p>Age Friendly Programme Managers have played a key role in the development and operational running of the community responses and some very innovative practices, particularly around transport, health care appointments, essential and non-essential services, physical activity programmes, online supports, daily information for a range of diverse needs, library supports and many others, have been implemented.</p> <p>Age Friendly Ireland are capturing these models of good practice.</p>
<p>6.3 Identify where technology supports can be funded through existing streams including Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is scope to produce a simplified guidance document (based on the Elements guidance document produced by CEUD) incorporating telecare, telehealth, domotics, aids & appliances and others which AFI would like to progress and this booklet could include the current (and any potential) funding supports planned.

3. Subgroup 3 - Integration and overarching aspects of housing with supports

This subgroup has met on two occasions in 2020 on the 5th February 2020 and on 11th March 2020 in the Custom House, Dublin 1. At the second meeting the group met with providers of home care services to gain an insight into how the business operates in relation to action 4.8 - ‘Launch a new scheme on a phased basis with support staff to address the housing issues for older people and the housing needs of others. This scheme will match those older people with under occupancy that wish to share their home with persons who require housing in exchange for providing practical support. This scheme will also support older people to address any housing and tenancy issues they have and ensure that their home is fit for purpose and a safe place to live’.

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 3 Actions	Update (June 2020)
<p>Action 1.3 Provide a high-level blueprint for AHB’s, Co-Operatives, LA’s & private developers that will include:</p> <p>a) Design templates for the purpose of constructing new older person housing developments or refurbishing existing facilities</p> <p>b) a guidance manual on the funding mechanisms to deliver these developments</p> <p>c) guidance on early engagement and planning processes with relevant agencies regarding health and social care services</p> <p>d) the findings of the evaluation of Dublin City Age friendly housing with support model when available.</p>	<p>Overarching action, responsibility lies with the Implementation Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to address Action 1.3, it is proposed to develop a website that will act as a one-stop shop for developers, local authorities, approved housing bodies (AHBs), care providers and persons wishing to adapt their homes. It will include research, design, data and case studies and bring together ideas and resources to inform and improve the range of housing choices, provide key contact details and an overview of the funding mechanisms available. • It is proposed that the website will include all information that was set out in Action 1.3, and will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Research publications, case studies, design templates. ○ Information guides on different financial funding mechanisms. ○ Information on social/health care mechanisms linking to housing. ○ Planning and regulatory information.

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 3 Actions	Update (June 2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide key contact details, including local authority Age Friendly Programme Managers and Engineers. ○ Universal Design Guidelines and Technical Guidance. ● A memorandum of understanding was agreed between DHLGH, DoH, AFI and the Housing Agency to design and deliver a housing for our ageing population website by the end of December 2020. ● The group has engaged Housing LIN to provide guidance and advice on the development of this website.
<p>Action 2.2 Develop consistent demographic reporting tools for local authorities to ensure that there is a national understanding of the need for appropriate housing for older people. In keeping with the principles and long term objectives of the national planning framework local planning will include population projections and ensure that development plans reflect the change in demographic trends and lands zoned accordingly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The DHLGH, the CSO and other stakeholders have collaborated with the Scottish Centre for Housing Market Analysis in adapting an excel based tool, used by Scottish local authorities in the context of carrying out their HNDAs, for use by local authorities in Ireland. The tool takes population estimates combined with other economic factors to give estimates of housing demand in a given scenario and breaks the demand into tenure type, including social housing, owner occupier, private renting and below market renting. ● The prototype Tool is now available and final decisions around the assumptions being used need to be agreed by senior Management in DHLGH. ● The Housing Needs Demand Assessment (HNDA) will provide a more consistent and evidence-based approach to assessing need and demand for housing.

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 3 Actions	Update (June 2020)
<p>Action 3.1 – Continue to deliver Age Friendly Housing & Public Realm Training workshop to create awareness of the recommendations and guidelines in the future provision of housing for an ageing population.</p>	<p>Following the full report on the public realms training submitted to the Department in November 2019 outlining the number of training sessions (reaching 1400 practitioners), numbers of participants and sectors a number of additional training sessions have been delivered. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A further two training sessions have been delivered to officials in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Dublin and in Ballina with a further session planned for staff in Wexford pending uptake. • Confirmation of two sessions with officials in the Department of Rural & Community Development have also been scheduled. A further two sessions have been scheduled with for the members of the Irish Council for Social Housing (AHB's). • Full two training workshops have been delivered to 31 Age Friendly Technical Specialists (Please see Action 4.13). • Delivery of the module to the Chartered Society of Surveyors in Ireland (100 in attendance and 50 attending online). • Each training session has included specific modules on Universal Design, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), funding models and case studies of good practice with input from Centre of Excellence in Universal Design, Garda Síochána, local authorities and Department officials.

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 3 Actions	Update (June 2020)
<p>Action 3.2 and 3.3– Review the housing allocation model to support the development of any specific future housing schemes for older people and ensure that a partnership approach is adopted between the HSE and the relevant local authority to identify the most suitable residents.</p> <p>Mandate consultation between local authorities and the HSE as part of the planning process in relation to supported housing developments and identify policy in relation to planning for support services (home support) in advance of commencement of development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Friendly Ireland participated in a working group led by Irish Council for Social Housing to review the current allocation policy and make recommendations. • Examples of good practice across Ireland were examined and recommendations submitted to the Department in the working group’s report. This is now being reviewed by the DHLGH.
<p>Action 4.5 – Introduce financial services and develop the provision of financial incentives to support older persons in both public and private housing to rightsize to more energy efficient and appropriate housing units.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the progress recorded in the December 2019 report a paper was collated with input from all 31 Older Peoples Councils across Ireland in relation to financial challenges facing older people in relation to housing. Feedback was grouped and a report was submitted to the housing subcommittee. It was noted that a number of issues were financially led but included a range of wider issues. • A workshop in partnership with the financial sector (Banks, Banking Federation of Ireland, Credit Unions) was planned for April 2020. Due to the pandemic this was deferred.

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 3 Actions	Update (June 2020)
<p>Action 4.7 – Establish methods to incentivise older people in public and private housing to rightsize to appropriately sized units, if they choose to do so. This process will begin with the establishment of a formal scheme in social housing in 2019.</p>	<p>Link to Action 4.5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mature Homeowners research paper is at an advanced stage and has been circulated to relevant staff in DHLGH and the Department of Finance for comment prior to finalisation. • A survey is being conducted by AFI on mechanisms to encourage rightsizing in social housing. • Age Friendly Ireland is leading on a piece of research that explores older people's perceptions and experiences of rightsizing. This study is a follow-on piece of research from the 'Age Friendly Housing in Local Authorities' baseline survey that was completed in 2019. The study sample will include information from both private homeowners and social tenants. • The methodology for the current rightsizing study is a mix of desk research, case studies, focus groups and a survey. The literature review is concentrating on recent data including the Mature Homeowners survey and an ESRI report. • Members of Older People's Councils across the country were invited to be part of a design team to inform the development of the survey tool. A core group of OPC members has been supporting the contracted researcher with this work. The survey went live in mid-March with an initial closing date of 20th April 2020. • Four geographic areas were selected for the focus groups, representing a range of rural and urban communities (Fingal, South Dublin, Westmeath and Roscommon). The Fingal group enquired into peoples' attitudes to their current homes, attitudes to rightsizing, and obstacles.

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 3 Actions	Update (June 2020)
	<p>Some respondents expressed interest in adapting their homes rather than moving home.</p> <p>Some cited a lack of suitable examples of age friendly homes in their local areas. There was interest in St Benedict's in Malahide. The remaining three focus groups were postponed due to Covid-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The survey is now closed and compilation of the report is underway.
<p>Action 4.8 – Launch a new scheme on a phased basis with support staff to address the housing issues for older people and the housing needs of others. This scheme will match those older people with under occupancy that wish to share their home with persons who require housing in exchange for providing practical support. This scheme will also support older people to address any housing and tenancy issues they have and ensure that their home are fit for purpose and a safe place to live .</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subgroup heard from organisations providing home share services. Through this interaction, the subgroup gained an understanding on how the differing services operate which was informative for policy development.

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 3 Actions	Update (June 2020)
<p>Action 4.10 - Conduct a scoping exercise outlining the potential for a new Capital Assistance Scheme. This scheme will take forward the commitment to better recognise the position of older people and to ensure coherence and integration in the planning and implementation of the programmes for older people in both public and private housing, including the housing programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research has been conducted by the Housing Agency, which examines the costs and the benefits to the State of an expansion in the provision of supported Housing for older people. • Scoping of potential new funding mechanisms is continuing.
<p>Action 4.13- Local Authorities will identify and assign an individual on their housing teams to work with older people in terms of sourcing appropriate accommodation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December 2019 the Minister for Housing and Urban Development wrote to the 31 Local Authority Chief Executives asking them to nominate a member of staff at a suitable engineering/technical grade or position to undertake the training provided by Age Friendly Ireland to enable them to become the local authority specific age friendly housing expert. • Following the 31 nominations the two-day training programme was developed including modules from the DHPLG, the Centre of Excellence in Universal Design (CEUD), An Garda Síochána, Waterford County Council and Dublin City Council as well as the key elements delivered by AFI in its training programme. • The training was delivered on 12th and 13th February 2020. (Schedule of training programme available). All of the AF Technical Specialists were given a training pack for review and asked to engage with local AF Programme Managers.

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 3 Actions	Update (June 2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A protocol is being developed for capturing the types of query/services that is required (ranging from developers, AHB's, Individuals and others) to monitor the level of engagement and demand received by each of the local authority area. It is envisaged that this role will be informed by the research underway and will also feed into action 4.11 around the awareness campaign. • A further online training session was held with the 31 Age Friendly Specialists in May 2020.
<p>Action 5.10 – Continue to support social engagement opportunities to ensure that all older people have access to the wide range of existing services in place within communities such as libraries, amenities, shops and social services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFI training in place. • A total of 48 Age Friendly Libraries were launched by Minister Michael Ring in 2019 following the adoption and roll out of the Age Friendly Recognition Process. All 48 libraries are currently implementing their commitments focussed primarily on engaging the ageing population with the services and ensuring increased opportunities for access. AFI, in partnership with Libraries Ireland, are planning another tranche of AF Library Recognition across the country however this process has been impacted by the pandemic and may not commence until later in 2020. • AFI are also working on identifying a resource to promote the activities of local libraries in an effort to maximise the resources to older people in a broader context of library services. • Since the pandemic a volume of online and remote supports have been provided to older people through assistive technologies enabling them to continue to access a wide range of library services.

4. Subgroup 4 – Development of a Housing for Older People GIS Decision Making Support Tool

This group was established after it was agreed at the second meeting of the Implementation Group that a dedicated group was required to drive forward the development of a GIS Mapping Decision Support Tool. This group met on four occasions - 30th January 2020 and the 26th February in the Custom House and the third and fourth meetings via Webex on the 9th April and 6th May 2020.

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 4 Actions	Update (June 2020)
<p>Action 2.3 - Based on demographic projections to 2031, investigate the potential of the following three settlement types to meet the housing and associated service needs of older people.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A small / medium sized town. 2. A suburban area. 3. An inner city / urban center. <p>Within each of the chosen locations map the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Existing land use and ownership. 2. Vacant sites and buildings. 3. Existing housing. 4. Existing and proposed infrastructure and services. 5. Any proposed new housing and other developments. 6. Deliver proposals demonstrating the capacity of each of the areas to meet the future housing needs of older people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three areas have been identified (Meath, Mayo, Finglas) for testing. Two sites are available in Kells but local authorities will have to provide more sites to test the tool. • AFI national information portals and 31 local portals are now live. • The subgroup is currently developing a scoring matrix for required amenities/services using an analytical hierarchical process. • Once agreed, the subgroup will evaluate if this scoring matrix will apply in all cases (urban, suburban and small/medium sized towns). • The group has agreed that a three stage process is required to rate the appropriateness of each site for older people. The three stages are as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preliminary Assessment 2. Analysis using the GIS Decision Support Tool 3. Detailed Site Assessment • The Housing for Older People GIS Decision Making Support Tool will be developed by December 2020.

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 4 Actions	Update (June 2020)
<p>Action 5.9 – Ensure that developments (and specifically those for older people) are constructed in areas that are close to essential services, promoting the use of brownfield sites and explore the optimum locations that would lend themselves to becoming "age friendly neighborhoods".</p>	<p>See Action 2.3 for update.</p>

A key action in the terms of reference of the Implementation Group is to compile a register of the Housing Options for Our Ageing Population actions. A register of all forty actions and the latest update is included at **Appendix 3**. This includes a description and outline of progress for all actions, including those directly led by the Departments.

Appendix 1 – Terms and Conditions of the Implementation Group

Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and Department of Health Implementation Group Housing Options for our Ageing Population

An Implementation Group will be established to drive progress on the actions outlined in the [Housing Options for Our Ageing Population Policy Statement](#) ('the Policy Statement')

1. Membership

- Independent Chair (Chair)
- Representatives from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) and the Department of Health (DoH) (at PO / AP /HEO level) to include
 - DHPLG: Housing Policy, Housing Adaptation Grants, Architectural & Building Standards Advisors
 - DoH: Services for Older People, Older People's Projects and Sláintecare
- Representative from Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)
- Representatives from the Health Service Executive (HSE), to include:
 - Assistant National Directors for Older People – Strategy and Operations (or their nominees)
 - Clinical representative
- Representative from County and City Management Association (CCMA)
- Representative from the Housing Agency
- Representative from Irish Council for Social Housing
- Representative of Approved Housing Bodies
- Representative from Alliance of Older People Sector NGOs
- Age Friendly Ireland representative
- Citizen Representatives from Older Peoples Councils (x2)

(Total 20+)

As necessary and as appropriate attendance at meetings may also include a researcher provided via the Healthy and Positive Ageing Initiative (HaPAI), to undertake and assist with various research, evidence and policy analysis inputs, particularly with regard to supported housing models.

2. Purpose & Role

The purpose of this Implementation Group is to ensure that there is an integrated approach to progressing the implementation of the forty actions outlined in the policy statement. The Group will monitor, drive, and enable the delivery of the forty actions outlined in the Policy Statement.

3. Terms of Reference

- 3.1. Support and monitor the implementation of the forty actions outlined in the policy statement.
- 3.2. Compile a register of the action plan.
- 3.3. Ensure that, where relevant, actions are progressed in an integrated way between the housing and health and social care sectors.
- 3.4. In considering the actions, the Implementation Group will examine and take into account the policy implications arising, in order to develop a cohesive inter-Departmental policy on supported housing.
- 3.5. Explore, scope and provide analysis of policy inputs and proposals for a model/policy for supported housing to be further considered by the Departments.
- 3.6. May consult with relevant stakeholders from time to time to ensure views, issues and challenges for older people are represented and that information from the stake-holder groups is disseminated to the sector.
- 3.7. Publish six-monthly progress reports.

In respect of any new policy considerations arising from the work of the group, Departmental officials, will as necessary and appropriate, revert such matters for consideration via the relevant governance structures within Departments.

4. Implementation Group Governance

4.1. The Implementation Group sponsors are the relevant Assistant Secretaries from both Departments:

- Paul Lemass, DHPLG
- Kathleen MacLellan, DoH

4.2. Role of the Chair

The Chair will have responsibility for providing leadership and coordinating the work of the Implementation Group.

The Chair shall:

- Set and manage the agenda for each meeting to ensure the efficient use of time for each meeting
- Manage declarations of conflict of interest as they arise, according to the Implementation Group's conflict of interest policy.
- Encourage broad and effective participation from members.
- Conclude each meeting with a summary of decisions.
- Sign off meeting minutes once approved by the Implementation Group.
- Nominate an alternate should the Chair be unable to attend a meeting.
- Meet the Implementation Group sponsors biannually to report on progress, raise any issues and provide a general view on the progress work programme.
- Report to the Minister with special responsibility for Housing and Urban Development at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Minister with special responsibility for Mental Health and Older People at the Department of Health on a bi-annual basis.

5. Terms of Engagement/Operational Arrangements

- 5.1. Implementation Group members are expected to participate within the Group in accordance with the Conflicts of Interest Policy.
- 5.2. The Chair will decide the schedule of meetings in consultation with the group.
 - 5.2.1. The group will meet a minimum of 4 times per annum
 - 5.2.2. During certain stages of the implementation of the actions, there may be a requirement to meet more regularly.
 - 5.2.3. Attendance is required by member at all meetings, and where this is not possible an alternate will attend in their place, agreed in advance with the Chair.
 - 5.2.4. Three sub-groups will be set up under the implementation group, members of these groups will meet twice before each Implementation Group meeting.
- 5.3. Both DHPLG and DoH will provide support and guidance where possible to the Implementation Group for their meetings.
- 5.4. A secretariat will be provided by XXXXX
- 5.5. The Chair, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will prepare a brief written progress report biannually for submission to the relevant Ministers.
- 5.6. Meetings will generally be held at DoH's headquarters (Miesian Plaza) or in DHPLG's headquarters (Customs House).
- 5.7. The Chair will decide on the agenda for each meeting [in consultation with the Implementation Group].
- 5.8. Meetings will be documented by the Secretary, including actions to be taken, main points discussed, minutes etc.
 - 5.8.1. Draft minutes will be circulated to Group members following each meeting and approved subject to any appropriate amendments at each subsequent meeting
 - 5.8.2. A summary of agreed action points will be circulated to members as soon as possible following each meeting.
- 5.9. Agenda, Minutes, Progress Reports and relevant documentation will be published on the websites of both Departments.
- 5.10. The Chair, in consultation with the Group, may invite third parties to participate in meetings to provide expert input and advice. The Chair may ask such persons to prepare discussion documents as appropriate.

Housing Options for our Ageing Population

The Group shall stand until 30th November 2020. The Implementation Group sponsors may jointly decide to shorten or lengthen the Group's lifecycle subject to consultation with the Chair.

Appendix 2 – Membership of Subgroups

Subgroup 1 Membership

Name	Organisation
Barry Lynch, Chair	CCMA, Meath Co Co
Alan Byrne	DHPLG
Isoilde Dillon	Housing Agency
Joan MacMahon	DHPLG
John Wickham	DHPLG
Jack Keyes	AFI
Bridie O'Reilly	OPC
Patricia Lee	DoH
Ger Craddock	NDA, CEUD
Derek Dockrell	HSE Estates
Alma Walsh	DHPLG
Ciaran Murphy	DHPLG, Secretary

Subgroup 2 Membership

Name	Organisation
Niall Redmond (Chair)	DoH
Patricia Lee	DoH
Muriel Farrell	DoH
Martina Shirran	DoH
Alan Byrne	DHPLG
Raymond McAndrew/Belinda Tracey	DHPLG
Catherine McGuigan	Age Friendly Ireland
Seán Kennelly	HSE
Eithne McAuliffe	HSE
Samantha Rayner	HSE
Kevin Power/Breda Bailey	D/Rural and Community Development
Dave Walsh/Neil Byrne Secretariat	DoH

Subgroup 3 Membership

Name	Organisation
Caroline Timmons, Chair	DHPLG
Veronica Healy	DHPLG
Catherine McGuigan	AFI
Roslyn Molloy	Housing Agency
Rosaleen Smartt	OPC
TBD	HSE
Patricia Lee / Dave Walsh	DoH
Maurice O'Connell	Chair, Housing with Supports Demonstrator Project
Karen Murphy	ICSH
Ciaran Murphy	DHPLG secretariat

Subgroup 4 Membership

Name	Organisation
Jack Keyes, Chair	AFI
Alan Byrne	DHPLG
Isoilde Dillon	Housing Agency
Sylvia McCarthy	Meath CoCo
Robert Ovington	DHPLG GIS
Deirdre Kelly	DHPLG GIS
Laura Flannelly	DHPLG
Elaine McCabe	DHPLG
Justin Gleeson	AIRO
Sean Moynihan	Alone, Age Alliance representative
Ciaran Murphy	DHPLG secretariat

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