



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

## Housing Options for our Ageing Population Interdepartmental/Agency Implementation Group



### Final Report of the Implementation Group

Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Department of Health

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## Foreword

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

Since the formation of the Implementation Group in 2019 it is clear that tremendous progress has been made across all of the actions contained in the Joint Policy Statement "*Housing Options for our Ageing Population*", and details of this progress is contained within the body of this report. From the outset the support of the Ministers and the sponsoring Departments has been unwavering, and the vision to bring together a wide spectrum of stakeholders ranging from people who are involved at the frontline of service delivery to those with responsibility for policy development, has been a key factor in the achievements of the Group. Most importantly, the Group has had very strong participation of older person representatives, Rosaleen Smartt and Bridie O'Reilly, their experience and insights ensuring that the lived reality of the older person has been to the forefront of all discussions and activities.

Given the span of the recommendations in the Joint Policy Statement, four sub-groups of the overall Group were established, each focusing on a particular theme and the various actions relevant to that theme. The first sub-group is chaired by Mr Barry Lynch (CCMA) and addressed *building and planning related aspects of housing with supports*; the second is chaired by Ms Louise McGirr (DOH), and dealt with *health and social care aspects of housing with supports*; the third sub-group focused on *integration and overarching aspects of housing with supports*, and is chaired by Ms Laura Behan (DHLGH), and the final sub-group addressing the *development of a GIS decision support tool for housing for older people*, also chaired by Mr Barry Lynch (CCMA) of Meath County Council. I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chairs and the members of each of the sub-groups who were instrumental in making so much progress.

I also want to particularly thank the members of the overall Implementation Group, and all of those who presented to the various meetings of the Group. It was humbling to observe the commitment of so many people to the greater good, and the passion that they bring to their work to improve services for older people.

It is also important to mention the secretariat that has supported the Group from the outset, without whom little progress would have been possible. In particular, I want to thank Ciaran Murphy from DHLGH, who has been ever present throughout the lifetime of the Group, and who has been a great support to me in my role as Chair.

There is no doubt that strong Ministerial support was crucial to maintain this cross-Departmental, multi-stakeholder approach. Due consideration should be given to this approach to the implementation of other complex strategies that span sectors and that require multiple strands to work in a parallel, but connected way. While the work of this Group has now ended, I sincerely hope that the principles and momentum that underpinned its work over the past two years will continue long into the future, and that the really significant progress that has been made will have a long-lasting impact on the provision of housing options that appropriately support and enable all of us as we get older.

Leo Kearns

Chairman

## In their own words....

### Reflections on the work of the Implementation Group and Subgroups and their participation by the Older Persons Council members

My role was to speak on behalf of older people, to be the authentic voice. I can say wholeheartedly that my views were sought, heard, and taken on board. I felt my life experience was valued. I would hope that in the future, the inclusivity of older people in the decision-making process will continue to be a consideration.

Everyone was very friendly and co-operation was great within the group.

Meetings were scheduled well in advance and presentations were excellent, highly informative. All items on the agenda were addressed at each meeting and progress was efficient and effective. It was a privilege to be included at every stage of the process and to witness the powerful changes that were taking place on behalf of older people. There is nothing that I would have done differently and there is not one thing that I would change.

There were a few setbacks because of the pandemic, but these obstacles were overcome in a timely fashion and meetings continued virtually.

Now that the structure for 'ageing in place' has been created and will soon be policy, I am aware that care in the community requires an element of discussion

What older people want is to be treated with dignity and respect.

. The importance of bringing together key stakeholders to address gaps in the system and identify opportunities for change cannot be emphasised enough.

. From a public policy perspective, we need to critically assess existing approaches to home care/Slaintecare, for their readiness in addressing system sustainability issues.

A collaborative, cross-section partnership could be established so that the system of care in the community could work seamlessly.

I was thinking of what I would change and I couldn't honestly think of anything, Things happened, things that were under no-one's power and the staff worked wonders to keep everything going.

I felt part of the group and not just an add-on and was brought into all aspects of the meetings. What I said was listened to and valued.

The zoom meetings kept everyone in contact but you missed the face to face meeting. But this could not be helped due to the virus.

I have had a good think about this and I have to say I am very happy with the way it went. It is a pity the virus got in the way and we had to zoom.

I found that every meeting was well organised, with plenty of notice given.

There were words used at the meetings like abbreviations for papers, organisations etc, which at first I didn't understand but when I asked Ciaran he explained them. When my confidence grew I asked when someone used them at meetings. I think it was done without thinking because afterwards when members used a new abbreviation they explained it as they were going along.

The help from the Department of Housing and Health Staff was fantastic.

Carers, for the most part are extraordinary people who do a difficult job, but there are some who abuse their position

Regular supervision is necessary, and an inspector is vital to maintaining standards of excellence.

## Introduction

Building on policy outlined in Rebuilding Ireland 2016 and the National Planning Framework 2018 on housing for older people, and the inter-relationship of health and housing, the Joint Policy statement 'Housing Options for Our Ageing Population' was launched in February 2019. It was developed by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) (now the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) (DHLGH) and the Department of Health (DoH), with support from key stakeholders including the HSE, the Housing Agency, Age Friendly Ireland as well as the Older Peoples' Councils. The Joint Policy is concerned with putting in place the measures to enable the provision of a variety of housing options for older people, including housing with support, and in so doing to ensure that sustainable housing (with supports where required) is provided in the right locations in order to enable older people to age in their community if that is their wish.

The Statement provides 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.

## Implementation Group

To deliver on the 40 actions, an Inter-departmental/agency Implementation Group was established, with membership from the two Departments, the Health Service Executive (HSE), local authorities and relevant stakeholders with Mr Leo Kearns appointed as Independent Chair.

The membership consisted of subject matter experts drawn from the following organisations:

- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (now DHLGH)
- Department of Health (DoH)
- Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)

- County and City Management Association (CCMA)
- The Housing Agency (HA)
- Age Friendly Ireland (AFI)
- The Health Service Executive (HSE)
- Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH)
- Older People’s Council (OPC)

As a Group, it was characterised by a very high degree of commitment and enthusiasm by all those involved and the cross-departmental, multi-stakeholder approach provided the group with the opportunity to work in a collaborative way to achieve the objectives of the policy.

The plenary Group met first in September, 2019 and finally in 2021, holding seven meetings in all. Its first and second reports were published in January 2020 and September 2020 and may be accessed at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ea33c1-housing-options-for-our-ageing-population-policy-statement/>.

This is the third and final Report of the Implementation Group.

### **Implementation Group Subgroups**

In view of the large number of actions in the Joint Statement four sub-groups were established to progress specific actions. As some actions are linked, close collaboration is required by the subgroups to ensure that the linkage is are e.g. action 2.3 is linked with action 5.9 concerning the mapping of housing need to ensure that housing developments which include housing for older people are provided in the right areas.

Each sub-group has reported its progress to the Implementation Group. Work on other actions, by their nature, is being led by the two Departments directly but updates on progress were made directly to the Group who were able to provide feedback and help to ensure an integrated and overarching approach for implementation of the policy objectives.

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

#### **1. Sub-group 1 - *Building and planning related aspects of housing with support***



Chaired by Barry Lynch, CCMA representative, Director of Housing, Meath County Council and addressing Actions 3.4, 4.12, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 6.1 and 6.4

**2. Sub-group 2 - *Health and social care aspects of supported housing***

Chaired by Louise McGirr, Principal Officer, Department of Health and addressing Actions 2.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.7 and 6.3

**3. Sub-group 3 - *Integration and overarching aspects of housing with supports***

Chaired by Laura Behan, Principal Officer, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and addressing Actions 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.7, 4.8, 4.11, 4.13 and 5.10

**4. Sub-group 4 – *Development of a Housing for Older People GIS Decision Making Support Tool***

Chaired by Barry Lynch, Director of Housing, Meath County Council and addressing Actions 2.3 and 5.9

**1) Methodology/Governance**

The Implementation Group was jointly sponsored by the Assistant Secretary with responsibility for Housing Policy, Legislation and Governance 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 had overall responsibility for providing leadership and co-ordinating the work of the Implementation Group and met Implementation Group sponsors biannually to report on progress, raise any issues and provide a general view on the progress of the work programme following which his reports were made to the Minister and Minister of State.

## 2) Concluding the work of the Implementation Group

Considerable progress has been achieved under the aegis of the Group and its Chair in implementing the policy vision and 40 Actions of “Housing Options for our Ageing Population”.

Central to that progress has been the strong Ministerial support afforded to the policy statement as well as the huge involvement and enthusiasm of the older people’s stakeholders. The adaptation and evolution of the approach to implementation of the policy statement in line with new evidence, particularly that gathered under its aegis, has also proved a significant enabler of the progress made.

The structures established at inception, in particular the inclusive Implementation Group and the Sub-Groups dividing up the tasks to be undertaken proved very effective. The various organisations and groups, national and local, involved in policy and delivery were aligned in an action-oriented way, bringing various insights, perspectives and experience to bear. In this way implementation of the policy objectives and actions required no new infrastructure or staffing. The constructive and co-operative approach of all parties undoubtedly played an important role in that regard.

The Age Friendly Ireland local government shared service, already established, played an important role in spearheading the key involvement of local government and with dedicated staffing resources, providing an effective action implementation channel.

Some key actions remain to be completed. More in-depth consideration of outstanding Actions at Subgroup level has concluded that advancing the objectives of these actions may require revised perspectives and approaches, being often entwined with wider health and housing reforms under different strategies.

They include key actions such as:

**Actions 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.

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.

**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.

**5.1.** Consider how home supports in supported housing models could be incorporated into the statutory home support scheme.

To address these, and to maintain the momentum established since 2019 to the linked policy issues that are so vital to older persons policy the two Departments are developing a new framework for joint co-operative policy making and implementation, at national and local level, for housing and supports for our increasing ageing population. These remaining actions will form a key element of the work programme envisaged under this framework and will be advanced and concluded in this way.

### **3) Progress to end 2021**

This third and final Implementation Group Report provides the following summary account of work undertaken and progress made to the end of 2021.

#### **Research undertaken**

##### ***Health Research Board [Housing with Support for Older people-An Evidence Brief](https://www.hrb.ie/publications/publication/housing-with-support-for-older-people-an-evidence-review/returnPage/1/)*<sup>1</sup>**

The Health Research Board (HRB) was due to provide a draft of their research on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to 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. This paper was published in February 2021 and is available at: <https://www.hrb.ie/publications/publication/housing-with-support-for-older-people-an-evidence-review/returnPage/1/>

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<sup>1</sup> Authors: Camille Coyle, Olivia Cagney, Sarah Buggy, Gerald O’Nolan, Doireann O’Brien, Louise Farragher, Jean Long. HRB

## Housing Agency- Thinking Ahead - *The Financial Benefits of Investing in Supported Housing for Older People*<sup>2</sup>

*'Thinking Ahead-the Financial Benefits of Investing in Supported Housing'* was published by the Housing Agency in October 2020 and is available at: <http://www.housingagency.ie/ageing-population-research> and it complements the 2016 *Thinking Ahead* report seamlessly by examining the costs and the benefits to the State of an expansion in the provision of supported housing for older people. It analyses a range of Supported Housing options with varying care requirements as set out in the 2016 report – Independent, Assisted and Specialised in which the first level is housing with a low level of services, the second a medium level and the third a high level of services.

The findings in the report demonstrate that there are considerable financial benefits for the State from investment in supported housing. It compares the costs of providing these three Supported Housing options to a number of alternative scenarios where it is assumed that Supported Housing is not available. The report estimates that investing in an additional 11,400 Supported Housing units over the next 10 years could potentially generate annual benefits of approximately €53 million for the State. The modelling shows that the estimated benefits of each of the three models of Supported Housing apply to **both** social and privately funded models of supported housing even where the highest level of care is required in the Specialised Living model.

The *Mature Homeowners Research Paper* was published by the Department's Housing Economics and Local Authority Lending Unit, working with the Department of Finance and the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service who undertook a survey of mature homeowners in the summer of 2019. The survey explored the housing circumstances and attitudes of households composed of homeowners aged 55+ with a view to examining the attitude of mature homeowners toward seeking housing better suited to their circumstances by trading down or relocating from areas of high demand to lower demand. The principal findings of the survey show that, in the absence of policy interventions only a low proportion

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<sup>2</sup> Author: Roslyn Molloy and Rory Mulholland. The Housing Agency

of the group, between 3% and 6% of mature homeowner households, or 19,000 to 35,000 households, would be likely to move in the future and the factors inhibiting this, for many of them was an emotional attachment to their existing home. Between 15 per cent and 20 per cent of mature homeowners, or 91,000 to 121,000 households, would be willing to move if the option to sell their home and purchase a smaller purpose built home in the same area for a lower price were available. The potential measures most likely to encourage mobility are (i) encourage or provide greater availability of suitable units, (ii) simplify the process and have greater State involvement in negotiating it, and/or, (iii) provide a financial incentive.

The findings of the paper show that the most effective policies for the mature-homeowner are likely to be those which assist and guide those homeowners who wish to downsize. As the issue of encouraging both policy makers and individuals to think and plan for the future in a strategic manner is part of the policy framework being shaped this research paper is a valuable study informing the development of housing policy for older people. The survey may be accessed at <https://igees.gov.ie/attitudinal-survey-of-mature-homeowners/>

## Rightsizing Options in Social Housing

**Action 4.7 of the Housing Options for our Ageing Population** provides for the introduction of a right-sizing scheme for those in both public and private housing. While individual local authorities such as Dublin City Council have implemented such policies in the past there is no national scheme covering all local authorities.

In 2020, Age Friendly Ireland and South Dublin County Council engaged in research to address a knowledge gap on the perceptions and experiences of older people in relation to right-sizing. 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. Following a process of consultation and data collection through survey and case studies, key recommendations of the research included:

- Promotion of a greater awareness of right-sizing options
- Providing right-sizing incentives including support towards relocation costs
- Having dedicated support staff in this area as well as facilitating rightsizing moves between local authorities

Following on from the research a rightsizing policy template was developed by Age Friendly Ireland and distributed to the City and County Management Agency drawing on the new South Dublin County Council rightsizing policy as well as other Irish and UK templates. A review of this rightsizing policy template was undertaken by consultant Dr Sean O’Riordain via qualitative research with Chief Executives with regard to operational processes around rightsizing in their local authorities. Limerick City and County Council have adopted the rightsizing policy template for use in their area. Meath Co Council have adopted a rightsizing policy in 2021 and have introduced a nominal incentive of €500 per household for rightsizing as a contribution towards moving costs.

A 'Guide to Rightsizing' was published by Age Friendly Ireland in June 2021. This user friendly booklet lists the various options available and signposts the reader to available supports, grants and services.

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

Three meetings of this subgroup (via WebEx) took place in February, June and November 2021. In total, the Subgroup met eleven times.

### Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 1

Actions	2021 Update
<p><b>Action 2.3</b> - 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"> <li>1. A small / medium sized town</li> <li>2. A suburban area</li> <li>3. An inner city / urban centre</li> </ol> <p>Within each of the chosen locations map the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Existing land use and ownership</li> <li>2. Vacant sites and buildings</li> <li>3. Existing housing</li> <li>4. Existing and proposed infrastructure and services</li> <li>5. Any proposed new housing and other developments</li> <li>6. Deliver proposals demonstrating the capacity of each of the areas to meet the future housing needs of older people.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Action is being progressed in conjunction with Action 5.9 (see detail provided at Action 5.9). While it was transferred to subgroup 4 it remained as a standing item on the agenda of subgroup 1 as it impacts on the work of subgroup 1 (update provide at subgroup 4 below). The role of the Age Friendly Technical Advisors will be very instrumental in the development of this Action in the local context.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 3.4</b> – 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"> <li>• This Action was considered at both the level of individual properties and housing developments. Following extensive research of international literature and local consultation the Age Friendly Homes Rating Checklist was launched by Ministers Burke and Butler on 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2021. This checklist was designed to enable older people and housing providers/developers to assess and prepare Age Friendly Homes. This rating tool is ideal in terms of allowing an individual to either</li> </ul>



Actions	2021 Update
	<p>assess their own home or a property that they are considering for occupation. The National Association of Homebuilders also expressed some interest in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age Friendly Ireland also published the booklet ‘Ten Universal Design Features to Include in an Age Friendly Home’ in June 2021, with support from CEUD and other subgroup stakeholders and the Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisors (based on an original Fingal County Council publication). Critical to this was a workshop held with the National Network of Older People’s Councils who participated in the co-design of the rating tool.</li> <li>• These tools are now in use widely in the community and are being distributed through the Age Friendly Shared Service network. Age Friendly Ireland will record feedback on utilisation via the network of Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisors and Programme Managers.</li> <li>• The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland has agreed to provide home energy assessments of participants in the new Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme   Phase 1.</li> <li>• The subgroup received presentations from the Irish Green Building Council on the Home Performance Index (HPI) and also from the Irish Representatives of BRE Trust who have an extensive body of research available to them.</li> <li>• A cross mapping of the 10 Universal Design Features with the HPI indicated many features in common although the HPI is more complex to implement.</li> <li>• A positive subsequent development in a broader context was the access to lower rates of finance for HPI compliant homes.</li> <li>• Consideration is continuing as to the feasibility of pursuing a formal age friendly certification scheme in conjunction with the building industry.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 4.3</b> – 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"> <li>• Review of Guidance Complete.</li> <li>• Further incentives dependent on a review of Development Contribution Schemes by local authorities which in turn is dependent on updated Department guidelines.</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A paper setting out the key issues has been prepared and consultation has taken place with the CCMA Land Use and Transportation Committee. The Committee advised postponement of this recommendation due to the potential impact on LA finances. Funding mechanisms are required to deal with both development contributions and Irish Water Capital Charges. This is due to the fact that there is an inconsistency in treatment of the contributions/charges in respect of local authority developments. Irish Water Charges are paid in full whereas development contributions do not apply to social housing developments. The Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage considers that the research undertaken is valuable and advise that the Development Contribution Schemes (DCS) may be reviewed in the context of, among other things, the compact growth agenda and securing proportionate revenue on the basis of costs to the state.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 4.4</b> - 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"> <li>• This Action is included in the Design Manual for Quality Housing produced by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage and which was the subject of extensive consultation in early 2021.</li> <li>• The Design Manual is now at a final draft stage with publication anticipated by the end of 2021.</li> <li>• Once finalised the inclusion of the 50% requirement in the manual will achieve the objectives of this Action.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 4.6</b> – 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"> <li>• A Cost Benefit Analysis of Universal Design (which is also required in connection with the National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017 to 2021) is being carried out by the National Disability Authority (NDA).</li> <li>• A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) has been assembled to oversee the project and has held both bilateral and joint meetings with the other stakeholders. The TAG membership includes representatives from a Disabled Persons Organisation, a disability organisation, an Approved Housing Body, the construction industry and an official from the Housing Agency, covering a range of policy expertise directly relevant to the</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
	<p>goal of evaluating Universal Design homes, and includes persons with lived experience of disability as well as ageing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cost Benefit Analysis will provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A robust economic appraisal of UD homes through the development of a comprehensive set of CBA key performance indicators</li> <li>○ A clear specification of the main technical issues that arise in terms of estimating the costs and benefits of UD housing</li> <li>○ A clear specification and appraisal of the the UD housing model and the implications for all stakeholders of extending this to all new housing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 4.11</b> - 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"> <li>• The Ten Universal Design Features to include in a Lifetime Adaptable and Age Friendly Home was launched by Ministers Burke and Butler on 22<sup>nd</sup> June this year. These will be promoted at local level by the Age Friendly Technical Advisors.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 4.12</b> – 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>	<p>DHLGH have no plans to issue any formal Section 28 Planning guidelines at this time.</p> <p>However, a number of additional resources have been developed in support of this Action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning resources launched by Ministers Burke and Butler in June 2021 include : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pre-Planning Guidance for Residential Care Homes</li> <li>○ Towards Age Friendly Primary Care Centres (Case Studies and Checklist)</li> <li>○ Age Friendly Principles and Guidelines for the Planning Authority</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Residential care homes: ‘ Improving quality of life and pandemic resilience in existing residential long-term care settings for older people: Research and guidelines for built environment adaptation and retrofit from a Universal Design approach’ (Trinity Haus and Tallaght University Hospital).</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trinity Haus presented at the June 2021 subgroup 1 meeting. The overall research project (SFI funded) will be completed in May 2022.</li> <li>• A shorter research report and high level guidelines will be ready in January 2022 (CEUD/NDA funded).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 5.9</b> – 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 neighbourhoods".</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Action was transferred to subgroup 4 and is being addressed in conjunction with action <b>2.3</b>.</li> <li>• To achieve this Action a project is underway in DHLGH providing for the development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) Decision Support Tool for use by the Department, local authorities, approved housing bodies and developers. The tool will score available sites on their appropriateness for housing developments for older people taking a weighted approach to variables based on availability of, and proximity to, essential services e.g. GP, pharmacy, Garda stations.</li> <li>• The goal of developing the GIS Decision Support Tool is to provide a mechanism by which the planning and development of housing and related services for older people is carried out in an evidence based manner based on best available data which will achieve better and more sustainable outcomes for all parties.</li> <li>• The tool will also facilitate the input of local information about essential services to complement the national datasets. This will bring about better outcomes for the older people concerned in accordance with Government policy on services for older people as expressed in the Housing Options for our Ageing Population and the National Planning Framework.</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
<p><b>Action 6.1</b> – 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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 6.4</b> – 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"> <li>• DHLGH is working with the Department of Justice on the development of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) guidelines.</li> <li>• Through the Housing &amp; 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.</li> <li>• This training was significantly updated during 2021 with pre-recorded segments from the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design and An Garda Síochána. New content has been added, including up to date case studies of new developments and an emphasis on technology to support ageing in place. Continuous Professional Development Accreditation has been achieved from Engineers Ireland.</li> </ul>

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

Subgroup 2 met three times in February, June and November 2021

The subgroup has considered a number of aspects of the Actions assigned to it and discussed how those actions might be progressed. Progress has been made across all Actions and these are outlined in the table below.

### Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 2

Actions	2021 Update
<p><b>4.1</b> 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><b>4.2</b> 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"> <li>• There will be a funding increase for this grant scheme in 2022, further supporting the provision of improved housing accommodation to cater for the needs of older people and people with disabilities, enabling them to remain living independently in their own homes.</li> <li>• Continued implementation and monitoring of the easy-to-read single application form to cover the three grants, tested for plain English, which has been available from local authorities since January 2020.</li> <li>• The Department of Housing met with all 31 local authorities to monitor implementation of revised guidelines issued in 2019, to ensure the streamlined application process is operating optimally nationwide, making the grants more accessible to the applicant.</li> <li>• Work is underway on developing a revised recoupment claim procedure for local authorities which will allow the Department to increase monitoring of waiting lists. This new process is intended to be rolled out in Q1 2022.</li> <li>• As detailed in Housing for All, housing policy objective 7 gives a commitment to undertaking a review of the range of housing grants available to assist with meeting specific housing needs both for our ageing population and people with a disability. The Department has begun this work with a review of the existing grant limits and income thresholds applicable to the grant schemes.</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme, Phase 1, will provide a gateway to timely interventions through the housing adaptation grants, coupled with a link to the retrofit programme supporting the energy efficiency of older people’s homes through a strategic partnership with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.1.</b> Consider how home supports in supported housing models could be incorporated into the statutory home support scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work is continuing within the Department of Health to progress the development of the statutory scheme for the financing and regulation of home-support.</li> <li>• As part of this work, the Department is currently developing a regulatory framework for home support providers. The Department also recently commenced a targeted stakeholder consultation to inform the secondary legislation. In addition, HIQA ran a public scoping consultation to inform the development of their National Standards for Home Support Services.</li> <li>• The ESRI is undertaking research, on behalf of the Department of Health, on the potential demand for, and cost of, home support. The first of these reports, published on 30 March 2021, focused on the demand for home support. The ESRI is currently conducting research on the projected cost of home support in a range of funding scenarios which is due for completion and publication before the end of 2021.</li> <li>• In parallel to this, the Department is working with the HSE to test a reformed model of service delivery for home support. The pilot has commenced in the first of four sites, with a view to all pilot sites being fully operational by January 2022. The recruitment of 130 posts funded for the</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
	<p data-bbox="778 248 1401 360">national rollout of 'InterRAI', as the standard assessment tool for care-needs, is scheduled to commence in Quarter 4, 2021.</p> <ul data-bbox="730 405 1449 555" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="730 405 1449 555">• The Department of Health and Age Friendly Ireland are working in partnership to establish links between the Home Support Pilot sites and the Healthy Age Friendly Home Sites/Coordinators.</li> </ul>
<p data-bbox="204 602 635 943"><b>5.2.</b> 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 data-bbox="730 602 1449 2029" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="730 602 1449 909">• Over the course of the Housing Options strategy, Age Friendly Ireland (AFI) has contributed to Action 5.2 in a number of ways. AFI has stressed the importance of community based social care supports, and the expansion of these critical services, in consultations at local level through Older Peoples' Councils, and at National level with the National Network of Older Peoples' Councils.</li> <li data-bbox="730 954 1449 1413">• A key development was the introduction of the SláinteCare funded Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme (Phase 1). A key aspect of this programme is to reduce the admission rate of people entering long-term residential care due, in the main, to their living environment not supporting their health and wellbeing needs. Accommodation that presents challenges to older people remaining mobile, keeping warm, and staying safe can be a significant factor in decision making on long-term care. This new programme will be jointly led across 9 Local Authority areas.</li> <li data-bbox="730 1458 1449 2029">• Each of the 9 local authority based Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinators will carry out a needs assessment to establish what supports are required to enable the older person to continue living independently in their own home, with access to a range of supports across health, housing, assistive technology, and community &amp; social supports. The data gathered by local Co-Ordinator's on the needs of older persons, cross referenced with the GIS service mapping exercise that Age Friendly Ireland is developing in partnership with Health Atlas in the HSE, will highlight and identify gaps in service provision and create a gateway to identifying how those supports can be progressed at local level.</li> </ul>



Actions	2021 Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="730 293 1442 904">• In addition, Age Friendly Ireland undertook a Health &amp; Wellbeing initiative funded by the HSE in relation to the documentation of specific health and wellbeing initiatives for older people during the Covid-19 pandemic. Through 'Community Call' fora across all local authorities the Age Friendly Programme Managers facilitated and supported a huge volume of initiatives that supported older people while they were being asked to stay at home. The initiative with Health and Wellbeing set out to capture these initiatives and through consultation with older people, feedback was gathered on the impact of such responses, with an emphasis on making recommendations on key programmes that should be sustained post pandemic.</li> <li data-bbox="730 958 1406 1256">• Updated public health guidance was provided in early June 2021 to assist with the re-opening of Day Care Services for Older People across the country following closures during the Covid-19 pandemic. HSE National Older People Services have been working with the Community Healthcare Organisations across the country to resume Day Care.</li> <li data-bbox="730 1310 1449 1688">• The Day Care Focus Group established to support the re-opening of Day Care Services will remain in place (representative of both HSE and voluntary sector) and in 2022 the remit of this group will be to take a strategic approach to the development of Day Care Services for Older People and the model that requires to be in place to support the emerging needs for Day Care Centres as part of the suite of services available in the community to support older people.</li> <li data-bbox="730 1742 1437 2040">• Work commissioned through Irish Rural Network to carry out a mapping and gap analysis in relation to current Meals on Wheels provision across the country was completed in August 2021. HSE funding has been sanctioned to support Irish Rural Network to recruit a full time Meals on Wheels Development Officer to work with organisations across the country. In addition, a system has also</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
	<p>been established where monthly data on Meals on Wheels Services is being collected nationally by the HSE for submission to the DOH and for planning purposes.</p>
<p><b>5.3.</b> 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"> <li>• The Department of Health (DoH) and the Health Service Executive (HSE) recognise that community and voluntary agencies provide a wide range of services to support older people to continue living in their communities and maintain their social connections.</li> <li>• These services, which contribute to positive ageing and better overall health, include befriending, day-care, social centres, meals on wheels etc.</li> <li>• Improving and developing community supports is in line with the vision outlined in Sláintecare which supports a shift to providing the majority of care in the community and a focus on prevention and early intervention.</li> <li>• As part of a joint initiative by the Minister for Older People and the HSE, an extra €1 million funding was made available in 2019 to community and voluntary groups to enable them to continue to provide vital services to older people.</li> <li>• Community and voluntary groups were encouraged to submit ‘Older Persons’ Friendly’ projects, with an emphasis on sustainability and/or some additional service. Applications were co-ordinated and assessed locally at Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) level.</li> <li>• More than 150 community and voluntary groups were successful in their application for funding under the ‘Community and Voluntary Support Grant’ in 2019.</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
<p><b>5.7.</b> 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 &amp; education and technology supports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An innovative partnership between the local government sector (through the Age Friendly Ireland shared service) and Sláintecare in the Department of Health at the beginning of 2021 saw the introduction of a new person-centric, robust, support co-ordination service.</li> <li>• The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme, Phase 1, operates in nine locations around Ireland (nine host local authorities) providing a dedicated coordinator to undertake home based assessments of older people and signpost them to a range of services. Assessments are based on the four criteria of housing issues, health care, community and social supports, and technology to age in place. The data gathered by local co-ordinator's on the needs of older persons, cross referenced with the GIS service mapping exercise that Age Friendly Ireland is developing in partnership with Health Atlas in the HSE, will highlight and identify gaps in service provision and create a gateway to identifying how those supports can be progressed at local level.</li> <li>• The programme is funded by Sláintecare on a two-year pilot basis with the view to mainstreaming. The programme is being evaluated by NUI Maynooth. Coordinators are providing support for access to housing adaptation grants, energy efficiency measures, community supports and advice on assistive technology. Phase 1 of the programme seeks to extend the service to 4,500 older people with a view to scaling to phase 2 in 2023.</li> <li>• The HSE, in conjunction with ALONE, is continuing the roll out of a Support Co-ordination Service across the country. These services will support the Enhanced Community Care (ECC) model and facilitate all Community Health Networks (CHNs) to deliver a coordinated system of care, integrated around older people's needs, by collaborating with the Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons (ICPOP) teams, and further expand the ALONE</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
	<p>Community and Partnerships to coordinate and deliver services in each CHO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The focus of the programme is to develop an integrated model to deliver quality approved support coordination, visitation support, and befriending driven by assistive technology with a structured network of contact and support at CHN level across all CHOs. ALONE will also deliver a service to the HSE in terms of Data analytics, Mapping, Research &amp; Development and Evaluation initiatives. The end goal is to improve the quality of life for older people by improving the access to integrated care through working with provider partners, statutory bodies, volunteers, in providing timely and the right level of care in an appropriate location, ideally in a setting of older people's choice.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6.3</b> Identify where technology supports can be funded through existing streams including Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme and others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new <a href="http://www.agefriendlyhomes.ie">www.agefriendlyhomes.ie</a> website will have a dedicated section for technology that supports ageing in place. This will also feature a monthly blog on new technology supports that assist older people in their homes.</li> <li>Age Action donated 700 carbon monoxide alarms to the Healthy Age Friendly Homes programme which have been distributed to local coordinators and will be installed by Age Action free of charge.</li> <li>There are a number of telehealth initiatives in operation. A telehealth pilot project, undertaken in County Wexford in 2021, was overseen by a multi-agency Stakeholder Group (Age Friendly Ireland, Integrated Care Programme in the HSE; Wexford General Hospital, Tunstall Emergency Response, Wexford County Council-Age Friendly Programme including the Wexford Older People's Council). The pilot project set out to provide a 12-week telehealth intervention to 50 patients with a chronic illness. The project was independently evaluated by Waterford Institute of Technology.</li> <li>The Age Friendly Libraries Digital Ambassadors programme, launched in 2021, was developed in</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
	<p>partnership between Age Friendly Ireland (AFI) and Libraries Development at the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA). The aim of the programme is to support older people in accessing online library resources. Building on the success of the peer-to-peer pilot, the ambition for this Programme is for the online training to be rolled out nationally through the 48 Age Friendly Library Champions in libraries around the country. Library staff were trained to provide online tutoring sessions to older people in their areas. Age Friendly Ireland are currently working with the 31 broadband officers across the country to develop and enhance access to digital technology for older people through Broadband Connection Points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age Friendly Ireland is engaging with a range of services to identify new technology supports for older people. Examples of these initiatives and services are the EU SHAFE, Hands on SHAFE, Crothers Smart Care, Tunstall, and Halo Care Technology. Information on available supports is being documented and will be available via the <i>agefriendlyhomes.ie</i> website.</li> <li>• The Department of Health has committed to supporting eHealth and the increased use of assistive technologies, supporting older persons to live independently for longer. The digital transformation of Ireland’s health service will involve the rapid adoption of eHealth technologies, creating vital improvements in health service efficiency, effectiveness, and experience for healthcare professionals and service users. The increasing interest in using telehealth in chronic disease management comes from a recognition that, as the population ages, telehealth can contribute significantly to more proactive, preventative, and person-centred care, to reducing costs, improving outcomes, and enhancing the patient experience.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1.2</b> Develop and deliver key actions identified under the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A key recommendation of the Health Capacity Review (2018) is the shift of care out of acute</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
<p>Sláintecare Implementation Strategy, particularly in relation to expansion of community-based care to bring it closer to home, aimed at keeping older people healthy and independent for longer. This includes building on work underway under the HSE's integrated Care Programme for Older People (ICPOP) in keeping with the actions outlined in the Sláintecare Implementation Strategy.</p>	<p>hospitals into the community and closer to a person's home, where safely possible. The Enhanced Community Care (ECC) programme will ensure maximum impact for citizens in avoiding hospital admission as far as possible through initiatives that will see care delivered within the community, at or near a person's home, where appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021 the HSE commenced the implementation of the Enhanced Community Care Programme. The ECC programme will support the design, testing &amp; evaluation, oversight and guide the implementation of a new model of enhanced community care involving community health networks (CHN) (96), community based multidisciplinary teams for older people and chronic disease (30), and integrated care pathways across every acute hospital and community health area in Ireland. The Sláintecare Implementation Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2023 has set out the goals of the ECC programme.</li> </ul> <p>The ECC Model is underpinned by a set of key principles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying and building health needs assessments at a population of 50,000 based on a population health planning approach i.e., population stratification thereby ensuring the right people get the right service based on the complexity of their health care needs.</li> <li>Utilisation of a whole system approach to integrating care based on person centred models, while promoting self-care in the community.</li> <li>Learning from and delivering services based on best practice models in the community and the extensive work of the integrated care clinical programmes particularly in Older Persons and Chronic Disease services</li> <li>The Older Persons/Chronic Disease Service Model sets out the end-to-end service architecture for the identification and management of people living with chronic disease and frail older adults with complex care needs.</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons (ICPOP) forms part of the Slaintecare Implementation Plan (2021-2023) and seeks to ensure older people with complex care needs can access care quickly, at or near home through care pathways specifically designed for older people and targeting Frailty, Falls and Dementia. The Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons (ICPOP) has worked with acute hospitals and their local community older person's services to develop end-to-end care pathways for older people with complex care needs. As community specialist teams for older people become fully operational during Quarter 4 2021, the full year impact (2022) should result in shorter hospital stays, combined with admission avoidance, yielding an equivalent of some 75,000 acute bed day saving.</li> </ul>
<p>5.4 Utilise the expanded Community Intervention Team and Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) services to prevent unnecessary hospital admission, promote hospital avoidance, and facilitate early discharge of patients to their home with the appropriate range of supports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Community Intervention Team (CIT) is a specialist, health professional team which provides a rapid and integrated response to a patient with an acute episode of illness who requires enhanced services/acute intervention for a defined short period of time. This may be provided at home, in a residential setting or in the community as deemed appropriate, thereby avoiding acute hospital attendance or admission, or facilitating early discharge.</li> <li>The CIT, through its fast-tracked provision of services enhances the overall primary care system, providing access to nursing and home care support, usually from 8am to 9pm, seven days per week. Referrals are accepted from hospitals, GP's and other community sources.</li> <li>Outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (OPAT) is an option which allows patients requiring intravenous antibiotics and who are clinically well enough for hospital discharge to be treated outside a hospital. Antibiotics can be administered in an outpatient unit, at home by a nurse, or at home by the patient or a carer.</li> <li>As of November 2021, 19 Community Intervention Teams (CIT's) are place with at least 1 team in</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
	<p>operation per Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) area. 4 of the 5 new CIT'S are fully operational with the final CIT expected to be fully operational by year end.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referrals to the Community Intervention Team service are 8.9% ahead of expected activity YTD in 2021. Hospital avoidance data for CIT/OPAT are 20.4% ahead of expected activity YTD in 2021. Early Discharge (including OPAT) nationally is at 4,559 for 2021.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.5.</b> Under Sláintecare progress a Programme on Workforce Planning, including the assessment of workforce required to deliver new models of care in the community to meet population growth and demand for community-based care services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through research, workshops, and engagement, two Sláintecare Reform Programmes have been prioritised for focused implementation over the next three years from 2021 to 2023. They are: Reform Programme 1: Improving Safe, Timely Access to Care and Promoting Health &amp; Wellbeing, and Reform Programme 2: Addressing Health Inequalities — towards Universal Healthcare.</li> <li>• These Reform Programmes will involve the work, support, and active engagement of key partners, including the Department of Health, across Government Departments, their agencies (in particular the HSE), health and social care workers and their representative organisations, community and voluntary organisations, and the private sector.</li> <li>• Under reform programme 2 of the Sláintecare Implementation Programme, key projects include project 1: develop a citizen care masterplan. Under this project, worksteam 6 is workforce planning. Workforce planning will use the recommendations of the Health Service Capacity Review (2018), as well as other key strategic reference workforce planning documents to inform future workforce requirements. Ensuring that sufficient professionals are trained, attracted, and retained in the areas where need is anticipated, will form a key part of this work.</li> <li>• Having sufficient capacity in the workforce and the appropriate configuration of staff and skill-mix are integral to the delivery of safe and timely health and social care services. In order to deliver the</li> </ul>



Actions	2021 Update
	<p>services required as a result of the outputs from Workstreams 1 and 2 above, significant investment is being made into the health and social care workforce over the lifetime of the Sláintecare Strategic Action Plan. Workforce plans are being developed to ensure the workforce will be aligned to the services required, where funded. This will include enhanced community care services, waiting lists reduction, augmented medical card eligibility, and integrated care programmes, among others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in this area will include consultation with the various professional groups and educational bodies who have responsibility for education standards and for managing the training of clinicians and health and social care professionals and workers to meet the future health and social care workforce needs.</li> <li>• The Department of Health has also committed to establishing a Cross Departmental Strategic Workforce Advisory Group. The role of the group will be to facilitate the views of stakeholders and examine workforce challenges in home support and nursing homes. Potential areas to be considered include recruitment, retention, training, career development, and the sustainable employment of home care workers into the future.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.6</b> Develop the role of advanced Nurse Practitioner services in older persons care, and in chronic disease management and unscheduled care, both services cater for a high proportion of older people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are currently (Q4 2021) 30 Advanced Practitioner (AP) posts across Residential, Mental Health, Primary and Public Health Nursing Services for Older Persons Community Services. There are 55 AP posts for Older Persons across the Acute Services in the Hospital Groups (out of 494 in total), along with 37 for Acute Medicine/Unscheduled Care and numerous other posts for Chronic Disease. As of August 2021, the total number of ANMPs and RANMPs currently employed in the HSE and HSE funded organisations is 686, almost meeting the target of 2% to create an initial critical mass (700 Aps) to radically</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
	<p>improve older person care, chronic disease management and unscheduled care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are plans being developed in the Department of Health to extend the national AP target with some of the key areas identified by the HSE for 2022/2023 for AP development being in Community Virtual Wards, Enhanced Community Care Teams, Mental Health Services and Older Person's Services, all areas that cater for a high proportion of older people.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.8</b> Continue to invest in primary care facilities across the country to help ensure appropriate provision of, and access to, services in the community. By enhancing and expanding capacity in the primary care sector, we will be able to provide high quality, safe accessible and sustainable care at the local level and allow people to be cared for in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. Investment in primary care facilities across the country will ensure the appropriate provision of and access to services in the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As detailed in the National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2030, the Primary Care Centre Programme (PCC) not only continues to be a key anchor in the longer-term reform of the health sector but also accords with the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. PCCs have a key role to play in delivering the vision for a reformed health service laid out in Sláintecare, by facilitating the shift from acute care to primary care through supporting the provision of a range of multi-disciplinary services in local communities.</li> <li>• In this regard, it is important to note that PCCs provide accommodation for services beyond those commonly identified as primary care, including community mental health services, disability services (including PDS children's Network Teams), environmental health services, accommodation for Tusla, ambulance rapid deployment points and civil registration. This programme will include provision of diagnostic facilities in the community.</li> <li>• Where appropriate accommodation is not currently available, new PCCs are procured through operational lease agreements and through direct HSE build via Exchequer funding. Capital funding is also required to equip these centres on completion. To date, there have been 145 centres completed with a further 4 due to open in 2021, 24 in 2022 and the remainder in subsequent years. These centres are delivered in a number of ways; own build, operational lease and via Public Private Partnership (PPP). To date, 14 PCCs have been delivered by PPP. As with all capital projects, they</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
	<p>need to progress through the Public Spending Code and are subject to the availability of funding.</p>
<p><b>5.11</b> Agree, procure, and commence implementation of a single assessment tool to ensure standardised assessment tool to ensure standardised assessment of need of older people to inform care planning, service design and service planning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• InterRAI is a not-for-profit collaborative network of researchers and practitioners in over 35 countries committed to improving care for persons who are disabled or medically complex. The interRAI consortium strives to promote evidence-informed clinical practice and policy decision making through the collection and interpretation of high-quality data about the characteristics and outcomes of people served across a variety of health and social services settings. There are over twenty assessment instruments in the interRAI integrated suite.</li> <li>• InterRAI assessments create person-focused, longitudinal records that can be viewed, understood, and used irrespective of care setting, thus reducing duplication and fragmentation. The individual-level data from interRAI instruments can be aggregated to inform decision making at the population level by managers, policy makers, planners, and evaluators.</li> <li>• The HSE Corporate Plan 2021-2024 states that rolling out interRAI in Ireland will assist with care planning, decision making, and ensure integration and alignment of the testing of the reformed model of service delivery with the roll-out of CHNs.</li> <li>• InterRAI implementation will support a more patient centred and effective assessment process, facilitating the access and communication of assessment information across the care continuum; improve service provision by providing service information at a national and local level to policy makers; replace paper-based assessments through a more integrated and digitally enabled assessment resulting in efficiency savings; and improve care and service planning and directly involve the patient in the planning and provision of their care.</li> <li>• The HSE has decided that interRAI will become the care needs assessment of choice across the full continuum of care and will be integrated into the normal clinical practice and care processes. As this is a large-scale undertaking, the initial focus of implementation is centred on embedding the</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
	<p>interRAI Home Care Assessment within ICPOP and ECC teams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Office has developed an implementation timeline regarding training to be progressed from the end of 2021 through to 2023 for the Home Care Assessment. This plan sees the implementation of the interRAI system, the initiation of recruitment, and the commencement of training for over 2000 Home Support, ICPOP and ECC resources starting in Q4 2021.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6.2</b> Evaluate the Warmth &amp; Well-being Scheme currently being piloted by Department of Health, Healthy Ireland initiative, with Department of Communications, Climate Action &amp; Environment, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and the HSE, with a view to expansion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Warmth and Wellbeing pilot scheme aims to objectively measure and validate the health and wellbeing impacts of improving the living conditions of vulnerable people living in energy poverty with chronic respiratory conditions. The scheme is a collaboration between Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and Department of Health, and is jointly administered by the Health Service Executive and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. Since 2016, over 1,300 homes have received free upgrades to their homes, including attic and wall insulation, window and door replacement and heating system upgrades where needed.</li> <li>The Exchequer investment in this scheme has significantly improved the warmth and comfort of the homes involved. Initial reports have indicated that the upgrades are also delivering benefits to the health and wellbeing of participants, including reports of needing fewer GP and hospital visits, fewer prescriptions for antibiotics, as well as increased engagement with other support services in the community.</li> <li>A health impact evaluation of the scheme is currently being conducted by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, in collaboration with the Health Service Executive. This research has been subject to considerable delays due to complications associated with GDPR, Brexit and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic. However, every effort is being made to progress the analysis as quickly as possible and publish the results. The</li> </ul>

Actions	2021 Update
	<p>findings will inform Government’s approaches to retrofitting, especially with regard to those who are more vulnerable and at risk of energy poverty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As sufficient participants for this research have been recruited under the scheme there are no plans to extend the pilot area further. The Warmer Homes Scheme is already available nationwide and provides a similar range of energy efficiency measures free of charge to low-income households vulnerable to energy poverty.</li> <li>• In addition, the Warmer Homes Scheme has wider eligibility criteria than the pilot scheme as it is not limited to those with chronic respiratory conditions. To date, over 143,000 homes have received free upgrades under the scheme. In the first six months of 2021, the average value of the energy efficiency measures provided per household was approximately €17,100.</li> </ul>

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

This subgroup met on two occasions in 2021 in February and November via WebEx. There were seven meetings in total of this Subgroup.

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 3	2021 Update
<p><b>Action 1.3</b> Provide a high-level blueprint for AHB's, Co-Operatives, LA's &amp; 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The website <a href="http://www.agefriendlyhomes.ie">www.agefriendlyhomes.ie</a>, with age friendly design guidance and templates, was launched by Ministers Butler and Burke in June 2021 and is being maintained and updated by AFI.</li> <li>• Quarterly analytics reports will be provided to the website Oversight Group.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 2.2</b> 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"> <li>• 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 housing need and demand assessments (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.</li> <li>• The Housing Needs Demand Assessment (HNDA) tool and associated guidance will provide a more consistent and evidence-based approach to assessing need and demand for housing.</li> <li>• A number of key evidential inputs inform and drive the HNDA model, including information on demographic, affordability and wider economic</li> </ul>

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 3	2021 Update
	<p>trends, coupled to the profile of the existing housing stock and its management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The HNDA framework is in place in local authorities since 2021.</li> <li>• Circular Letter Housing 14/2021 asked local authorities to integrate a HNDA into the Development Plan review process where planning authorities gave notice of review of a development plan in accordance with section 11(1) of the 2000 Act, after 14th April 2021. As such, implementation of the HNDA will be closely linked with the Development Plan cycle and will evolve accordingly.</li> <li>• Training will be provided to local authorities on the use of the HNDA tool.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 3.1</b> – Continue to deliver Age Friendly Housing &amp; Public Realm Training workshop to create awareness of the recommendations and guidelines in the future provision of housing for an ageing population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of Age Friendly Ireland’s Housing and Public Realm training re-commenced in October 2021. Seventeen training sessions took place between October and December 2021 with nine further counties scheduled for the training between January and March 2022. This training is delivered on an ongoing basis and reports are provided to the Department</li> <li>• Action 6.5 in Housing for All reaffirms continued delivery of the Age Friendly housing and public realm training modules to promote greater awareness and foster knowledge transfer across the sector.</li> <li>• The training has received CPD accreditation from Engineers Ireland and The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 3.2 and 3.3</b>– 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age Friendly Ireland participated in a working group led by Irish Council for Social Housing to review the current allocation policy and make recommendations.</li> <li>• Examples of good practice across Ireland were examined and recommendations submitted to the Department in the working group’s report.</li> <li>• A review of Age Friendly Ireland’s rightsizing policy template has been progressed with</li> </ul>

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 3	2021 Update
<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>	<p>recommendations initially being presented to the CCMA Housing, Building and Land Use Subcommittee (Q4 2021).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the network of 31 Age Friendly Technical Advisors, Age Friendly Ireland are building a bank of case studies demonstrating various funding and allocation models to provide a resource to the Department in terms of the delivery of Age Friendly Housing through Housing for All.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 4.5</b> – 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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• A ‘Financial Scenarios and Solutions’ workshop took place in October 2020 in partnership with the financial sector (Banks, Banking Federation of Ireland, Credit Unions). This documented various challenges that older people have in accessing financial services and proposed solutions.</li> <li>• An Post have developed an Energy Hub grant for people who wish to upgrade their homes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 4.7</b> – 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age Friendly Ireland undertook research on older people's perceptions and experiences of rightsizing, with support from The Housing Agency, South Dublin County Council and other partners. This research, published in 2021, found that 44% of respondents might consider moving to more age appropriate housing under the right conditions. The study also documented case studies on older people's different experiences of rightsizing.</li> <li>• A rightsizing policy template was developed by Age Friendly Ireland and distributed to CCMA. This document drew on the new South Dublin County Council rightsizing policy and was developed with reference to other Irish and UK templates.</li> <li>• A review of this rightsizing policy template was undertaken by consultant Dr Sean O’Riordain via</li> </ul>



Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 3	2021 Update
	<p>qualitative research with Chief Executives with regard to operational processes around rightsizing in their local authorities. Limerick City and County Council have adopted the rightsizing policy template. Meath Co Council have adopted a rightsizing policy in 2021 and have introduced a nominal incentive of €500 per household for rightsizing as a contribution towards moving costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rightsizing opportunities are being promoted through the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme   Phase 1.</li> <li>• A ‘Guide to Rightsizing’ was published by Age Friendly Ireland in June 2021. This user friendly booklet lists the various options available and signposts the reader to available supports, grants and services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 4.8</b> – 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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The Department of Housing has given Capital and Current funding to AVA Housing for it to extend its pilot project in 2022 and 2023. This extended pilot will see AVA housing complete twenty houses, two groupings of ten houses.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 4.10</b> - 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research has been conducted by the Housing Agency<sup>3</sup>, which examines the costs and the benefits to the State of an expansion in the provision of supported Housing for older people.</li> <li>• Scoping of potential new funding mechanisms is continuing.</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.housingagency.ie/ageing-population-research>

Update on Actions assigned to Subgroup 3	2021 Update
housing, including the housing programme.	
<p><b>Action 4.13-</b> 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"> <li>• The National Network of Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisors is working effectively with regular meetings and information sharing. Technical Advisors from each region are presenting to the full network in rotation.</li> <li>• Reporting systems have been set up to capture information on age friendly housing developments, rightsizing and other criteria. These systems are being further refined to capture information that is useful to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</li> <li>• Further technical training is planned for the Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisors, as a follow on to their induction training.</li> <li>• The 31 Age Friendly Technical Advisors are recognised in ‘Housing for All’ as a core function and service in each local authority in terms of the delivery of Age Friendly Housing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 5.10</b> – 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"> <li>• AFI training in place.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

#### Subgroup 4 – Development of a GIS Decision Making Support Tool

Subgroup 4 was established by the Implementation Group to provide a dedicated group to drive forward the development of a GIS Mapping Decision Support Tool, project ASSIST. This group met on a number of occasions in 2021 in different formats, to gather input from key stakeholders including AFI, OPC, etc to contribute to the development of the GIS Decision Support Tool.

<p><b>Action 2.3</b> - 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"> <li>1. A small / medium sized town.</li> <li>2. A suburban area.</li> <li>3. An inner city / urban center.</li> </ol> <p>Within each of the chosen locations map the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Existing land use and ownership.</li> <li>2. Vacant sites and buildings.</li> <li>3. Existing housing.</li> <li>4. Existing and proposed infrastructure and services.</li> <li>5. Any proposed new housing and other developments.</li> <li>6. Deliver proposals demonstrating the capacity of each of the areas to meet the future housing needs of older people.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The business case for the GIS Decision Support Tool was approved by the DHLGH ICT governance in committee in mid 2021 and the consultants EsRi have been tasked with its development.</li> <li>• The Project Plan envisages the work being completed in first half of 2022. It is intended that Subgroup 4 will remain in place for the duration of the project.</li> <li>• Action modified to urban v rural ie two settlement types as opposed to three.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 5.9</b> – 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 neighbourhoods".</p>	<p>See <b>Action 2.3</b> for update.</p>



## 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.
- 5.11. The Group shall stand until 30<sup>th</sup> 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	County and City Management Association (CCMA) and Meath Co Co (MCC)
Veronica Healy	D/Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Roslyn Molloy	Housing Agency (HA)
Joan MacMahon	D/Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Bridie O'Reilly	Older People's Council (OPC)
Neil Kavanagh / Caoimhe Doyle	Department of Health (DoH)
Ger Craddock	National Disability Authority, CEUD
Derek Dockrell	Health Services Executive, Estates Branch (HSE)
Laura Courtney	D/Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Ciaran Murphy	D/Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) Secretary

### Subgroup 2 Membership

Name	Organisation
Louise McGirr, Chair	Department of Health (DoH)
Neil Kavanagh	Department of Health (DoH)
Caoimhe Doyle	Department of Health (DoH)
Veronica Healy	D/Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Raymond McAndrew/Belinda Tracey	D/Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Catherine McGuigan	Age Friendly Ireland (AFI)
Seán Kennelly	Health Services Executive (HSE)
Eithne McAuliffe	Health Services Executive (HSE)
Samantha Rayner	Health Services Executive (HSE)
Kevin Power/Breda Bailey	D/Rural and Community Development(DRCD)
Stephen Price, Secretariat	Department of Health (DoH)

### Subgroup 3 Membership

Name	Organisation
Laura Behan, Chair	D/Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)



Veronica Healy	D/Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Catherine McGuigan	Age Friendly Ireland(AFI)
Roslyn Molloy	Housing Agency (HA)
Rosaleen Smartt	Older Persons Council (OPC)
Des Mulligan	Health Services Executive (HSE)
Neil Redmond/ Caoimhe Doyle/ Stephen Price	Department of Health (DoH)
Maurice O'Connell	Chair, Inchicore Housing with Supports Demonstrator Project
Karen Murphy	Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH)
Ciaran Murphy	D/Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) secretariat

#### Subgroup 4 Membership

Name	Organisation
Barry Lynch, Chair	County and City Management Association (CCMA) and Meath County Council (MCC)
Laura Behan	D/Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Roslyn Molloy	Housing Agency (HA)
Sylvia McCarthy	Age Friendly Ireland and Meath Co Co (MCC)
Robert Ovington	D/Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) GIS Unit
Deirdre Kelly	D/Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) GIS Unit
Ciaran Murphy	D/Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)secretariat



### Appendix 3 – Some insights from Chairs, Group Participants and Key Stakeholders

The Chair sought the insights and views of Chairs and Key Stakeholders on the working of the Group, barriers and enablers to the work of the group, strategic lessons learned, things that enabled or enhanced the work and things that slowed progress.

Key insights included the very positive impact of having the voice of older people on the working groups through the nomination by the Ministers of representatives of Older People's Councils, allowing for direct input into the policy development process by older citizens, and also a reporting structure back to the National Network of Older People's Councils.

A further important insight was the fact that the various groups have had very positive cross-Departmental and multi-stakeholder engagements. This provided the opportunity to get wide-ranging expert views from a large number of interested stakeholders. The need to have the right people around the table was also widely cited e.g. the more active inclusion of Sláintecare officials from the Department of Health in Subgroup 2, their input being vital to progressing many of the actions.

It was also considered that the inclusion of both the aims of (a) the HOFOAP Policy Statement and its objectives and (b) the commitment to a pathway for future collaboration and advancement of its goals, in the whole of Government new national housing policy plan "Housing for All" secures and drives clear policy and direction going forward.

And finally that a relatively short timeframe for action implementation for most Actions meant that there was consistent focus on delivery.

#### ***Some enablers***

Many pointed to the Joint Ministerial commitment which drove the production of the plan and establishing the strong implementation framework as a key enabler.

The role of strong independent chairmanship and direction with a clear vision, consistent with that of the Ministers, on what was required to be achieved was also considered central to the Group.

HOFOP had an effective implementation infrastructure with clear roles and responsibilities delegated to the subgroups, and appropriate reporting and communication. The Implementation Group and Subgroups had broad representation across organisations including a mixture of skill sets.

A shared secretariat across both Government Departments ensured that the expertise and knowledge from each Department was maximised. This Group should be seen as an exemplar of this type of inter-Departmental working going forward.

A further key enabler for the Actions in the policy statement to be expeditiously progressed was clear and definite ownership of the Actions themselves.

Lastly, key delivery partners in the Age Friendly Ireland local government shared service and the HSE provided an important, more dedicated implementation channel for many important actions.

### ***Some challenges and barriers***

Some contributors pointed to the potential for funding becoming a barrier if funding streams are not aligned specifically with policy actions.

Some considered that in some cases the lack of quantitative targets and strict completion criteria made it challenging to rigorously assess progress against the Actions from a project management perspective, a useful lesson to bear in mind in developing future policy frameworks.

Progress on several of the policy statement actions was unfortunately negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The response to the pandemic has been and continues to be a national and public health priority. An example of this is action 5.2, which calls for the expansion of community based social care supports, including day care services. Although there was widespread cessation of day care services for our older citizens during the

pandemic, the HSE deserves great credit for their continued efforts to resume normal services, and for their strategic approach to examining the model of day care services that exists in Ireland and how it can best serve the needs of older people in a Covid and post Covid environment.

Another impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was the transition from in-person meetings to meetings taking place virtually. This was an adjustment that provided some initial challenges but that ultimately worked very effectively. The 2021 cyber-attack in the HSE and the Department of Health also provided some challenges, but these had been largely overcome by the end of 2021.



[www.housing.gov.ie](http://www.housing.gov.ie) [www.health.gov.ie](http://www.health.gov.ie)