



Request for Tender

Ageing Well in Place Social Housing Support Pilot Programme 2025-2027 Monitoring and Evaluation Research

Background – Programme and Partners

The Ageing Well in Place Social Housing Support Programme is a pilot social housing initiative to advance the concept of *ageing well in place* in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown (DLR). In DLR, as elsewhere, current models of accommodation and social care in later life need innovation. Dependence on medical facilities or care homes is neither a sustainable nor desirable solution for those who need some support to live well as they grow older.

The pilot brings together five partners, the pilot programme covering housing, health care, coordination and social support to enable older people to live well in their own communities, through tailored and efficient responses to their needs, and aims to demonstrate that this model of living ultimately delivers better health and wellbeing outcomes.

Dublin Central Mission (DCM) is the **lead partner** and co-funder. DCM are pioneers in supported independent living for older people. Currently they have two sites in south county Dublin where residents have access to staff who support their health and social care needs. This includes Health Care Assistant and Day Programmes so that residents can age in place, with their changing healthcare needs catered for, and have access to regular socialisation and community engagement.

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (Dlr CC) is a direct partner and co-funder. Three of their social housing sites for older people are involved – Beaufort Housing, Glasthule Buildings and Rochestown House. Objective 1.3 of Dlr CC's Age Friendly Strategy 2022-26 commits it to providing *an appropriate continuum of lifetime-adaptable housing choices and solutions, directly and in partnership which enable older people to live independently for as long as a possible*. Dlr CC will work with DCM and HSE to facilitate and support the programme.

HSE is a direct partner and co-funder and is involved from the outset in identifying the health issues for this cohort of elderly clients in the county and advising on how best to support them. HSE will work with DCM to ensure that value can be added and workstreams made more efficient and effective.

Supporting partners are Southside Partnership (SSP) and Changing Lives – The Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Community Fund (CL).

Southside Partnership will support access to social prescribing and community connection programmes for residents in the sites to enable them to live independently and create, or enhance, their social connectedness in their local communities.

Changing Lives aims to support people and communities in the county by targeting philanthropic funds to respond with imagination and flexibility to local needs. It is a supporting partner and co-funder of this programme and is committed to supporting pioneering combinations of housing, care and social support for older people with a view to proving the value of an integrated pathway of support for them as they age. CL provides strategic advice to the programme and has secured additional funding for a research input to monitor and evaluate the programme and provide an evidence base for possible wider replication.

Ultimately, if developed effectively, the model should support ageing in place and reduce hospital and nursing home admissions for this cohort. It will potentially also free up housing stock, as those who need more tailored support transition to these age-supported sites.

This pilot programme commenced in January 2025.

Context for Research

It is essential that the experiences and learning from this pilot programme are effectively captured. Thus, in addition to supporting the operation of the programme CL is funding research to monitor and measure the programme's impact over three years. This will involve data assembly and analysis to provide evidence of the impact of the programme on those using the service, and on service delivery models. The research outcome should be a robust evaluation of the programme which can be used as a basis for wider application of the model, if deemed successful.

The project will be managed by the lead partner DCM and overseen by a Steering Committee.

Research Tasks

1. Review existing policy and practice regarding housing and associated support services for older people in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County. Briefly review relevant literature on models of housing support for older people and describe models in place in other parts of Ireland and elsewhere.
2. Develop a profile of the residents in the three facilities in the programme based initially on secondary data from the service providers. These data will be anonymised and comply with GDPR. They should include but not be limited to
 - Residents age, gender, length of tenancy, health status, etc
 - Housing circumstances and issues.
 - Residents' use of services e.g. Health Care Package, PHN, day services, social connection/social prescribing.

[Currently there are 191 occupants in the three Dlr CC sites Beaufort, Glasthule and Rochestown House, ranging in age from 34 to 95 yrs].

 - Identify data gaps and how they can be addressed.

3. Develop a methodology to consult with the residents, twice yearly, to track the evolution of the service and its impact on them. Our objective is to understand how they view their circumstances at various points in time and the impact on them of the interventions in the pilot programme.

Given residents' age and circumstances, capturing concerns and issues related to their well-being, and how they respond to the interventions associated with this programme, will require sensitive investigation based on qualitative person-centred methods.

4. Consult with service providers on a twice-yearly basis, using an appropriate methodology.
5. Analyse these data to assess the impact of the programme on the residents and service providers, including identification of gaps in service delivery or adjustments required.
6. Estimate the cost saving associated with reduced hospital admissions and nursing home admissions.
7. Compile an interim and end of year reports that set out clearly the impact of the programme on service users and providers, and the potential for wider application.

Submission and Quotation

Quotations must include:

- A brief history of experience of the researcher(s) relevant to the assignment.
- Evidence of clear knowledge and experience of qualitative and quantitative approaches and methodologies.
- A detailed description of the proposed methodological approach and proposal for carrying out the research in a timely manner.
- A proposed work plan and programme including a timetable of events which demonstrates a thorough understanding of the aims and objectives of the research.
- Full costing of the project including proposed number of days assigned to each task and applicable daily rates.
- Current tax clearance certificate.
- Successful tender will be required to show evidence of professional indemnity insurance before being awarded the contract.
- Most recent CV, some examples of previous written work and two referees who can be contacted
- Quotation to cover all costs inclusive of VAT.

Budget

The budget for this work will be a maximum of €10,000 for Year 1, including VAT and associated expenses. The initial contract will be for one year, with further research in Years 2 and 3 depending on availability of funding and results from Year1.

It is expected that the work will commence in May 2025 and be completed by March 2026.

Assessment Criteria

Proposals will be assessed on the following basis

1. Quality of the research proposal, including proposed methodology and understanding of the brief 40%
2. Subject matter knowledge, expertise and track record of the proposer(s) 40%
3. Value for money 20%

Further Information

Please contact Suzanne Corcoran CEO DCM suzanne.corcoran@dublincentralmission.ie

for further information, or if you have any queries in relation to the proposal.

Please submit your tender by email to Suzanne Corcoran
suzanne.corcoran@dublincentralmission.ie by close of business on Friday 25th April 2025.