Dementia is a major challenge for all of us, and has escalated in importance on the public policy agenda. With the right support and early diagnosis people living with dementia can have a good quality of life. We know housing is a major part of the solution to living independently for longer, however, the evidence base on housing issues is limited.

**WHO ARE WE?**

The Housing and Dementia Research Consortium (HDRC) was founded in 2008 to address the evidence gap and is now the largest UK network of organisations and individuals specifically committed to research into accommodation and care for people with dementia.

The HDRC currently has around 70 members, about half of which are providers and commissioners of accommodation and care for older people. The rest are other interested parties including university researchers, architects, assistive technology providers, health and social care providers, independent consultants and representatives from third sector organisations.

Hosted by the Association for Dementia Studies (ADS) at the University of Worcester, the HDRC is led by a steering group currently comprising six well-established accommodation and care providers: Anchor Hanover; ExtraCare Charitable Trust; Hallmark Care Homes; Housing 21; MHA and the Guinness Partnership. The Alzheimer’s Society and the Housing Learning and Improvement Network (Housing LIN) are also represented, as is the ADS. Further information about these organisations can be found on the back cover.

**WHAT ARE OUR AIMS?**

HDRC aims to achieve high quality research focused on ‘what works’ in terms of the way services and environments are designed for people living with dementia, in order to influence policy and practice in the UK and beyond.

We seek to do this by:

- Shaping the agenda for research into accommodation and care to ensure its relevance and usefulness to all stakeholders.
- Promoting a collaborative approach, thereby giving greater weight to research funding applications.
- Delivering multi-provider, multi-site research in order to provide robust, targeted evidence.
- Ensuring that accommodation and care providers, residents and people who use services are active research partners.
- Providing the evidence base to inform policy development in relation to housing and dementia.
- Helping to disseminate findings and support the transfer of research into practice within housing settings.

We are continuously working on research proposals, together with university partners, for submission to appropriate funders or funding calls.
HOW CAN THE HDRC HELP YOU?

The HDRC is uniquely placed to understand the housing related priorities of people living with dementia and their carers. We consult with our members, with people living with dementia in different housing settings, family carers and care staff in order to establish research priorities and provide an evidence base to guide the HDRC’s work.

The HDRC is well placed to understand the needs of the housing sector. Our work is shaped by our members and steering group which include some of the largest, most innovative and well-respected housing providers in the UK.

Examples of how we can help you and your business include support with:
- Developing a dementia strategy.
- Creating a dementia friendly community.
- Carrying out research, evaluation and consultancy projects.
- Dementia friendly design assessment.
- Providing access to expertise through our extensive networks of academic researchers in dementia, housing and care.
- Facilitating access to research participants.
- Undertaking reviews of the literature on specific topics.
- Developing Briefing papers.
- Helping with the preparation of applications for funding.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?

A consortium is only as effective as its membership. We welcome accommodation and care providers and other interested parties to become members and support our work. Membership is free.

Members benefit from:
- Participation in a network of diverse professionals with a common interest.
- Access to a dedicated website with findings from in-house research, externally funded research and evaluations from member organisations.
- Attendance at network events to shape priorities, share knowledge and learn from others.

Joining the steering group requires a financial commitment but gives you more say in the priorities and activities of the HDRC.

For more information, please contact Dr Julie Barrett, HDRC research coordinator, at the Association for Dementia Studies (ADS), the University of Worcester.

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Telephone: 01905 542531
HDRC Website: www.housingdementiaresearch.wordpress.com
ADS website: www.worc.ac.uk/dementia
HDRC Twitter: @HousingDementia
STEERING GROUP MEMBERS

Alzheimer’s Society
The Alzheimer’s Society is the UK’s leading support, research and campaigning charity for people with any form of dementia, their families and carers. We provide information and support publications, the National Dementia Helpline, a website, and more than 2,000 local services. We also fund research into cause, cure and care.

Anchor Hanover Group
Hanover has now merged with Anchor to form Anchor Hanover, the largest provider of specialist housing and care for people in later life in England. We have proud histories and similar values. Today our combined size and strength means we can transform housing and care to give more people a home where they love living. The Anchor Hanover Group provide more than 54,000 homes for older people, and we’re a trusted care provider with more than 100 care homes. We’re also a not-for-profit organisation – any surplus we make is reinvested into maintaining our properties, improving our services and building more homes for older people.

Association for Dementia Studies
Based at The University of Worcester, the Association for Dementia Studies is a national and international centre of excellence in training, education and research in dementia studies.

ExtraCare Charitable Trust
The ExtraCare Charitable Trust enables older people to enjoy a healthier, active and more independent lifestyle. Established in 1988, the Charity now supports over 4000 residents in a network of 14 retirement villages and 17 smaller housing developments across the Midlands and the North. There is a wide range of social opportunities to enjoy and person-centred dementia care is provided via the innovative Enriched Opportunities Program (EOP).

The Guinness Partnership
The Guinness Partnership owns and manages around 60,000 homes and provides care and support services for more than 10,000 people across England. Core activities comprise housing for social and affordable rent, affordable home ownership, housing for older people and a range of care services, including care at home, extra care, supported and retirement living.

Hallmark Care Homes
Based in Billericay, Essex, Hallmark Care Homes have 18 residential, nursing and dementia homes across England and South Wales. They have made a name for themselves in the care sector, being recognised for their industry-leading facilities, excellent relationship-centred care and being a leading, financially stable provider. All of their care homes have a ‘Good’ or an ‘Outstanding’ CQC/CSSIW rating and they have won over 80 awards in the last 21 years as a testament to their great care provision.

Housing 21
Housing 21 is a leading, national, not-for-profit provider of services for older people. We deliver affordable, contemporary, person-centred care and housing solutions that meet people’s needs and improve wellbeing. It is the predominant provider of extra care housing in England and has a successful track record in developing dementia services.

The Housing LIN
The Housing Learning and Improvement Network (LIN) is the leading ‘learning lab’ for a growing integrated network of housing, health and social care professionals in England involved in housing and care for older and disabled people. We seek to improve their choices by connecting people, ideas and resources.

MHA
MHA (Methodist Homes) is a charity providing care, accommodation and support services for over 16,000 older people throughout Britain. Established over 70 years ago, it is well known for its person-centred services and dementia care within a range of housing settings.