



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Healthy Age Friendly Homes

Pilot Evaluation



Healthy Age Friendly
Homes
Age Friendly Ireland

Sláintecare.

June 2023

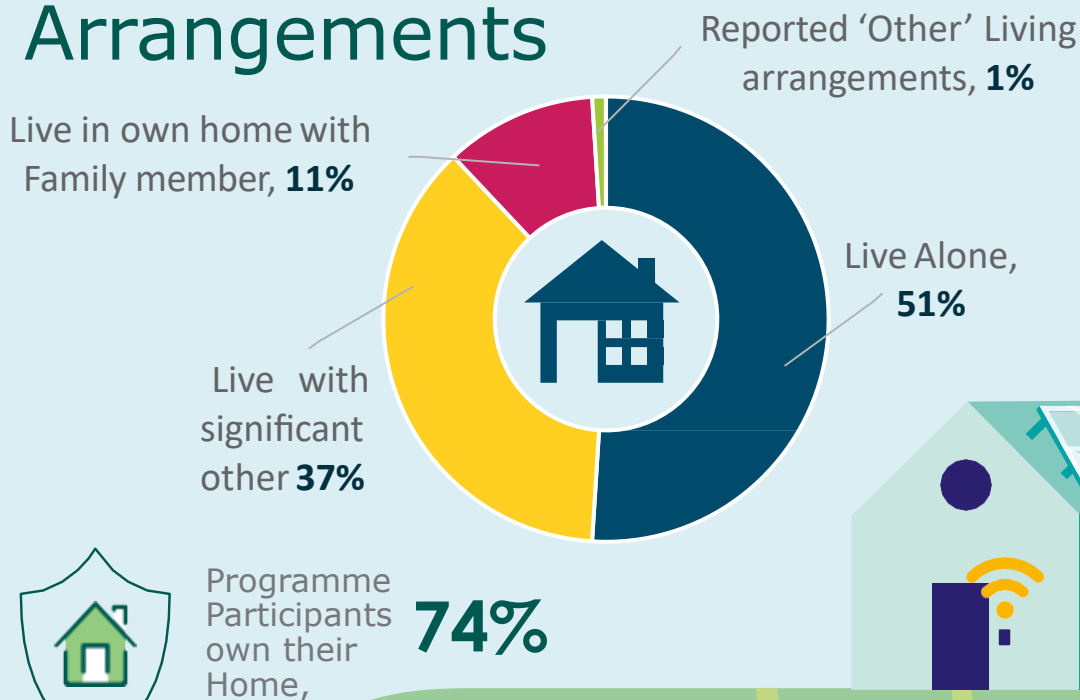
Key Objectives



Participant Profile



Housing Conditions & Living Arrangements



Overview of Domain

Supports have been provided relating to the four key domains



Housing

61%



Technology

16%



Health

12%



Community

11%

Housing adaptations including Housing Adaptation Grants (HAGs), Mobility Aid Grants (MAGs) and Housing Aid for Older People Grant (HOPs). SEAI grants and BER energy assessments were the most common areas of need identification in the assessments under the Housing domain.

Smoke detectors and Carbon Monoxide Alarms accounted for 72% of Home Technology Aids provided to the participants. In relation to Assistive Technology, devices information and access to the Pendant | Personal Alarm was 20%.

Social Welfare schemes (27%) and contact information and linkages to an Occupational Therapist (25%) were the predominant Health Supports Provided. There were seventeen various Supports related to Health that the Local Support Coordinator assisted the participant with.

An Introduction to Local Community Groups was the most common community support, followed by the Befriending Service, with Library Service the third highest support.

"I recommend it for the simple reason that, you know, people might not know that things like this exist; you know like grants and (...) it's nice to find out that there are actually bodies out there that are willing to help."



Findings



Self Efficacy

Greater number of participants feel more optimistic about coping with the demands of life

Quality of Life

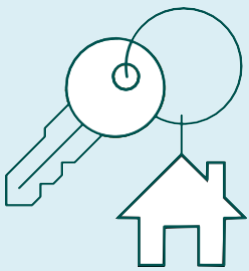
Participants reported an improved "Sense of fulfilment of their potential" in their Lives



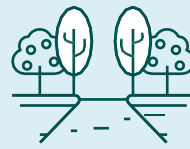
Rightsizing **Key**

Factors:

Existence of more Age friendly housing in desired area is very important



Social Support



More than half of participants now feel they have Strong levels of Social Support

Loneliness

7 out of 10 participants self-reported as 'Not Lonely'

Greatest source of loneliness measured was a "lack of companionship"



Self Reported Health Status



Overall, participants considered themselves slightly healthier

Functional Ability

4 out of 5 participants reported having greater self-belief in their ability to respond to difficult situations



Impacts

Prevention

Older Person with no falls and a support of Housing Adaptations implemented



963 participants indicated housing adaptations were required in their home with **648 indicating they had not experienced a recent fall.**

Of the 648 participants

347 have been assisted in making a housing adaptation grant application.

376 were provided information on housing adaptation grants for consideration and follow-up.

Intervention

Older Person with mobility issues affecting their capacity to use the stairs with the support of stair lift implementation (housing adaptation)



674 participants stated that they had difficulty in using the stairs all the time.

Of the 674 participants

322 have been assisted in making a housing adaptation grant application.

290 were provided information on housing adaptation grants for consideration and follow-up.

Reaction

Older Person living alone who has a history of falls and a support of entry level telecare with 24-hour emergency response provided



996 participants are living alone with 311 experiencing a recent fall

Of the 311 participants

299 indicated they did not have a fall detector.

164 indicated they did not have a pendant alarm.

152 were provided fall detector assistive technology supports

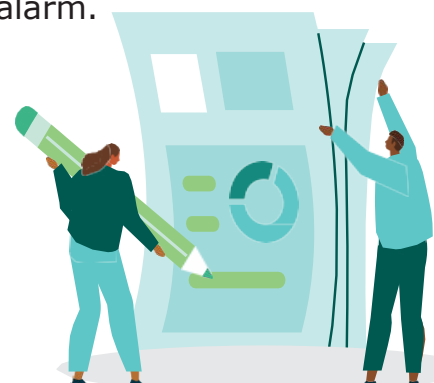
Of the 996 participant

224 have a history of falling

Of the 224 participants

215 indicated they did not have a fall detector.

116 indicated they did not have a pendant alarm.



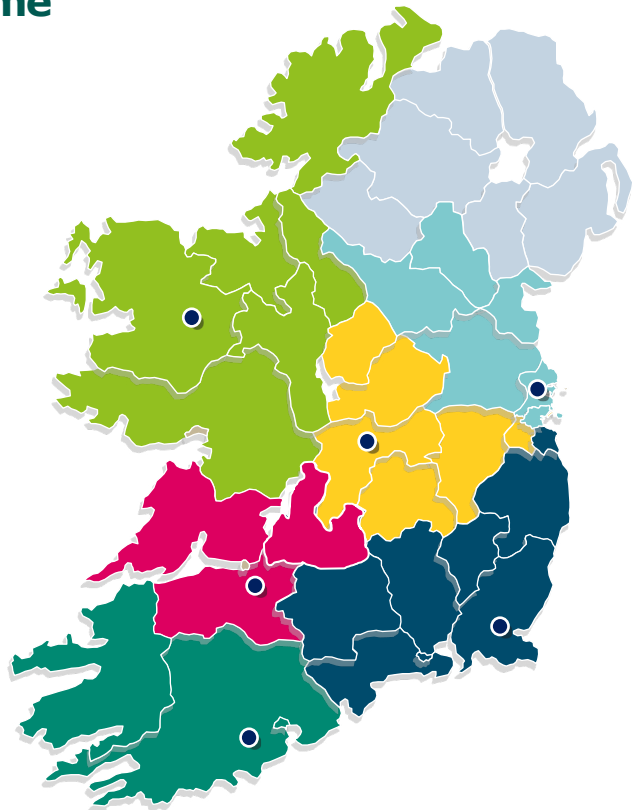
Key Recommendations

National scale up of the Programme

Using a population-based approach, each local authority in the country (31) will host a local coordinator, with some areas receiving more coordinators based on their population's needs.

Introduction of a Regional Management tier aligned to RHAs

Regional managers will be aligned to the Regional Health Areas, to ensure alignment with health and social care services. Partnerships with key stakeholders will also be scaled to ensure service provision across the country.

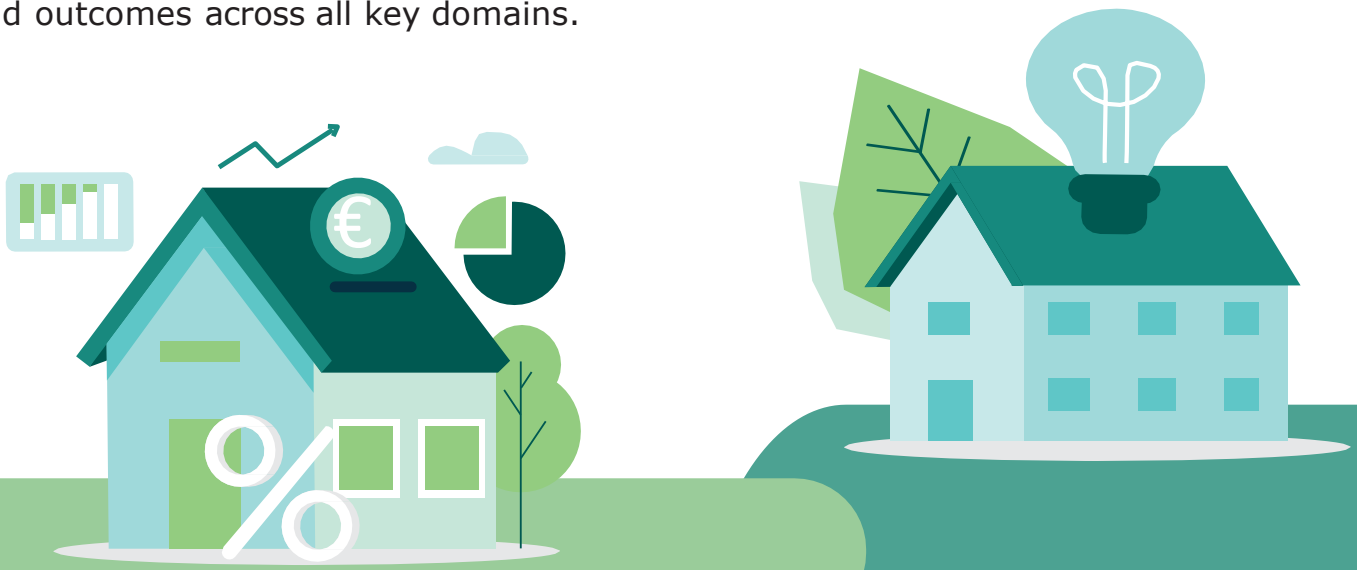


Broaden scope of Programme

It is recommended that the existing framework be expanded to encompass **six key domains** by including:

Climate Action/Warmer Homes
Financial Awareness

This will offer better support in these critical areas, thereby facilitating more comprehensive reporting and outcomes across all key domains.



Prioritise participants who have poorer self - reported health & mobility status



Those with poorer self-reported health and mobility status, availed of fewer supports than those who reported no issues on their health & mobility status. This cohort could be prioritised and supported to avail of services and perhaps be given more one to one support to walk them through what is available to them. In addition, they may need more encouragement or information on the benefits available or services to make an informed decision.

Evaluation



This research could explore an in-depth cost-benefit analysis to explore health care utilisation savings to the HSE.

A longer follow-up period could be utilised to examine the full effects of home modifications on participants' health and wellbeing.



By supporting older people to continue living independently and avoiding **premature or untimely** admission to long-term care the programme can potentially produce demonstrable savings of €41.5 million annually





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