



Supported Independent Living

Communal and intergenerational living in the Netherlands and Denmark

Housing LIN Summit
December 2020

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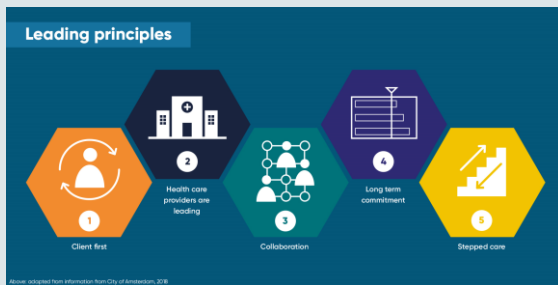
My Churchill Fellowship

- **Supported Independent Living** – Communal and intergenerational living in The Netherlands and Denmark
- 2017 theme of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust – New approaches to social and affordable housing
- During 2018 and 2019 travelled to The Netherlands and Denmark
- Published report in November 2019
- Fellowship included engagement with Amsterdam City Government, De Hogeweyk, Humanitas (The Netherlands) and Saettedammen (Denmark)
- Linkage to the UK's underoccupancy of housing amongst older people, housing and care for later life and the NHS's Long Term Plan
- Original aspiration and investigation about older people's independence in later life became an all age discovery and understanding of intergenerational living
- Theme of health, social care, housing, social interaction and...living!

Findings: Organisations

Social Policy in the City of Amsterdam:

- Similar issues to the UK
- Strong message of self responsibility
- Support to make later life choices
- Underpinned by legislation
- Care and support wraps around the individual

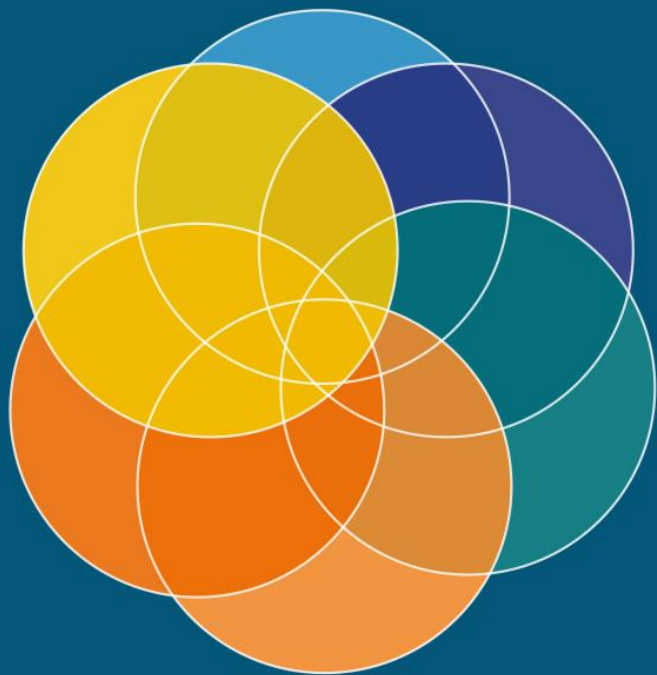


Humanitas is a residential and nursing home in the Netherlands that provides accommodation and care to 160 residents and there are also respite rooms. Six students live amongst the residents.

Saettedammen, in Denmark, is a community of intergenerational residents living within a co-housing environment.

There are 70 people in the community. De Hogeweyk, in the Netherlands, is a residential village which specialises in the care of 150 older people with dementia.

Findings: Critical Success Factors



Shared ethos of relational care and empathy

Daily rituals

Deliberate interactions between older and younger people

Organisation and distributed leadership

Self-management of care

Enabled environments


**This is for people
who want to
contribute...
it's not for
everyone**

Findings: Critical Success Factors (2)

Daily rituals: ways to combat ageing and isolation in Saettedammen:

- Challenging each other
- Having meals together
- Sharing values
- Keeping an active mindset
- When there are life-changing events, everyone is alerted about it and must talk to people affected
- Actively supporting each other
- Acknowledging that not everyone finds comfort in the same ways

Deliberate interactions between older and younger people: in Humanitas student Sorres finds it a warm and friendly environment. Humanitas is used for social events and parties. The key realisation from Sores is that this home at Humanitas has showed him how different people interact with each other: “there is good interaction with the staff on site, too. Staff enjoy the mix of groups and the students are also residents, after all”.



Different kinds of groups should not be separated from each other

Findings: Critical Success Factors (3)

Enabled environments:

- At Humanitas and De Hogeweyk the environment was dementia friendly and psychologically enabling
- At Saettedammn the site has a lake, woods, gardens and pathways outside and has communal facilities designed to house many people engaging in a range of activities
- Saettedammen housing is modular and designed to be adaptable



Above: modular housing at Saettedammen, Denmark

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

- Intergenerational living does work
- People are pre-disposed to the communal values and make it work
- There are benefits for all age groups, especially children and older adults
- Benefits also include revised perceptions of older people and improved relationships
- Wider impacts include enabling models of care and young people engaged with decision making

Recommendations

- UK housing needs to cater for multiple communities
- Enable communities to become more accessible to each other to combat loneliness
- Reduce overt clinical models of care in residential care settings
- Expand Healthy New Towns
- Use the voluntary sector more to enable people to access their rights and promote social connectedness



**Yes this works.
People are normal
human beings and
the combination
of different people
makes a
community.**

Any Questions?

For further information please contact

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