Nearly home…. Ageing Places and the Nestling Project.

*Transforming social networks, environments and technologies for longer living.*

Rodd Bond

Dundalk Institute of Technology
nearly home …..

Central issues:

- older people’s spirit
- older people’s quality of life
- older people’s freedom and choice
- meaning in older people’s lives

The idea of home:

- as a place
- as a journey

Creating and nurturing:

- living places with deep relatedness to us.

place and pace as vitally important dimensions of positive experience for older people.

Transformation: how to get there?

• ‘--- as they are now, nursing homes do not serve the needs of the elderly … they can show well-cared for bodies, but they house broken spirits’
  – (Carter C. Williams 1999)

• ‘--- the length of life ain’t important to me – the quality is’.
  – (Ralph Nelson 84; Almost Home film)

• ‘--- He said, “…….
  I was walkin’ down an old dirt road
  Past a field of hay that had just been mowed
  Man I wish you’d just left me alone
  ’Cause I was almost home” ’
  – (Craig Morgan – Almost Home Lyrics)

• ‘--- place is space with meaning attached’
  – (Yi Fu Tuan 1977)
Demographic Imperative
Settlement Imperative
Economic Imperative
Quality of Life Imperative
Human Rights Imperative
Civic Society Imperative
Overview

Ageing related research at DkIT
What we’ve set out to achieve
Where this agenda is taking us
What’s the core problem we’re facing
What key issues do we see going forward

(Model of Place – after Wiseman and Chapin.)
Why Dundalk..

DkIT and Ageing Research

RESEARCH PARTNERS
- University of Ulster
- Queen’s University
- Trinity (TILDA)
- UCD / UL / NUIG / NUIM
- DCU (NCSR/BDI)

Multi-centre
Cross border
Action-oriented
Multi-disciplinary
Stakeholder vision
Partnership

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
- Construction
- Electronics
- Renewable Energy
- CREDIT
- GENER. DIST. HOME

SCHOOL OF INFOMATICS
- Music technology
- Digital/creative media
- SPI - KM - WF STORC
- FINAN. GERL. HEALTH

SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFRY & APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES
- Gerontological Nursing
- Social care / Public health
- Ageing-in-place. NETWELL

CASALA
- AMBIENT ASSISTED LIVING.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- S.E.I.
- EI/IDA
- BMW
- R.D.C.
- X-Bord.
- INDUSTRY
- BioBusinessNI

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- Louth Age-friendly County

EU AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- AGE PLATFORM
- CAPSIL
- AGEING WELL

WHO
- HSE/HIH
- HSE/TEAGHLACH

WHO
The Nestling Project

What we set out to achieve ...

Demonstration project around Barrack St.,
Multi-stakeholder collaboration
Fusion: environment, technology, care model
Evidence-base for growth and intensification
Inform and accelerate policy area development
Stimulate product/service innovation
Foster culture of CQI in community
Build sustainability
Strengthening or distracting …

From pilot to transformation seed …
From local improvement to WHO age-friendly county …
From home to nursing home (Teaghlach) …
From market awareness to context awareness …
From training to embedding culture change …
And behind the front door (protection) …
Projects are mutually reinforcing …

They share holistic perspectives …
They involve environment, technology and social dimensions …
They are collaborative multi-stakeholder engagements …
They strive to gather, augment and create evidence …
They have very little new investment (alignment/ring fencing) …
They involve shifting attitudes and behaviours …
They are all currently framed as pilots … and …

(Environments challenging behavior)
What’s the core problem we’re facing...

Pilot Innovation Difficulties …

Lack of possibilities to embed innovations in structural financing systems, no clear relation between investments and revenue/savings

Innovations funded by:
- EU programmes
- National programmes
- Foundations
- Other. (Temporary)

Pilot phase

Roll out phase

Can we wait for the evidence? Is evidence enough? If not – what else?

Ref: Erwin Van Leussen – Achmea Health Innovations (Holland)
AAL Policy workshop Sept.. 2008
What’s the core problem we’re facing..

What might the evidence look like?

What combination of community based supports, environmental improvement and AAL technology supports can keep older people’s QOL above the threshold line for longer.

Incremental impact model (based on CHMC 2005)

Q1  Q2  Q3  Q4

Quality of life

AAL intervention increment

Extended home stay

QOL in AAL space
QOL in long term care
QOL in present home

What’s the core problem we’re facing..

What might the evidence look like?

What combination of community based supports, environmental improvement and AAL technology supports can keep older people’s QOL above the threshold line for longer.

Incremental impact model (based on CHMC 2005)
What’s the core problem we’re facing...

Is the evidence enough?

Are we concerned with positively ageing older people whose QOL is not near these thresholds?

Can the technology impact be separated from the quality of the services and the environment, and the local policy context and collaboration structures in which they will operate?

Is the evidence sufficiently robust to shift national policy in the face of other competing pressures?

Do we need radical implementation?
What’s the core problem we’re facing?

Burden or Bounty?

Current costs associated with the management of acute and chronic care

Costs allocated to prevention

Costs allocated to engagement and well-being and participation

Can we re-balance our spending priorities (flip the pyramid) in line with population dynamics and reflecting a policy commitment to active and positive ageing?
What’s the core problem we’re facing...?

“and who’s market is it anyway ?”

- Public | private health:
- Threshold of reduced independence
- Public health: Public housing
- Consumer market:
- Inclusion ?
  - Access
  - Digital literacy
- Active Ageing
- Vulnerable
- Low SES
- High SES
Ideas on bridging the chasm.

Some key issues going forward

From pilot concept to embryonic transformation (no end)
Evidence to underpin continuous process/quality improvement
Measure what must be managed for improvement
Structure preserving transformation (organic change)
Balancing participation with leadership and governance
Innovative public/private partnership
Sustainability: reserves for re-investment and growth
Embedding the change will take a long time, so …
Sustainability: workforce and succession planning