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 University
of Worcester
Association for
Dementia Studies



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Extra Care Housing is an increasingly popular form of housing for older people, often as a preferred alternative to a care home. Many people appreciate the **independence** that having their own apartment within an Extra Care Housing scheme can offer, while also being able to **access help and support**, enjoying opportunities for **social interaction** and **feeling safe**.

BACKGROUND

Over a fifth of those living in Extra Care Housing have dementia, a number that is likely to increase as the prevalence of dementia continues to increase and people are being diagnosed at a younger age.

There are three common models of Extra Care Housing for supporting people living with dementia. Some schemes have a **separate area** or unit for people living with dementia, others take an **integrated approach** by supporting people living with dementia alongside residents without dementia, and a third model of scheme is **exclusively** for people living with dementia.

Previous studies have highlighted some key features of Extra Care Housing that can help people with dementia including dementia-friendly design, having flexible care available, good use of technology, and lots of opportunities for social activities.

However, everyone has a different experience of dementia and little is known about what model of extra care housing works for whom.

PROJECT AIM & DESIGN

This project will explore how Extra Care Housing can help people to live well with dementia and will investigate the **advantages and disadvantages** of the three different models described above. The project will use a **mixed methods design** that combines in-depth qualitative data collected from nine case study sites, with quantitative data on extra care housing provision for people living with dementia (see Diagram 1).

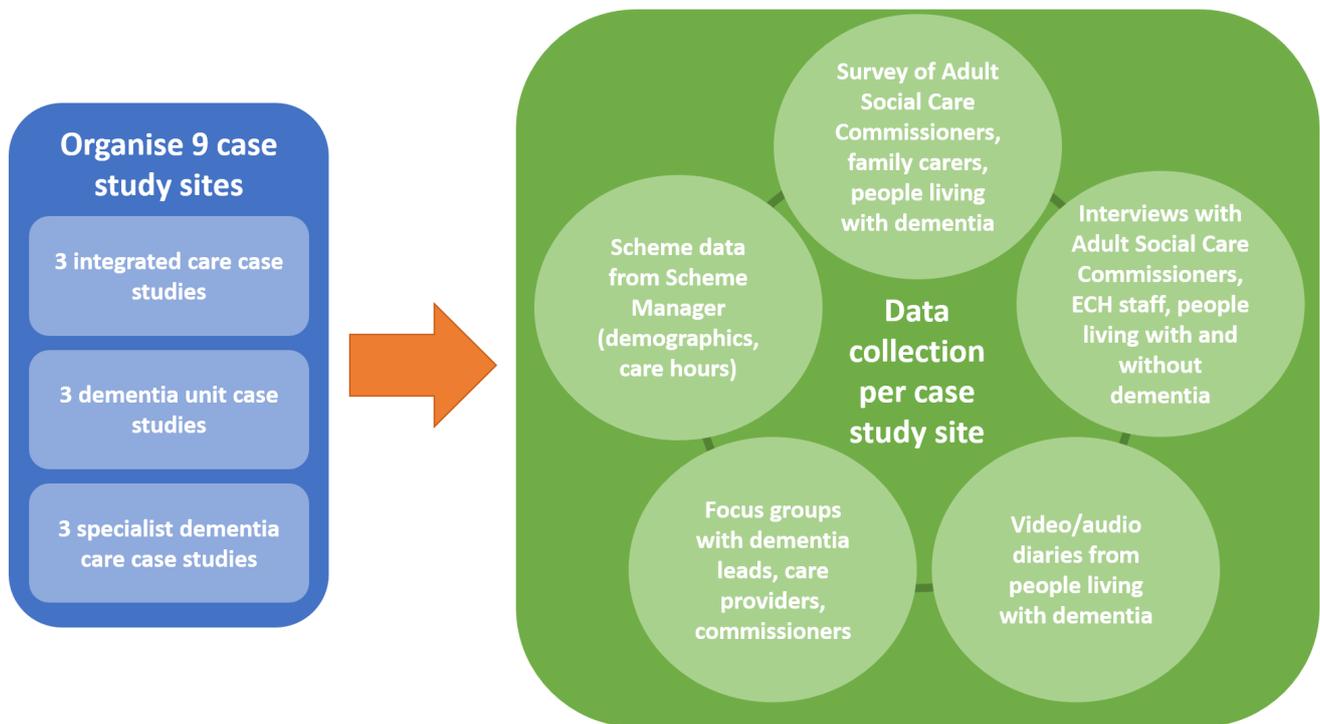


Diagram 1. Data collection approach

DISSEMINATION

The final stage of the project will focus on the dissemination of findings. This will be led by [Jeremy Porteus \(HousingLIN\)](#) and will include:

A suite of **Key Insight booklets** to guide future Extra Care Housing development. These will be targeted at commissioners, health and social care practitioners, older people, people living with dementia, and their families

Video and audio diaries sharing direct experiences of people living with dementia and their experiences of Extra Care Housing.

[Teresa Atkinson](#), Senior Research Fellow at the Association for Dementia Studies at the University of Worcester (t.atkinson@worc.ac.uk) will lead the DemECH project.



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