

CLANN'S AGE-FRIENDLY HOUSING AT YOUR SERVICE

With over 700 properties in management, Clann has the largest age-friendly social housing development programme in Ireland. Clann aims to address the growing demand for innovative housing for older people by delivering over 800 new homes before the end of 2022.

By 2030, one in five people will be 65 years of age or older and the Central Statistics Office (CSO) predicts that by 2051 Ireland's older population will increase by around one million, resulting in increased demand for age-appropriate housing.

Speaking at the launch of Clann, a new dedicated age-friendly housing service for people over 55, Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Head of Clann, said that now was the time to ensure that Ireland had the right plan in place to meet the specific needs of older people.

"Clann is committed to empowering our residents to live for as long as possible in sustainable, high-quality, affordable homes

in their own community. The key to achieving this is to provide a safe and secure environment with access to all relevant services and community supports.

"The name Clann was chosen by our residents. It's the Irish word for family, or a group of people with a common interest. We are committed to supporting our residents to age-in-place, as well as leading the sector by addressing the future growth in demand for age-appropriate housing," she explained.

"Clann's ambition is to expand and improve housing options for the over 55s. That means supporting people to remain living independently for as long as possible and providing more age-



Broome Lodge in Cabra (one of over 20 schemes in operation by Clann across the country) was designed following the principles of Universal Design and has received plaudits for its design, comfort and place in the heart of the Dublin 7 community.



Brendan Courtney, Clann residents Carmel Giles and John Keegan, pictured with Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Head of Clann, at the launch of the age-friendly housing service.

POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM CLANN RESIDENTS

“I love my home – it’s very comfortable and I have good neighbours and we have a nice community of people here who all look out for each other. I’m delighted to be able to call this place my home.” – Carmel Giles

“My partner Phyllis and myself are delighted to be living here. We had lived nearby beforehand, so it was great that we could stay in our own community. We have everything on our doorstep, and nice neighbours as well. Thanks to Clann for this opportunity to have this lovely home – the two of us are delighted with it.” – John Keegan

friendly homes for people who are inappropriately housed.”

POSITIVE AGEING STRATEGY

In Ireland, the National Positive Ageing Strategy’s operating principles are underpinned by the UN’s five principles for older persons, covering independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity. Clann is committed to delivering housing in line with this national strategy.

Experts agree that Ireland needs an improved mix of housing options for people over the age of 55. Clann’s provision of age-friendly housing alongside community services will go some way to meet this growing demand.

Flynn Kennedy continued: “We believe the time to start planning ahead is now and we are actively seeking partnerships to deliver more age-friendly housing, we have to begin planning now to meet future needs – otherwise we risk a serious housing crisis for this age group.”

With over 700 properties in management, Clann is already the largest provider of age-friendly housing in Ireland. Despite this strong footing, Clann enters the market issuing a warning that Ireland is facing a potential crisis in older persons’ housing.

Clann’s vision is a society where everyone has a great place to live. Developing age-friendly housing close to town centres creates homes that work for our older people in cities, towns and villages across Ireland, while also building stronger, more diverse communities.

IDEAL LOCATIONS

Commenting on people’s motivations and requirements when downsizing, John McCartney of Savills explains: “Downsizers don’t want to relocate, they want to stay close to everything they

know, they just don’t want to have the commitments and costs of a bigger property”.

Clann schemes are located close to local amenities like shops, post offices and community services. Each scheme takes a rounded approach to resident’s wellbeing by including internal and external communal areas that encourage regular social interaction and combat loneliness.

Amongst Clann’s 20+ schemes across the country is Broome Lodge in Cabra on Dublin’s northside. The scheme was designed following the principles of Universal Design and has received plaudits for its design, comfort and place in the heart of the Dublin 7 community.

MEETING THE DEMANDS

Clann already has the largest age-friendly social housing development programme in Ireland and plans to increase that to meet the housing demands of Ireland’s ageing population. The organisation’s ambitious pipeline of over 800 new homes will be delivered before the end of 2022 through a mixture of acquisition and construction programmes across the country, from Galway to Dublin and Donegal to Cork.

Looking to the future, Flynn Kennedy concluded: “This level of growth can only be achieved by developing new national partnerships and continuing to work with existing partners like the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, all local authorities, developers, the Housing Finance Agency and other age-friendly service providers.

“We are actively seeking new partnerships and I would encourage people to reach out to us to discuss how we can work together to deliver much needed age-friendly housing across Ireland.”