



Resources/contacts for Older People’s Action Groups on housing and ageing for the next General Election

It is not long before the next general election. Politicians, policy makers and others are developing their manifestos for the next election and beyond. The Older People’s Housing Champion’s network (<http://housingactionblog.wordpress.com/>) has been developing its own manifesto on housing and will be looking at how to influence the agenda locally and nationally in the months ahead.

Its manifesto is at <https://housingactionblog.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/network-manifesto-on-housing-and-ageing-august-2014.pdf>

To help Older People’s Action Groups, Care & Repair England has produced this contact list of key people to influence in the run up to the next election. We have also included some ideas of the sort of questions you might like to ask politicians and policy makers when it comes to housing. While each party is still writing their manifesto in anticipation of the Party Conference season in the autumn, there are opportunities to contribute on-line at the party websites included.

National Contacts – Politicians, Parties and Policy websites

	Name	Constituency	Email/Website	Twitter
Conservative Party			www.conservatives.com/ www.conservativepolicyforum.com/ ¹	@conservatives
Leader	Rt Hon David Cameron MP	Witney, Oxfordshire	camerond@parliament.uk www.davidcameron.com/	@David_Cameron
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government	Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP	Brentwood and Ongar, Essex	eric.pickles@communities.gsi.gov.uk www.ericpickles.com	@EricPickles

¹ website for party members policy development – includes information on key issues

	Name	Constituency	Email/Website	Twitter
Minister for Housing and Planning	Brandon Lewis MP	Great Yarmouth,	office@brandonlewis.co www.brandonlewis.co/	@BrandonLewis
Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (local government, adult social care and homelessness)	Kris Hopkins MP	Keighley and Ilkley	kris.hopkins.mp@parliament.uk http://www.krishopkins.co.uk/	@khopkinsmp
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions	Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP	Chingford and Woodford Green, Essex	E Mail contact via website www.iainduncansmith.org.uk	@IDS_MP
Minister for Pensions	Steve Webb MP* (Lib Dem)	Thornbury & Yate, Olveston, Bristol	E Mail contact via website www.stevewebb.org.uk	@stevewebb1
Secretary of State for Health	Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP	South West Surrey	huntj@parliament.uk www.jeremyhunt.org/	@Jeremy_Hunt
Minister for Social Care	Norman Lamb MP* (Lib Dem)	North Norfolk	norman.lamb.mp@parliament.uk www.normanlamb.org.uk	@normanlamb)
Minister for Government Policy	Rt Hon Oliver Letwin	West Dorset	letwino@parliament.uk http://www.oliverletwinmp.com/	@oliverletwinmp
Labour Party			www.labour.org.uk www.yourbritain.org.uk/ ² John Cruddas developing policy	@UKLabour
Leader	Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP	Doncaster	ed.miliband.mp@parliament.uk www.edmiliband.com/	@Ed_Miliband
Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government	Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP	Leeds Central, West Yorkshire	bennh@parliament.uk www.hilarybennmp.com/	@hilarybennmp
Shadow Minister for Housing	Emma Reynolds MP	Wolverhampton North East	E mail via website www.emmareynolds.org.uk	@EmmaReynolds MP

² manifesto 2015 website

	Name	Constituency	Email/Website	Twitter
Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions	Rachel Reeves MP	Leeds West, West Yorkshire	rachel.reeves.mp@parliament.uk www.rachelreevesmp.co.uk	@RachelReevesMP
Shadow Secretary of State for Health	Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP	Leigh, Greater Manchester	andy.burnham.mp@parliament.uk www.andyburnhammp.blogspot.co.uk/	@andyburnhammp
Shadow Minister for Care and Older People	Liz Kendall MP	Leicester West	liz.kendall.mp@parliament.uk www.lizkendall.org	@leicesterliz
Coordinator of the Labour Party Policy Review	Jon Cruddas MP	Dagenham and Rainham	jon.cruddas.mp@parliament.uk http://www.joncruddas.org.uk/	@JonCruddasMP
Liberal Democrat Party			www.libdems.org.uk www.manifesto2015.org/ (David Laws leading)	@LibDems
Leader and *Deputy Prime Minister	Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP	Sheffield Hallam, South Yorkshire	Email contact via website www.nickclegg.org.uk/	@nick_clegg
* Spokesperson Communities and Local Government	Annette Brook MP	Mid Dorset and North Poole, Dorset	info@middorsetlibdems.org.uk www.middorsetlibdems.org.uk	@Annette4MDNP
*Minister for Pensions	Steve Webb MP	Thornbury & Yate, Olveston, Bristol	Email via website www.stevewebb.org.uk	@stevewebb1
Minister for Social Care	Norman Lamb MP	North Norfolk	norman.lamb.mp@parliament.uk www.normanlamb.org.uk	@normanlamb)
*Spokesperson for Health and Social Care	Paul Burstow MP	Sutton and Cheam, Greater London	paul@paulburstow.org.uk www.paulburstow.org.uk	@PaulBurstow
Minister for Schools & Cabinet Office (lead on policy)	David Laws MP	Yeovil	david.laws.mp@parliament.uk http://www.yeovil-libdems.org.uk/mp/	@DavidLawsMP
* Liberal Democrats, as part of the coalition government hold some positions and have their own spokespeople on some topics.				

<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/> - will help you find your own MP and tell you which select committees they are involved with as well as providing contact details for the Lords.

www.theyworkforyou.com - will give you a profile of your MP as well as information on how they have voted on various topics, debates they have been involved with and their expenses and interests.

Resources on housing and ageing

- Care & Repair England's manifesto asks - Ageing Well at Home http://www.careandrepair-england.org.uk/pdf/ageing_well_2014.pdf
- Manifesto from the Housing and Ageing Alliance
http://www.housinglin.org.uk/library/Resources/Housing/HAA/Housing_Ageing_Alliance_Manifesto_2014.pdf
- Older People's Housing Champions network manifesto - Safe, warm, decent housing for older people – why it matters
<https://housingactionblog.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/network-manifesto-on-housing-and-ageing-august-2014.pdf>

Housing Issues you might want to raise

Some local Older People's Action Groups are pulling together questions for their local politicians in the run up to the election. This offers an opportunity to put housing and ageing on the agenda. Here are some ideas in relation to housing and ageing that you might find helpful.

- Would you support the continuation of grants for disabled/older people to adapt their homes so that they can live independently?
- Would you support designing all new homes to be accessible, future proofing all homes so that they meet the needs of an ageing population?
- Would you support low cost, practical essential repairs services for low income home owners who need just that little bit of help to stay living safely and well at home?
- Would you support the further expansion of independent, impartial information and advice services for older people on housing, care and related finance?
- What measures do you think should be taken to better integrate housing with health and care to support older people to live independently at home, preventing hospital admissions and reducing demands on health and care interventions?
- How would you ensure that older people play a more active role in local and national planning and decision making in relation to housing?
- How would you ensure that the needs of older people are not ignored in national housing policy?