



Leeds Older People's Forum
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Leeds Older People's Forum has identified these priorities for the development of a comprehensive housing policy for older people in Leeds, including both private and public sector housing.

1. Recognition that most older people wish to remain living in their existing homes within their existing communities. They value the support from family and friends, access to good transport and proximity to local shops and amenities, all of which help to reduce loneliness and social isolation.
2. The provision of reliable and trusted practical services including handyperson, falls prevention, home security improvements, minor adaptations, essential repairs, improvements in insulation and heating systems are all essential in order to promote independent living and improve the health and wellbeing of the residents. Access to rapid and timely home adaptations and repairs is essential.
3. Being in control of where and how you live is critical to independence and well-being. Access to housing options advice is essential for older people to be able to make informed decisions about their current and future housing needs.
4. Approximately 66% of people with dementia live in their own homes and most say that they would prefer to remain there for as long as possible. Packages of flexible services are needed to achieve this including those listed above plus reminiscence libraries, retro-decorating schemes, telecare interventions and home support services.
5. Specialist housing, including sheltered and extra care, should be planned based on clear assessments of need and designed to allow people to remain living in them for as long as possible, with links to local services and amenities. It is essential that the needs of older people with dementia and those who have sensory impairments are taken into account in formulating specialist housing policies. Further discussions are needed in relation to the City Council's review of sheltered housing that is taking place.
6. A formal structure should be established to involve older people and organisations that represent them in the development and future monitoring of housing policy. This structure should include (at least) Leeds Older People's Forum, Age-UK Leeds, Care & Repair Leeds, Carers Leeds and representation from the Leeds Equality Assembly Hubs.
7. Joint planning and commissioning between the City Council (including Public Health and Adult Social Care), NHS Trusts, Clinical Commissioning Groups, and all relevant social housing providers is essential to achieve these results. Included in this is the need to promote multidisciplinary cooperation across health, social care and housing.
8. Any new housing developments in Leeds should include the provision of bungalows and/or ground floor flats, with good links to local transport, GP surgeries and social amenities.
9. In order to achieve independent living for the longer term, all new homes should be built to Lifetime Homes Standards.

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