

Older People's Housing Champions Network

Housing and older people –
making it matter

Our mission:

To make decent, safe, warm housing for older people, together with REAL CHOICE in how and where they live their lives, a national priority.

The current situation:

Independent living is THE priority as the population ages.

But is housing yet being considered the “third leg” to be integrated along with health and social care?

We believe that:

Housing is often ignored in
discussions about health and care...
yet it is **THE KEY** to
independent living.

And it's also about the money...

Many people are property rich and cash poor – and current routes to releasing much-needed funds while staying in their own home (eg equity release) are very narrow and potentially very expensive.

Some facts...

There are now more low-income homeowners than low-income tenants and a million vulnerable older homeowners live in “non-decent homes”.

Some facts...

- 90% of older people live in “ordinary housing”

This isn't going to change
any time soon...

Some facts...

- Total number of ALL new homes completed in 2013: 109,370
- 65+ population growth of 270,000 per year.

Why it matters now

- DCLG research
- DH responsible for Disabled Facilities Grants
- Agenda being driven by housebuilders and equity release providers

The window is open to influence thinking

The 2015 General Election looms...

What needs to happen

- New homes built to meet needs and aspirations
- Choice to rent privately as well as buy/part own
 - Quality available to all
- Homes integrated into local communities

What needs to happen

- Local older people should have a say
 - Built to be healthy, low cost
- Recognition needed that every time an older person moves into dedicated property, it frees up a family home
 - So prioritise and incentivise

What needs to happen

- Most people want to remain in their own homes...but biggest worries: cold, repair bills, cost of adaptations
- So let's improve the stock we have

What needs to happen

- Get housing on the health and care agenda / in the Better Care Funds / on Health and Wellbeing Board agendas.
- Focus efforts on older people living in homes that are not adapted / unhealthy / unsafe / poorly insulated / badly heated.
- Invest to save – every year, NHS spends £600m treating people because of poor housing

What would help?

Better Care Fund plans to include
home adaptations, handy person
home repairs and safety, home
adaptations and Disabled Facilities
Grants

Who should be influenced?

- Local authorities - planning & social care
 - Health & Wellbeing boards
 - CCGs
 - DH
 - DCLG
- All political parties going into next election

Over to you: your take on...

- These issues
 - Your experiences / evidence
- How you feel we can shape the agenda
 - What could Government do to help?
 - What YOU can do to spread these messages
 - What more/different should be in our manifesto to take to the political parties for 2015?

Our manifesto...

- 1 Futureproof against the ageing society
- 2 Build ALL new homes to ultra low energy use
- 3 Engage older people in design and planning
- 4 Enable and promote a greater choice of specialist housing

Our manifesto...

- 5 Truly integrate housing into the planning of health and care services.
- 6 Provide rapid access to repairs and adaptations
- 7 Incentivise older people to downsize if they want to move
- 8 Provide more independent, impartial information and advice