

Housing Action for Ageing Well

Home is the hub of our lives... and living independently in a home of their choice is the simple aspiration of most older people. It is also a proven way to reduce health and social care costs for our ageing population.

But this can only be achieved by a concerted, connected and collaborative approach that enables older people to live well at home for as long as they wish, safely and securely.

The Older People's Housing Champions Network is calling on government and all those responsible for planning and housing development to:

- ✓ Improve existing homes to make them healthy, safe, secure places to age
- ✓ Create universal access to impartial later life housing information, advice and advocacy
- ✓ Design/Build all housing for all ages
- ✓ Plan and engage with older people
- ✓ Commit to these *Seven Steps to Better Housing for Ageing*.



STEP 1. Increase capital funding for home adaptations; continue the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG); and introduce 'Healthy at Home' small repairs grants and loans

STEP 2. Ensure that there is a handyman and home improvement agency service in every area

STEP 3. Fund a national source of impartial, information & advice about housing, care and related finance

STEP 4. Ensure all local authorities commission accessible local housing information, advice and advocacy for older people

STEP 5. Introduce mandatory sustainable design and accessibility standards for all new homes

STEP 6. Make delivering a wide range of homes for ageing (across all tenures) a local planning obligation

STEP 7. Require all housing authorities to implement an Older People's Housing Strategy, co-designed with older people.

These steps will result in significant health, social and public spending benefits

- *Reduced costs to the NHS – through improved health, fewer falls and cold-related illness*
- *Reduced costs to the public purse – through better informed decision making and advance planning*
- *Healthy, accessible, sustainable new homes reduce resource consumption and public expenditure.*

About the Older People's Housing Champions

We are a national network of older activists dedicated to representing older people's views. Our aims are to raise awareness of the impact of poor and unsuitable housing on older people's health and wellbeing, influence decision making and bring about improvements in policy and practice.

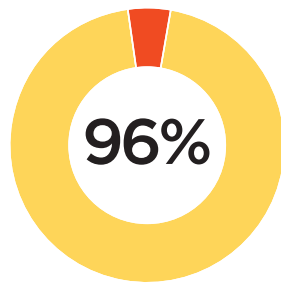
For details see [Ageing Well: A Housing Manifesto](#) Web: housingaction.blog/

Contact: housingchampionsnetwork@gmail.com

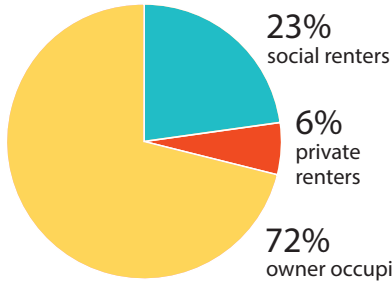
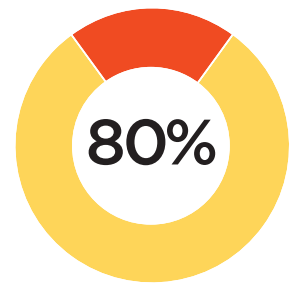


Older People's Housing
Champions

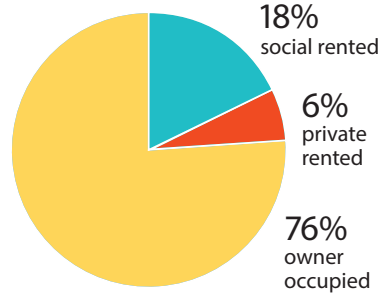
96% of older households live in mainstream homes ^{*1}



80% of homes we will be living in by 2050 are already built ^{*6}

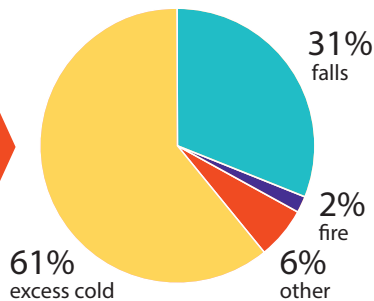


There are 2.5 million long term sick or disabled people over 65yrs ^{*2}

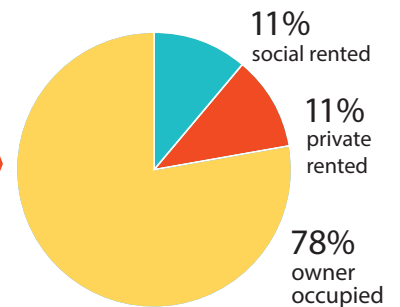


Most older people are owner occupiers ^{*7}

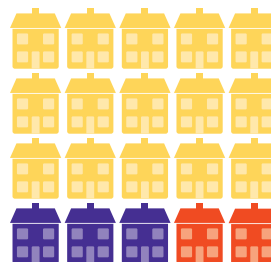
The estimated costs of poor housing to the NHS is £1.4 billion per annum ^{*3}



2 million older households live in non-decent homes, most are owner occupiers ^{*8}

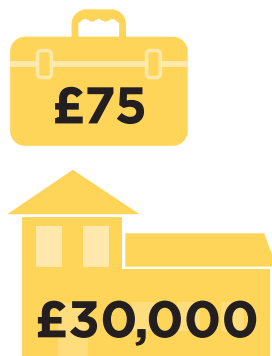


80% of older people say they want to stay living in their current home ^{*4}



7% of homes are accessible, 72% could be adapted to 'visitable' standard ^{*9}

400 older people can be helped by a handyperson for the same cost of one place in a care home for a year ^{*5}



Older people are not universally well off.

- 1 in 6 pensioners live in poverty
- Over 60% are owner-occupiers ^{*10}



^{*1} ^{*2} ^{*3} ^{*7} ^{*8} Garrett H, Burris S, (2015) Homes and ageing in England BRE Bracknell, IHS BRE Press. ^{*4} Lloyd, J. (2015), Older Owners Research London: Strategic Society Centre. ^{*5} DCLG (2012) National Evaluation of the Handyperson Programme London DCLG. ^{*6} Boardman, B et al (2005) '40% House', Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford, UK. ^{*9} DCLG (2016) English Housing Survey Adaptations and Accessibility Report 2014-15. ^{*10} JRF (2018) UK Poverty.