Ageing well at home has been the theme of the work of Care & Repair England over the past year.

Our aim is to improve the homes of older people, but always with a view to improving their health and well-being as a result of the bricks and mortar changes. This year our ‘Living Safely and Well at Home’ campaign and the ‘Ageing Well at Home’ policy brochure in particular have focused on this connection between ageing well and housing.

Living independently where we choose in later life is the simple aspiration of most of us. Our projects to promote integrated advice and information enable older people to make more informed decisions about where and how they live. We were delighted that the Big Lottery selected Silverlinks to be a ‘Flagship’ project and we now have 4 years to roll this out across England.

On behalf of the Trustees and staff of Care & Repair England I wish to thank everyone who has supported our efforts, both practically and financially, and we look forward to continuing to work with you for the benefit of older people.

Peter Archer,
Chair of Care & Repair England

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- Older people live in a third of all homes (c. 7 million)
- Cost benefit - 300 older people helped by a handyperson (avg job value £100 (3)) vs cost of one place in a care home for a year (£30,000)
- Poor housing costs the NHS £600m pa (2)
- A million vulnerable older people live in non-decent homes (1)
- Over three quarters of a million older people need accessible or adapted housing because of a medical condition or disability (1)

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(1) ODI Census Data/DCLG (Annual) Survey of English Housing
(2) Building Research Establishment, 2010
(3) DCLG (2012) National Evaluation of the Handyperson Programme
Vision
Care & Repair England is an independent charitable organisation which aims to improve older people’s housing. Its vision is that all older people have decent living conditions in a home of their own choosing.

Mission
We aim to innovate, develop, promote and support practical housing initiatives and the related policy and practice which enable older people to live independently in their own homes for as long as they wish, particularly for older people living in poor or unsuitable private sector housing.

Strategic Objectives
▲ Work with older people to identify what they need in order to live independently and well in their own homes and then promote and support the development of solutions, particularly in the private housing sector.
▲ Raise awareness of the scale and nature of the impact of poor and unsuitable housing on the health and well being of older people and work with them to influence change in practice and policy.

Values
Care & Repair England believes in:
▲ Working directly with older people who are affected by poor or inadequate housing conditions (the majority of whom live in private sector housing) to develop long term solutions.
▲ Enabling older people to live independently and with dignity in their own homes for as long as they wish.
▲ Connecting housing, health and social care in ways that improve older people’s whole quality of life.
▲ Enabling older people to influence the planning of housing, related services and wider decision making.
▲ Actively promoting and implementing equality and anti-discrimination practice in relation to age, disability, gender, race, faith and sexual orientation.

This Review gives an illustrated ‘snapshot’ of the work of Care & Repair England. A more detailed description is included in our Annual Report and Audited Accounts 2013-14.
Silverlinks is about creating networks of mutual support to enable older people to make informed decisions about their housing & related care.

Older volunteers share their personal housing experience, offering one to one help as well as providing information & advice. ‘Pass it on’ workshops spread knowledge about housing & care options through older people’s informal networks.

A four year Big Lottery funded Flagship programme will roll out the Silverlinks initiatives pioneered with the West of England and Leeds Care & Repair agencies. New projects have commenced in partnership with Nottingham & Nottinghamshire and Northumberland AgeUKs with more in the pipeline.

For more information visit: www.silverlinksprogramme.wordpress.com

“With this house, when I walked in to it 17 years ago, I had the feeling we belonged together... it wraps around you, it’s security – it’s a home, not just a house.”
Care & Repair England continues to work with EAC FirstStop to promote independent, impartial housing and care options advice and information for older people.

Our joint new national programme has supported 15 new local options advice services with funding from the Dept for Communities & Local Government, benefiting over 19,400 older people across England in the first 9 months of operation.

www.firststopcareadvice.org.uk

Mrs Peters, 82 and with limited vision, suffered a heart attack after the death of her husband. After several weeks in hospital she was ready to be discharged, but her home was deemed unsafe.

The housing options adviser, Jan, discussed options with Mrs Peters, who was very keen to go home and not move to a care home. Jan liaised with health & social care staff and then organised the handyperson service to reposition sockets, replace internal glazing panels with shatterproof plastic and install a pendant alarm. Jan also talked to the neighbour who was happy to be a ‘helping hand’ knowing that she could call on the Care & Repair agency when needed.

As a result Mrs Peters is able to live safely & well in her own home.

“Good advice is priceless”
The condition of older people’s homes has a significant impact on their health. This year saw a new pilot venture with EAC, funded by Nationwide BS, to reach out and offer practical housing help to 15,000 older people at risk of hospital admission, avoidable readmission or premature admission to care homes.

To support this work Care & Repair England produced a new Living Safely & Well at Home brochure - a practical guide to improving the home to make it safer and healthier. We also managed a programme of grants to run local events in hospitals, GP surgeries and other centres enabling local agencies to pass on this information to older people with health problems.

“One of the snags of having a stroke is that you become terribly conscious of the cold. We couldn’t warm me up and couldn’t afford the bills. Having the windows and walls done has made a huge difference.”
Practical housing help with small repairs and minor adaptations can make all the difference to enabling older people to live safely and well at home.

Care & Repair England’s ‘Just About Managing?’ programme has:

▲ Developed ways of providing more affordable help with small repairs and odd jobs through involving volunteers benefitting 2,537 older people

▲ Supported older people to influence local decisions about homes & housing services

For the past three years local projects with Care & Repair type agencies and older people’s action groups have been helping older people to live well in Hull, Leeds, St Helens, Stoke on Trent, Liverpool, Bolton, Wirral, Knowsley and Hyndburn.

Mr Gough is 78 years old and was worried about burglary after a number of nearby break-ins. The volunteer and handyman installed security measures and window alarms, a door alarm and door chain for just the cost of the materials. Mr Gough now feels safe and secure in his home again and says knowing that he can call on (the agency) if he needs further help makes a big difference.

“I was always a very practical sort of person all my life and didn’t call on anyone, used to fix things myself, so to suddenly find that I can’t do anything is really difficult.”
TAKING ACTION...

Care & Repair England’s Older People and Housing Action initiative encourages and supports action by older people’s groups to improve housing and related services for an ageing population across England.

We offer information and resources on housing issues to groups, alongside practical help to undertake local action eg organising events, surveys & reports.

The national Older People’s Housing Champion’s Network is raising awareness of the impact of poor and unsuitable housing on older people’s health and wellbeing and influencing decision making to improve older people’s homes and lives. The network is also the group leading Care & Repair England’s plans for Silverlinks.

For more information visit: housingactionblog.wordpress.com

“I try to get upstairs once a day to use the loo. I’m waiting for a stairlift, first discussed with Social Services 9 months ago, they say it will be another 6 months. They mean well, but say I have to be patient. It’s hard.”
Care & Repair England continues to play a significant role at a practice and policy level, highlighting the key role of housing and housing related support for disadvantaged older people living in private housing.

Just some of this year’s activities:

▲ Organised House of Lords event, ‘On the Cusp’, to highlight pivotal role of housing in health and care integration addressed by Housing Minister, Kris Hopkins, Chair of the Parliamentary Inquiry into demographic change, Lord Filkin, and President of ADASS, Sandie Keene.

▲ Made many representations and submissions concerning housing and ageing including; DH Social Care Reform. All Party Parliamentary Group (Housing & Care); NHS Reform & NICE Guidance; Building Regulations and Planning Review.

▲ Initiated the Catch 22 project to address the need for better evidence concerning the impact of practical housing help on the health and well-being of older people.

▲ Raised the profile of housing and ageing issues through representation on: Housing and Ageing Alliance (chair); Home Adaptations Consortium (chair); Dept for Work & Pensions backed Age Action Alliance; DCLG’s advisory group, the Housing Sounding Board, Dept of Health’s Task Group on the Care Act Statutory Guidance.

“Because of the adaptations I can continue to live independently and feel safe in my own home near my family and friends. You can’t believe how much this means to me”
Management Committee

PETER ARCHER (CHAIR)
Founder member of Care & Repair England and Chair for 17 years;
Partner of the Housing Consultancy Partnership; Board Member & Chair of
the Audit Committee of The Community Housing Group;
Founder member of the Pro-Housing Alliance; Board Member of
Empty Homes; Fellow of the Chartered Institute of
Environmental Health and Chair of its Professional Standards and
Policy Committee; President Elect of the International Federation of
Environmental Health.

MARRA BRENTO
Professional and personal interest
in old age; Consultant on
Cohousing Communities of older
people. Formerly worked in
University sector and NHS.

LORNA EASTBROOK
Independent consultant in older
people's health, housing and social
care; independent filmmaker
focusing on people's life stories and
experiences of health, housing and
care services; Associate of the
Centre for Research on Ageing (Southampton University);
Associate of Community Catalysts;
formerly at the Kings Fund, Age
Concern England.

DAVID GARDINER OBE
Housing and ageing activist;
Lambeth Pensioners Action Group
and London Older People's
Strategy Group; formerly Older
People UK Advisory Group.
Member of range of independent
housing/health care advisory
bodies including Housing & Ageing
Alliance.

DOMINI GUNN-PEIM
Director, Director of Health and
Wellbeing at Chartered Institute of
Housing; formerly Audit
Commission National Lead for
Vulnerable Communities & Lead
Housing Inspector NE/Y&H. She has
worked in housing, health & social
care for 30 years. Trustee of ECCT.

FRANCES HEYWOOD OBE
Historian and community activist;
housing researcher (University of
Bristol) now mainly retired;
specialist in housing and
adaptations for disabled people.
Hon. Fellow of the College of
Occupational Therapists and
actively involved with their housing
specialist group-COTSSI-H.

CHRISTOPHER LONG-LEATHER
Retired Chartered Accountant
formerly employed as a finance
director in the automotive
components sector. Treasurer of
Age UK Warwickshire for past
12 years.

ROBIN MEANS
Retired as an Associate Dean at
UWE in 2012 but remains a
professor on a part time contract.
His present research spans housing
and social care. He was President of
the British Society of Gerontology
(2012-14) and is now Past President.
He is an elected Fellow of the
Academy of Social Sciences.

ELIZABETH PHILLIPS MBE
Chief Executive AgeUK
Warwickshire which manages a
Warwickshire wide, Care & Repair
and handyperson service, in
addition to a wide range of care
and preventative services.

LIZ POTTER
Liz is an independent consultant,
working with a wide range of
housing and other social purpose
organisations. She specialises in
governance, strategy and
leadership, working with boards and
executive teams, and she is an
experienced and qualified executive
coach. Liz is the former Chair of
Orbit Group and held a national
role as Director of Policy at the
National Housing Federation. She
has worked in housing for over
thirty years, and believes
passionately that everyone has a
right to a decent home, as the
basis for access to opportunity and
quality of life.

JOHN SIMMONS
John retired from the post of
Deputy Director of Social Services
and Head of Adult Care in
Derbyshire in 2004. John has
continued to be involved in looking
at how older people can be
involved in issues which impact on
their lives. He is presently Vice-
Chair of a local Derbyshire charity
looking at maintaining active lives
for people in Residential and
Nursing Homes, Chair of a local
Older People's Advisory Group
(OPAG), Vice-Chair of Derbyshire
OPAG, a member of East Midlands
Later Life Forum and has recently
been elected to the position of
Chair of Healthwatch Derbyshire

Chief Executive

SUE ADAMS, OBE

Acknowledgements

Care & Repair England wishes
to thank all of the donors,
funders and strategic partners
who have supported and
contributed to its work
programme during 2013-14.

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
EAC FirstStop
Charles & Elsie Sykes
John Ellerman Foundation
Dulverton Trust
Rayne Foundation
Big Lottery Fund
Tudor Trust
Department for Communities &
Local Government
Department of Health
Garfield Weston Foundation
AgeUK
Anchor
College of Occupational
Therapists
Hanover Housing
Nationwide Building Society
Housing LIN
Independent Age
Foundations
Royal British Legion
Orbit Group

Equalsities and Diversity
Policy Statement

Care & Repair England values
the diversity of communities
and individuals and is
committed to making its
services, resources and policies
responsive, accessible and
appropriate to people's diverse
range of interests and
experience. Care & Repair
England believes that people
face discrimination and social
disadvantage for a wide range
of reasons, particularly because
of their race, class, sex, age,
physical or mental disability,
religion, appearance or
sexuality. The organisation is
committed to challenging such
discrimination in any activities
that it undertakes.

Patron

Care & Repair England is
most grateful to its patron,
Baroness Greengross OBE,
for her ongoing support
for the work of the
organisation. This
endorsement is greatly
valued and appreciated by
all of the Trustees and staff.
About Care & Repair England

Care & Repair England is an independent charitable organisation established in 1986 which aims to improve older people’s housing. Its vision is that all older people have decent living conditions in a home of their own choosing.

We aim to innovate, develop, promote and support practical housing initiatives and the related policy and practice which enable older people to live independently in their own homes for as long as they wish, particularly for older people living in poor or unsuitable private sector housing.

For further information contact

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3 Hawksworth Street
Nottingham NG3 2EG

Tel: 0115 950 6500
email: info@careandrepair-england.org.uk
website: www.careandrepair-england.org.uk

“This home is very important to me – I was born in this room”

Care & Repair England is an Industrial and Provident Society with Charitable Status Reg no. 25121R

Patron: Baroness Greengross OBE
September 2014

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