



# Opening doors

2007 Annual Review





*Opening Doors* provides a brief overview of some of the main projects that Care & Repair England has undertaken over the past year.

Promoting and pioneering new services, involving older people, and championing change in housing, health and social care provision are the key elements of our work.

Housing forms the cornerstone of quality of life whatever our age. Making sure that older people have access to comfortable, adapted housing is therefore crucial to a decent retirement.

The appointment of our Director, Sue Adams, as the independent chair of the government's advisory committee on housing and older people (HOPDEV) provides an ideal opportunity to work with officials on the creation of a comprehensive new '*Housing Strategy for an Ageing Society*'.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked with and supported us over the past year in our efforts to improve housing for older people.

**Peter Archer**  
Chair of Care & Repair England

## Vision

Decent living conditions for all older people.

## Mission

Innovate, develop, promote and support housing related policies and practical initiatives which enable older and disabled people to live independently in their own homes for as long as they wish.

## Objectives

- Raise awareness of the scale and nature of the impact of poor and unsuitable housing on the health and well being of older and disabled people and work with older and disabled people to influence change.
- Work with older and disabled people to identify the services that they need in order to live independently in their own homes and then promote and support the development of such services.
- Increase the involvement of older and disabled people in national, regional and local housing and related policy setting and decision making.

## Values

Care & Repair England believes in the importance of:

- Enabling older and disabled people to live independent lives in their own homes for as long as they wish.
- Working directly with people who are affected by poor or inadequate housing conditions in order to develop long term solutions to their housing problems.
- Addressing housing, health and social care issues in ways that improve people's whole quality of life.
- Actively encouraging effective participation of older and disabled people in housing related service planning and wider decision making.
- Actively promoting and implementing good equal opportunities and anti-discrimination practice in relation to age, disability, faith, race or sexual orientation.

40% of the NHS's budget is spent on caring for people over 65 yrs. On any given day 65% of hospital beds are occupied by the over 65s.

(Source: Dept of Health).



## Opening doors to... *Healthier Homes*



“Healthy Homes has informed the work we’ve done locally and we will come back to you to help us with the next step. It has been a useful trigger to get the right people around the table.”

**The quality of older people’s homes can make a significant difference to their health.**

The aim of our *Healthy Homes, Healthier Lives* programme is to improve the health and well being of older and disabled people who are living in poor or unsuitable housing conditions.

Through an innovative ‘*housing awareness*’ training initiative it aims to develop the public health role of front line statutory and voluntary sector staff. It also promotes a greater understanding of the steps that older and disabled people can take to improve their health through home improvements and adaptations.

Major milestones during the last year were:

- Reaching the 1,000<sup>th</sup> *Healthy Homes Awareness* trainee
- Producing a ground breaking film/ DVD/resources about housing and health for the Department of Health’s Care Services Improvement Partnership’s Housing Learning and Improvement Network.

An estimated 580,000 – 1,750,000 people have moderate learning disabilities.

*Learning Disabilities:*

*The Fundamental Facts (2001) MHF*



## Opening doors to... ***Living Independently***



**A growing number of people with moderate learning disabilities are living in general housing and living into older age.**

Our 'In Our Own Homes' project aims to enable older adults with moderate learning disabilities to live independently in mainstream housing. It is encouraging and supporting the development of local pilot projects which offer 'crisis intervention' for older people with a learning disability whose homes have fallen into a poor state of repair. They also offer practical help to older parents, carers and volunteers who are supporting older adults with learning disabilities.

“To meet the predicted increase in the ageing population amongst adults with learning difficulties the planning and development of learning disability services will need to increase capacity.”

Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities

The main focus is on older people in owner occupied and private rented housing. We have produced accessible information about what a local service can offer and a graphic 'home emergencies' checklist. Pilot schemes are up and running in Coventry and Manchester with projects in Bristol, Stroud and Sefton in the pipeline.

There are now more vulnerable households living in private sector housing (3.2m) than in social rented (2.8m).

*(English House Conditions Survey, DCLG, 2007)*



*"I feel safe when I use the handyperson service"*

Opening doors to...

## ***Practical Help***



For many older people, affording repairs and finding a trustworthy, competent builder are major worries. The significant increase in home ownership amongst lower income householders and people living longer on a small pension both result in a growth in the need for help with small repairs and minor adaptations.

We are supporting a consortium of national voluntary sector service providers and working together to promote greater recognition of the value of handyperson services to older and disabled people. We published the report *'Small things matter'* to illustrate the key role of handyperson services and to highlight their important role in wider health, social care and housing agendas.

“ *We can do a huge amount for a person – adapted bathroom, new roof or whatever – but what we get the most thanks for are the small odd jobs. People are just so pleased.* ”

Service manager

*Older people will make up 48% of all new growth in households to 2024.*

Housing Green Paper 'Homes for the future', Communities and Local Government, 2007



Left to right - Vera Bolter (Elders Council, Newcastle-u-Tyne), Baroness Andrews (Housing Minister), Sue Adams (Care & Repair England).

## Opening doors to... ***Involving Older People***



“*We want all housing to be well designed with growing older in mind, housing which better meets the needs of all age groups.*”

Key message from Older People's Groups

Care & Repair England aims to increase the involvement of older and disabled people in national, regional and local housing related policy setting and decision making.

We have continued to work closely with older people's action groups and forums, listening to the main concerns expressed by older people about their housing. We were commissioned to produce a summary brochure about the key messages from older people's groups about housing needs and aspirations. We have championed those messages at a wide range of events, conferences and forum's, including through our active involvement in the government's advisory committee on housing and older people (HOPDEV).

Care & Repair England's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary profile raising event at the House of Lords was addressed by housing minister, Baroness Andrews, who has been a key champion of the issue since her appointment.

## Management Committee

### **PETER ARCHER**

Founder member of Care & Repair England and Chair for 10 years: Director of consultancy, Regeneration and Housing Services; affiliate Housing Inspector at the Audit Commission; trustee of Chartered Institute of Environmental Health; chairman of The European Federation of Environmental Health; chair of St Peter's Housing Association in Birmingham.

### **LAURENCE SHURMAN**

Retired solicitor: Council member / director of the Executive Board of JUSTICE; executive director of the Accountancy Investigation and Discipline Board; trustee of AgeCare; school governor; formerly the Banking Ombudsman.

### **MARIA BRENTON**

Professional and personal interest in old age and works as a consultant on Co-Housing Communities of older people: Locally active in relation to care/housing issues concerning disabled & older people; formerly worked in the university sector and NHS; ex chair of Bristol Care and Repair.

### **LESLIE GREEN**

Retired Chartered Accountant: Treasurer and/or Trustee of a wide range of charities in the housing and social care sectors.

### **DR IAN P DONALD**

Consultant physician for older people at Gloucester Royal Hospital: Enthusiastic about community care for older people and care at the interface of primary and secondary care; main research interest; the epidemiology of disability in older people, falling and intermediate care.

### **GLORIA GODFREY**

Service Manager for Disability Services, Warwickshire County Council: Senior local authority manager for over 20 years working in settings which include residential care, day service, inspection, care management, provider services and health.

### **KATHIE MARTIN**

Home Improvement Agency Manager at Orbit Care & Repair Coventry since 1988: Former trustee and chair of Coventry Age Concern; represented the HIA sector on the national review of Home Improvement Agencies.

### **DAVID GARDINER**

Represents London Region on the Better Government for Older People UK Advisory Group: Member of range of government & independent housing/ health/ care advisory bodies including HOPDEV, Housing Corporation, Joseph Rowntree, hact and Independent Living for Disabled People Expert Panel.

### **ELIZABETH PHILLIPS**

Chief Executive Age Concern Warwickshire for 15 years, which manages South Warwickshire Care & Repair: Previously worked for national housing association establishing and managing Care & Repair agencies; chair of the Age Concern West Midlands region.

### **LORNA EASTERBROOK**

Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Research on Ageing at Southampton University: Independent consultant; author whose publications include Your Rights to Health Care (Age Concern 2007); formerly worked for Care & Repair scheme in South Wales, as Age Concern England's policy expert (Community Care) and Fellow at the Kings Fund.

### **ANTHONY SHELTON**

Trustee of Age Concern England: Director/V.C. Age Concern Essex; member Braintree District Council: Chair of - Courtauld's Homes of Rest, League of Friends of Halstead Hospital, Pennypot (Clacton) Ltd residential home; retired former local government housing manager.

### **BILL RANDALL**

Housing writer and commentator: Founder editor of Inside Housing and Environmental Health News; Member of Brighton and Hove Council; chairs Commission on the role of mutual organisations in creating sustainable human neighbourhoods for Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, Birmingham; formerly chair of Shelter & trustee of local Age Concern.

## Acknowledgements

Care & Repair England wishes to thank all of the donors, funders and strategic partners who have supported and contributed to its work during 2006-7.

Age Concern England  
Albert Hunt Trust  
Beatrice Laing Trust  
Better Government for Older People  
Bristol Care & Repair  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
Department of Health  
hact  
Help the Aged  
The Charles and Elsie Sykes Trust  
The CSIPs Housing Learning and Improvement Network  
The Dulverton Trust  
The Goldsmiths' Company  
The Headley Trust  
The Linbury Trust  
The Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales  
The Morgan Crucible Company plc  
The Rank Foundation  
The Rayne Foundation

## Equalities 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 would like to thank its patron, Baroness Greengross OBE, for her ongoing support for the work of Care & Repair England. This is greatly valued and appreciated by all of the Trustees and staff.*

A third of vulnerable people of 75+ years live in non-decent housing – the worst housed sub-group.  
(*English House Conditions Survey, DCLG, 2007*)

## About Care & Repair England

Care & Repair England is a national charity established in 1986 to improve the housing and living conditions of older and disabled people.

Its mission is to innovate, develop, promote and support housing related policies and practical initiatives which enable older and disabled people to live independently in their own homes for as long as they wish.

## For further information contact

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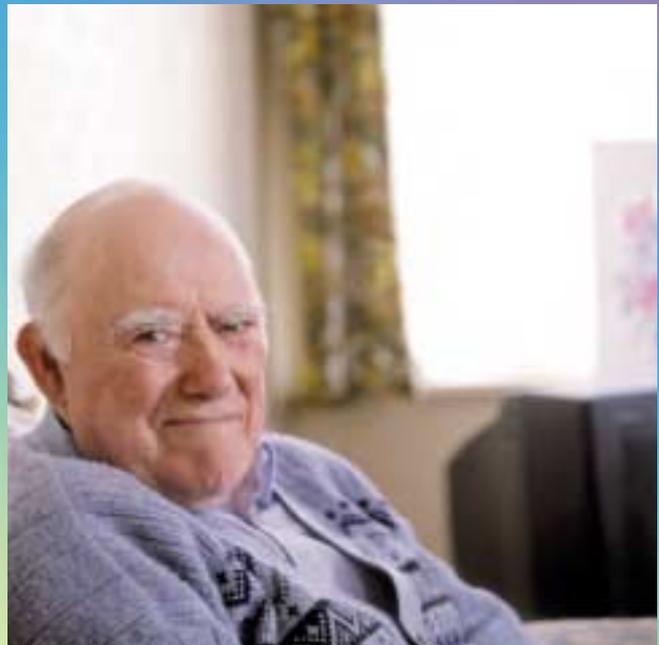
website: [www.careandrepair-england.org.uk](http://www.careandrepair-england.org.uk)

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“Older people valued support which enabled them to live in their own homes and have ‘a life worth living’.”

Joseph Rowntree Foundation’s Older People’s Programme

