

On the Cusp...

Will Housing be part of Health & Care Integration?

Integration of health & care continues apace. Better Care Fund Plans are written, Health & Wellbeing Boards are operational and the Care Act will soon be implemented. All aim to enable older people to live independent, healthier lives, as well as helping to prevent hospital and care home admissions.

Achievement of these aspirations will in part depend upon older people having decent, suitable homes to live in.

The NHS spends c £600 million treating people every year because of poor housing⁽¹⁾

- The age group most likely to live in poor housing are low income older people over 75 yrs, primarily home owners with 1 million living in non-decent homes⁽²⁾

40% of the NHS's budget is spent on caring for people over 65 yrs⁽³⁾

- By 2025 almost 1.5 million people aged 75 or over will be unable to manage at least one mobility/daily living activity on their own⁽⁴⁾



Housing conditions have a causal link to a wide range of common chronic health conditions, including respiratory illnesses, stroke, heart disease and depression. They also impact on risk of injury and accidents, particularly falls, amongst older people.

Failure to make the connection between population ageing, housing, health and social care policy and practice is not only costly, but has potentially dire consequences for individual older people.

Critical Next Steps



Actions you can take

■ **Better Care Fund & Social Services** –

Ensure that Plans specify joint commissioning of housing related services including; *home adaptations & Disabled Facilities Grants, Handyperson home repairs & safety, impartial Housing & Care Options advice & information*



- **Clinical Commissioning Groups** – Jointly commission housing related services including those listed above, particularly for older people with long term conditions
- **Hospitals** – Review admission & discharge arrangements; *include housing assessment and provision of housing related support in line with Hospital@Home⁽⁵⁾ guidelines*
- **NICE** – Include action to address patients' housing situations in Guidelines related to; *transitions, joint working, prevention, falls, old age specific & long term conditions*
- **Housing Authorities** – Prioritise home adaptations & tackling private sector disrepair
- **Planners & Housing Providers** – Create healthy, adaptable places to live for all ages; *plan, design & build future-proofed homes (all tenures)*



90% of older people live in general housing

75% are home owners

Produced in 2014 by Care & Repair England, a national charity established in 1986 to improve the housing and living conditions of older and disabled people. www.careandrepair-england.org.uk IPS with Charitable Status Reg no. 25121R

References

(1) M Davison et al (2010) *The real cost of poor housing* BRE (2) Care & Repair England (2010) *A Perfect Storm: An ageing population, low income home ownership, and decay of older housing* (3) APPG (Housing & Care) (2011) *Living Well at Home Inquiry* (4) Care & Repair England (2009) *Time to Adapt: Home adaptations for older people* (5) www.housinglin.org.uk/hospital2home_pack/ (6) www.lifetimehomes.org.uk