

1 HOUSING AND HOME

Does the group believe this should be a key priority for the Older People Strategy?

Yes

Types of housing for older people

1. Be able to move when an individual feels ready
2. More bungalows (although understand that this requires more land, which is expensive in Hart) or flats with private gardens
3. Well maintained communal gardens are good
4. New build schemes should not be too small
5. Like provision of age-restricted accommodation, eg. housing for older people without on-site support
6. New build schemes should be built with showers rather than baths – 5 out of 7 older people in the group would prefer showers
7. Essential for housing for older people to be well located near local amenities, shops and transport
8. Insulation in new build scheme should be maximised
9. Sound insulation should be improved – as older people lose their hearing they have the volume on their TVs turned up higher.
10. New build schemes should be install heating systems that minimise energy costs for older people

Housing related support

1. Good repair service provided by housing associations
2. Information about community support services are included in resident newsletters
3. Need help with shopping, but not aware of services that are currently available to help with this
4. Handy person service is a good service, subsidised at £10 per hour
5. Not aware of the range of support available, particularly among older home owners

Assistance to downsize

Would like a range of help to move, including physical help (lifting furniture, packing a van) and other practical help (sorting out change of address, dealing with utilities, advising benefit providers), preferably provided as a package, rather than by different providers.

Telecare

1. One resident received a poor service and no longer has a community alarm
2. Another resident has had a positive experience with a community alarm
3. Not aware of the range of additional options available through telecare, eg. bed monitor, door monitor
4. Concern that the alarm only works in the house and within a few metres of the house.
5. Could the 'red button' provide contact information for other services, eg Home Improvement Agency, Handyperson service, community support

Rural housing

Access to community transport is essential for getting to doctors, dentists, hospital etc.