

# 4 National Housing Strategy for an Ageing Society – Housing, health and care

The National Strategy on Housing for an Ageing Society, *Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods*, is a cross-government strategy published jointly by Communities and Local Government (CLG), Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Department of Health (DH).

## Housing, Health and Care

This section of the strategy sets out the contribution that good quality housing can make to an individual's mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Key themes are:

- Housing is often left out of the health and care equation
- Plans to bring housing, health and social care together around prevention, personalisation and co-ordination and integration
- Identifying people at risk and in need of preventative services
- Joined-up assessments, service delivery and commissioning, and
- The cross-government Independent Living Strategy led by the Office of Disability Issues at the DWP will set out actions required to promote independent living for older disabled people.

The report sets out the evidence that good housing contributes to health and wellbeing, and may also achieve savings in health and social care costs. For example:

- Preventing avoidable admissions to residential care – 51% of people in care homes are there following a stay in hospital because a return home is not practical, and
- 15% are admitted into care because of serious housing problems.

The strategy recognises the investment that housing organisations make in community alarms, telecare, aids and adaptations and support for

Home Improvement Agencies (HIAs) – as well as specialist and mainstream housing support services (for more details, see Sheets 6 and 7).

Under prevention, the strategy recognises work to date through the National Service Framework, Partnerships for Older People Projects (POPPs) and telecare initiatives. For more information on POPPs <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/Deliveringadultsocialcare/Olderpeople/PartnershipsforOlderPeopleProjects/index.htm>

CLG plans to pilot a predictive risk-modeling approach based on this work, which will provide a tool developing the case for preventive investment with savings to both health and social care.

Another priority is to ensure that housing is part of the personalisation agenda across services and funding streams. Following the success of the Individual Budget pilots in social care, the DH is committed to a series of personalisation pilots in health and social care. More information on personal health budgets is available at:

<http://networks.csip.org.uk/icn/Resources/Type/CNResource/?cid=4463>

There is a strong focus on joint commissioning building on the *Commissioning Framework for Health and Wellbeing* published by DH in 2007. There is now a duty on the NHS and local government to work together on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs). Similarly, the White Paper, *Our health, our care, our say* (DH, 2006), announced the development of a Common Assessment Framework to reduce duplication across agencies and promote self-assessment. CLG is working with DH to ensure that housing is part of this framework.

## What you can be thinking about now

- Housing providers and those with a strategic housing role need to be thinking about how they get more involved in planning care and support services and ensure that the role of housing and housing related support services is included in discussions.
- Ensuring that housing and housing support are part of JSNAs
- Joint commissioning of social care and housing related support services
- Involving senior staff from social care and health in housing investment decisions
- Using the good practice from POPPs, telecare and extra care housing to influence local service delivery, and
- Improving personalisation of services by ensuring that individuals have more choice and control over their support and services e.g. through individual budgets and /or help from an advocate.

### Other useful Housing LIN publications:

Commissioning housing support for health and well-being <http://networks.csip.org.uk/IndependentLivingChoices/Housing/Topics/browse/Housing/HousingSupport/?parent=3694&child=3529>

Lord Darzi's review of the NHS – ICN briefing <http://networks.csip.org.uk/icn/News/NewsArticle/?cid=3850>

### DH Publications & Policy:

DH Green Paper: *Care, support, independence*. The Government undertook an extensive consultation in 2008 on the long term future of England's care and support system. <http://www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk>

DH Guidance December 2007: guidance for PCTs and local authorities to undertake JSNAs [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/dh\\_081097?IdcService=GET\\_FILE&dID=156173&Rendition=Web](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/dh_081097?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=156173&Rendition=Web)

DH Putting People First Moving Forward: using the learning from the individual budget pilots October 2008 [http://networks.csip.org.uk/\\_library/Resources/ICN/ICN\\_advice/DH\\_personal\\_health\\_budget\\_pilots\\_-\\_October\\_2008\\_update.pdf](http://networks.csip.org.uk/_library/Resources/ICN/ICN_advice/DH_personal_health_budget_pilots_-_October_2008_update.pdf)

DH national evaluation of the POPP programme October 2008 <http://www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/dp2612.pdf>

Health risks and health inequalities in housing, an assessment tool <http://networks.csip.org.uk/IndependentLivingChoices/Housing/Topics/browse/Housing/HousingStrategy/?parent=3656&child=1638>

### Useful links to other relevant organisations:

Communities and Local Government  
[www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

### Other Sheets in this series:

- Sheet 1: An overview of the National Strategy
- Sheet 2: Lifetime Homes: housing design
- Sheet 3: Lifetime Neighbourhoods
- Sheet 5: Specialist Housing: extra care and sheltered housing
- Sheet 6: Disabled Facilities Grant
- Sheet 7: Home Improvement Agencies
- Sheet 8: Private Sector Involvement
- Sheet 9: Advice and Information

