Future proofing our homes and neighbourhoods: time to get back to basics

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About the Centre for Ageing Better

We develop, share and apply evidence to help people age better

We bring fresh thinking to the challenges and opportunities that everyone faces as more people live longer

We bring about change to improve later lives
What’s important to a good later life?

People say...

Health + Financial security + Social connections = Wellbeing

- These dimensions are all interrelated – they influence each other
- Expectations are modest
- Personal outlook matters
- Wide variation in how people experience later life
Importance of home in later life

Home is where most people want to be in later life

80% of homeowners aged 65 and over wish to stay where they are*

Importance of home in later life

People spend a large amount of their time at home in later life

People aged 85 and over spend an average of 80% of their time at home*

The need to future proof

Homes that meet the needs of those in later life will be increasingly in demand as our population ages

By 2037 there are projected to be 1.42 million more households headed by someone aged 85 or over*

*Source: DCLG (2012) 2012-based household projections
Existing homes

Home adaptations improve people’s quality of life

Home adaptations have been shown to improve the quality of life for 90% of recipients*

Existing homes
New homes
The built environment is related to health through physical activity but also falls, pollution, social interaction, safety and economic and climate issues.

Kerr et al., 2012. The Role of the Built Environment in Healthy Aging: Community Design, Physical Activity, and Health among Older Adults.
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