

Dementia-Friendly Housing Charter

Vanessa
Pritchard-Wilkes

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Why is housing important to people living with dementia?

2

- Two-thirds of people with dementia live in the community, mostly in mainstream housing
- People with dementia in the community want support to help them maintain their independence
- It is widely recognised that much of existing housing is poorly suited to the needs of older people and people with dementia in particular
- Where people with dementia have moved into specialist housing they identify benefits
- Housing with care can play an important role in supporting people with dementia and fill a gap between mainstream homes and care homes

Home truths: Housing services and support for people with Dementia (2012)

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Key facts



There is only enough specialist housing to accommodate 5% of the over 65 population.

2 million older households are living in non-decent homes.



Home adaptations improved the quality of life for 90% of recipients as well as for carers.

Two-thirds of people with dementia live in the community, mostly in mainstream housing, a third live on their own, predominantly in the owner occupied sector.



1/3
Live in the community, on their own

2/3
Live in the community in mainstream housing



95% of homes lack even basic accessibility features.

An Alzheimer's Society's report found that more needed to be done to ensure homes were designed and built with the needs of people affected by dementia in mind.



Vision and scope of the charter

- To engage with a wide range of stakeholders within the housing sector to encourage increased awareness of the contribution of housing to the challenges posed by dementia.
- To provide the relevant resources and examples of good practice to encourage their integration into all aspects of people (staff), places and processes.
- Aimed at the full range of professionals working in the housing sector, from planners and architects to landlords and developers, housing managers and handypersons.
- Designed to help all professionals support people living with dementia in their homes and facilitate consistency and good practice.

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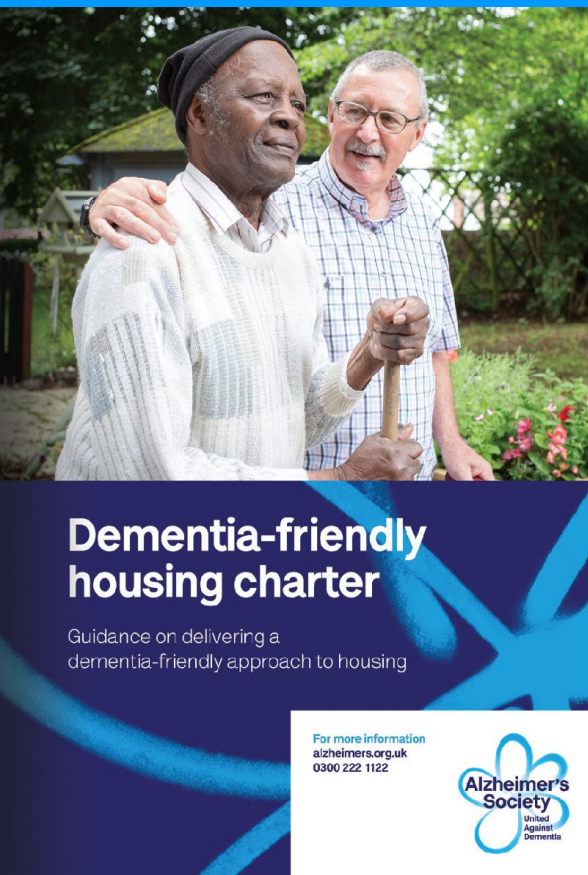


Involving people with dementia in this charter

Attending Service User Review Panels across the UK to understand what was important to people living with dementia when it comes to housing.

Key points were:

- To be enabled to live where you are familiar and are happy living
- Design – wet rooms, few steps, open plan layout, signage, sockets at arms level
- Technology - Provide sensors/alarms for cooking, sensor lights
- Staff need to have knowledge and a broad awareness of dementia
- Accommodation needs to meet people's needs as their dementia progresses and needs to be suitable for adaptations to be made as needed.



Bringing together existing resources and research

Aimed at:

- Supporting people with dementia to live independently
- Helping housing professionals in their support of people living with dementia in their own homes

Provides access to:

- The knowledge to plan and prepare for future projects, developments and services by influencing initial design and planning of future housing stock
- Knowledge and resources to make relevant ongoing adaptations and repairs to current housing stock to support people with dementia

Showcases:

- Case studies across the sector

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The three pillars

7

People	Places	Processes
<p>Staff who manage properties;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Landlords •People providing services such as modifications and adaptations •Repairs •Home maintenance •Handyperson services •Architects and planners 	<p>The creation and maintenance of suitable housing which incorporates space and design can support people living with dementia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Includes the interior and exterior of buildings 	<p>Housing systems and infrastructure used in all residential provision, planning, design and development and housing-related services such as repairs, maintenance, adaptations and management.</p> <p>Processes designed to reduce barriers.</p>

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Stakeholders

8

Stakeholders	Explanation	Occupations
Designing and building	From inception through design to ready to occupy	Planners, architects, building control, facilities or property management, designers, developers.
Managing and supporting	The daily running activities of all housing tenures	Landlords, developers, housing managers, occupational health, facilities or property management.

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Stakeholders (continued)

Stakeholders	Explanation	Occupations
Modifying and adapting	The modification, repair and adaptation of housing and the built environment to meet changing needs	Occupational therapists, community equipment or telecare providers, handypersons, environmental health officers, home improvement agencies, builders, technical officers and architects

Commitment Statements

People

- To identifying people affected by dementia who need support
- To understanding the needs of people
- To signposting/navigation/advice and information

Place

- To navigation / setting
- To raising awareness

Processes

- To applicability
- To communication
- To greater information and support for people with dementia to access housing options

Commitment Statements

Place

Commitments to navigation / setting

The services required for people to stay in their own homes are not widely known and therefore not accessed or offered

Staff need to know what options are available locally for care and support at home.

There is a lack of appropriate adaptations in properties to provide a more dementia-friendly environment

Communication of the principles and ways for home adaptations to be more dementia-friendly (for example Alzheimer's Society 'Making your home dementia-friendly' and Stirling University booklet '10 helpful hints for dementia design at home'). Ensure dementia design principles (and other relevant design) are incorporated, including people living in their own homes.

Why sign up to the charter?

- Demonstrate leadership within the sector by proactively addressing the societal challenges posed by an increasing incidence of dementia
- Increase awareness of how dementia and its challenges affect the services and products which an organisation offers
- Ensure that the needs of customers are met in a consistent and appropriate manner
- Create an organisation in which customers feel comfortable discussing their needs
- Be perceived by partners as dementia-friendly which may enhance reputation

Committing to the charter

Sign up to the Housing Charter and commitments

- Sign up alzheimers.org.uk/housingcharter
- Publicly announce delivery on the relevant Charter commitment statements
- Specific actions to be incorporated into the Dementia Action Alliance action plan, if applicable.

Deliver the commitments specific to your stakeholder group within a set, individually determined and planned time-frame

- Select a senior member of staff to champion the initiative and ensure that the appropriate delivery plan is established and progressed
- Evidence and report back on progress and outcomes the identified commitment statements.

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What can you do now?

- Sign up to the charter via Alzheimer's Society website alzheimers.org.uk/housingcharter
- Make a plan for your colleagues to become Dementia Friends – register your organisation at dementiafriends.org.uk/register-partner-admin
- Sign up to Dementia Words Matter and find out more through the [Dementia Voices](#) website.

acknowledgements

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Alzheimer's Society
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Guinness Partnership
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Housing LIN
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Members of the Dementia & Housing Working Group
National Housing Federation
Royal Town Planning Institute
Tunstall
Your Life
Causeway Service User Review Panel
Chichester Positive thinkers
League of Minds
North Somerset Living With Dementia Group
South Eastern/Belfast SURP group

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