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A Village Apart

A deep dive into Age Segregation within the UK and
considerations for how we can design with a more
Intergenerational Lens.

Research Conducted as part of a written thesis by apprentice Amelia Swaby



Why does Age Segregation Occur?



1.0 | Age Segregation

The benefits of age-restricted retirement developments



Access to Care



Sense of Community



Safety & Security



Independence



Common Ground



Facilities & Activities

1.0 | Age Segregation

Consequences of age-restricted retirement developments



Social Isolation & Loneliness



Lack of Intergenerational
Friendships



Health Anxiety



Conflicting Needs



Fear of loss & Bereavement



Links to Ageism

2.0 | Intergenerational Approaches



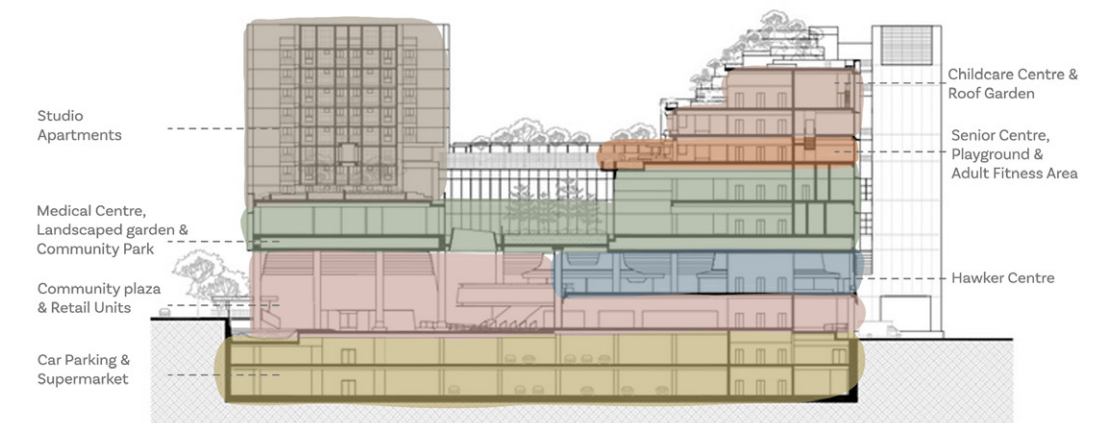
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Approaches from Asia

- Kampung Admiralty, Singapore

- + 'One-Stop Shop' Approach
- + Senior Centre near Childcare Centre and Playground
- + Medical Centre on-site
- + Residents can volunteer at the children's centre



- Kotoen, Japan

- + Japan's first intergenerational care home
- + Originally built as a care home in 1962. Nursery built next door in 1976
- + By 1987, care home and nursery became integrated
- + Very popular with residents and children



2.0 | Intergenerational Approaches



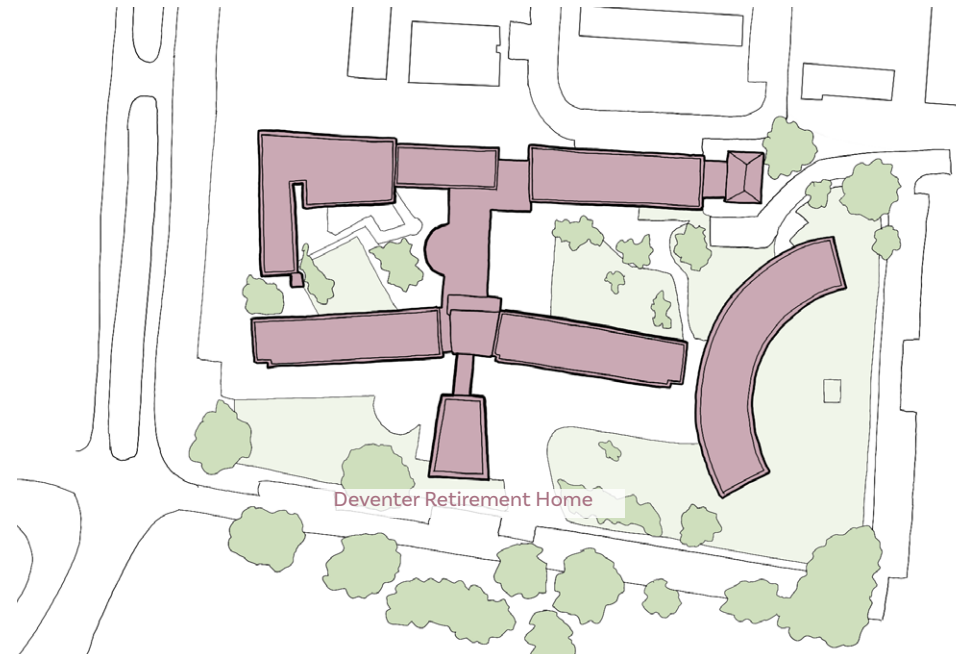
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Approaches from Europe

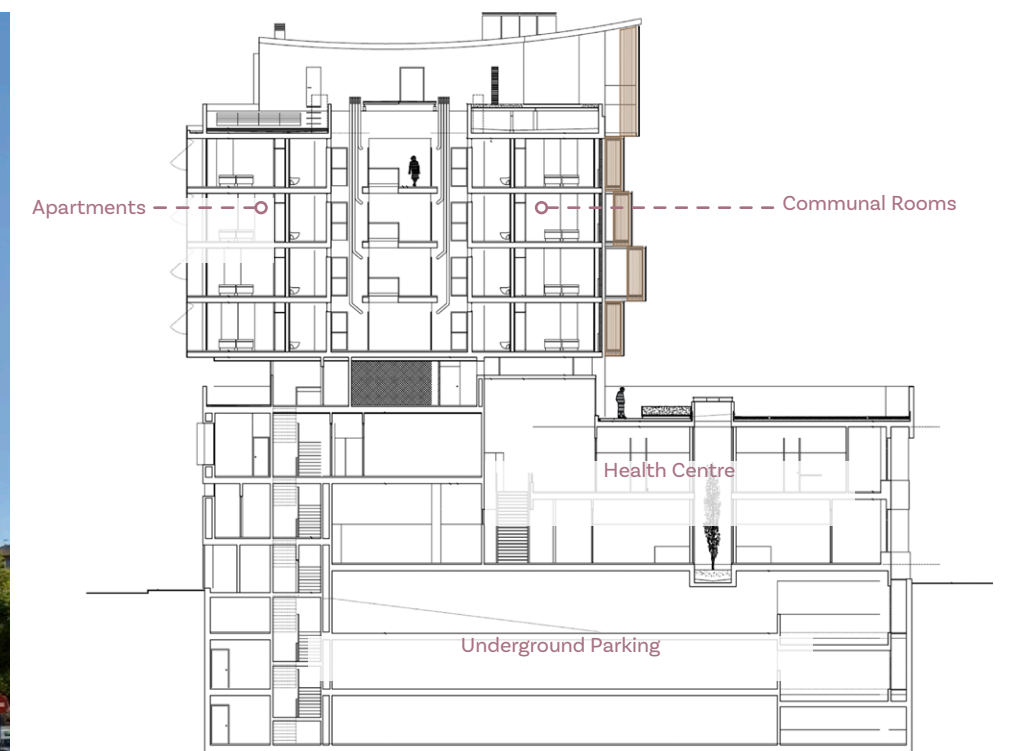
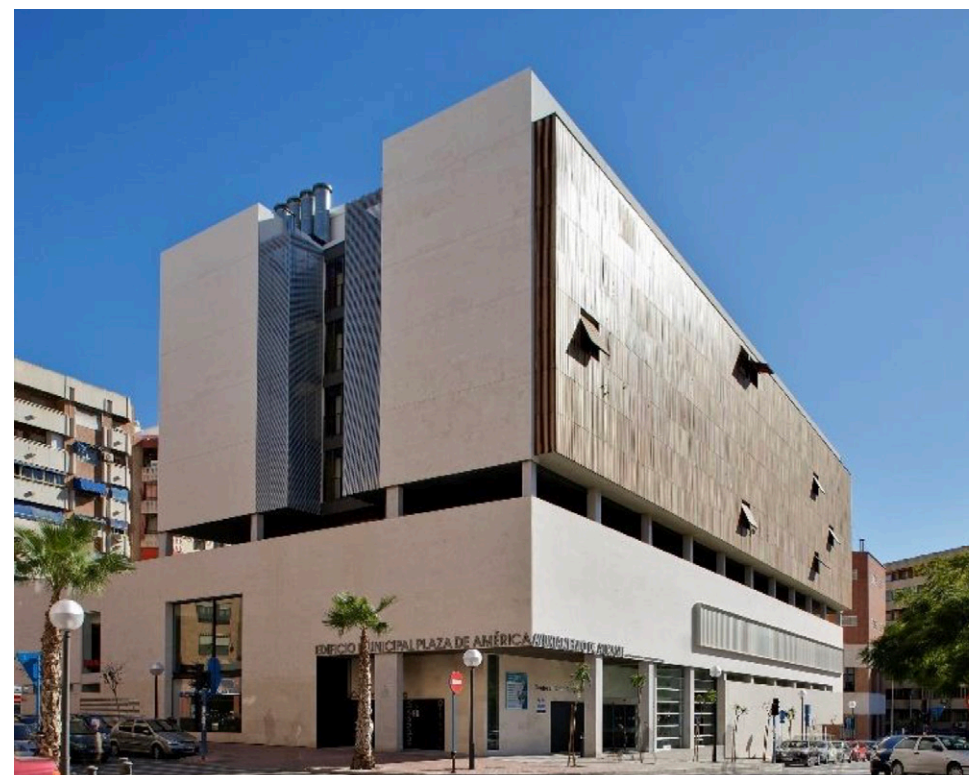
- Humanitas Deventer, The Netherlands

- + Retirement home that houses small number of students
- + Students live rent-free in exchange for being 'Good Neighbours'



- The Plaza de América Building, Spain

- + Mixture of older persons and younger persons (65+ and under 35)
- + Younger residents must dedicate 4 hours per week to 'Neighbourly activities'
- + Health centre on-site



2.0 | Intergenerational Approaches



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Approaches from the UK



'Old People's Home for 4-year olds' - Channel 4



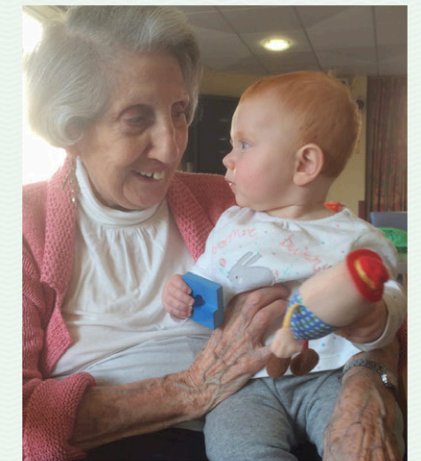
Marmalade Lane, Cambridge



'There's only a 90-year age difference, but what's 90 years between friends.'

'There's increasing evidence that if you put services for old people and services for very young people together that you get a better outcome for all of them.'

Matt Hancock
Health Secretary, Oct 2018



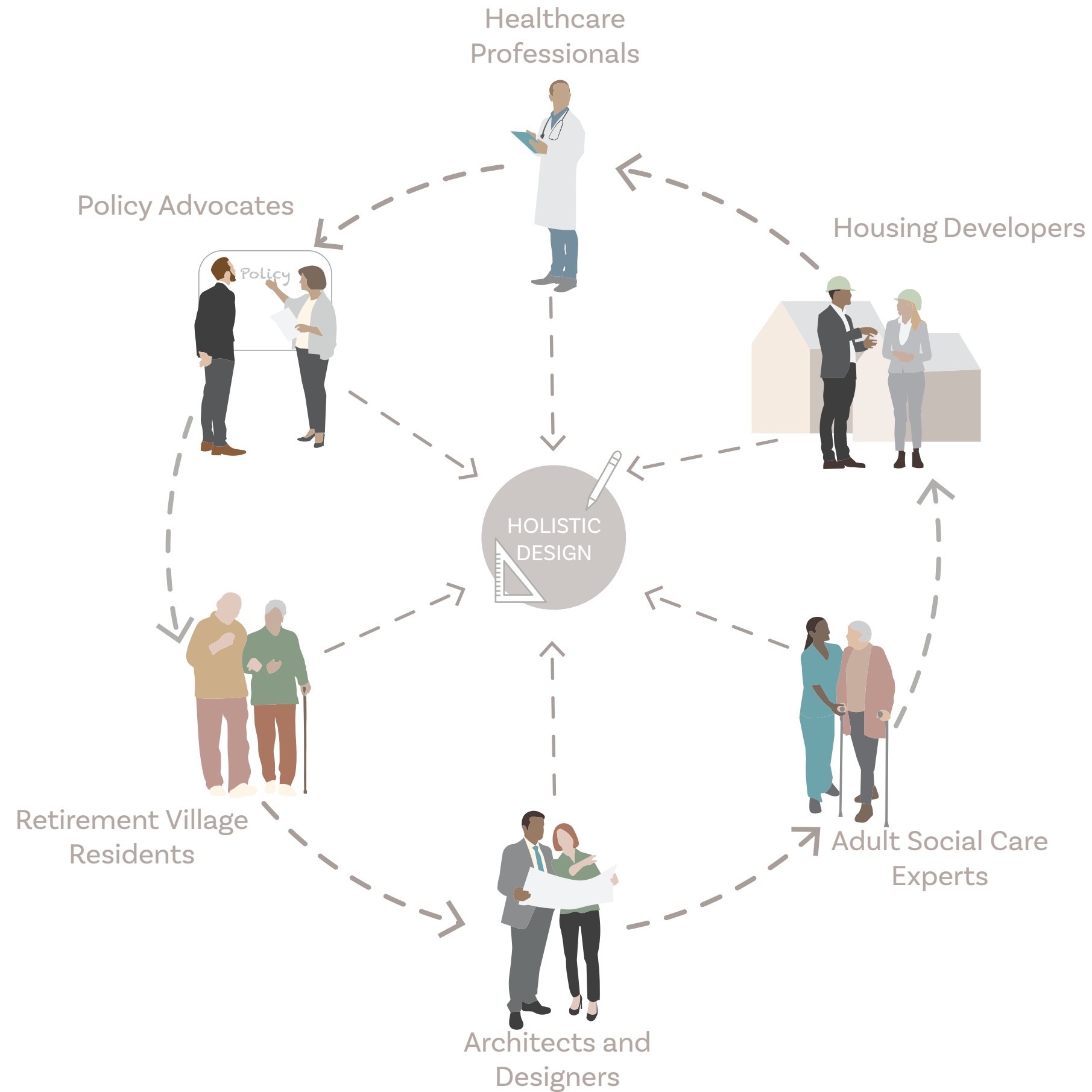
Apples and Honey Nursery, South London

3.0 | Findings

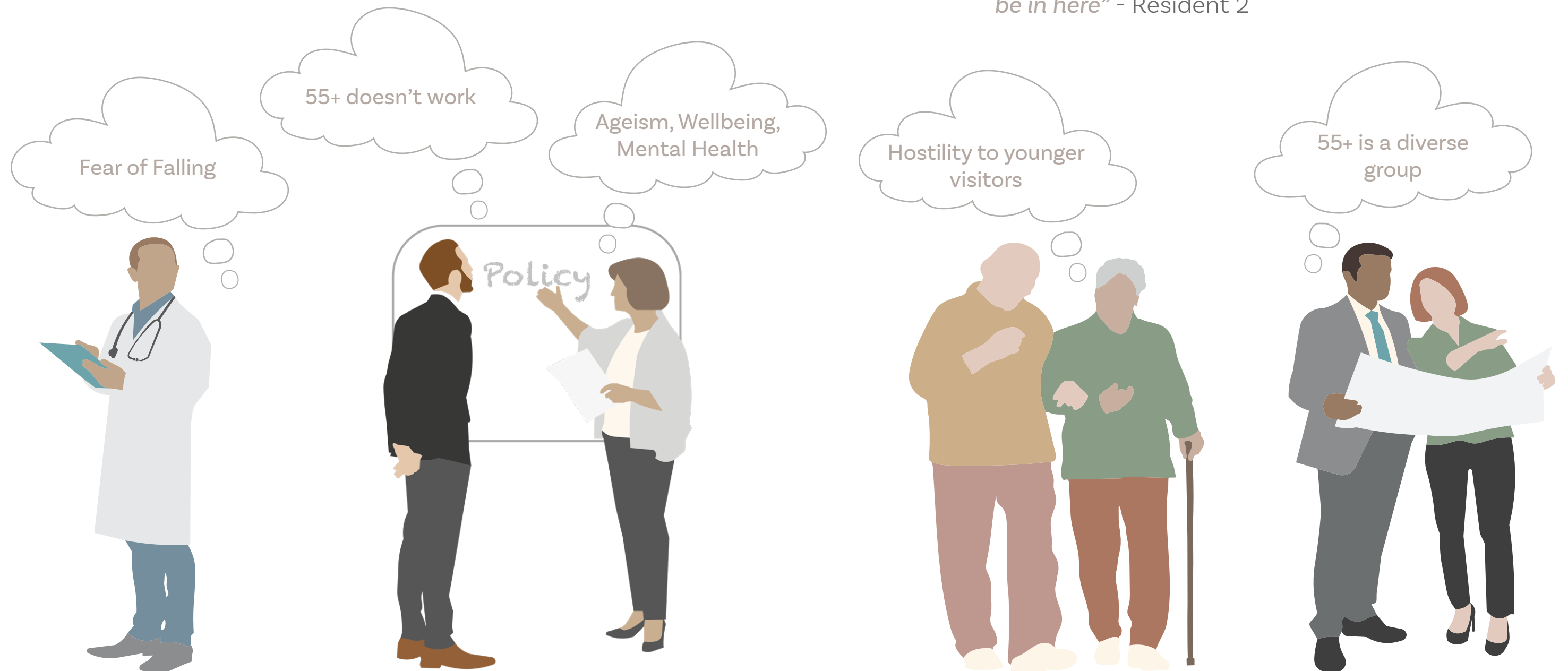


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Problems with an age-segregated retirement model



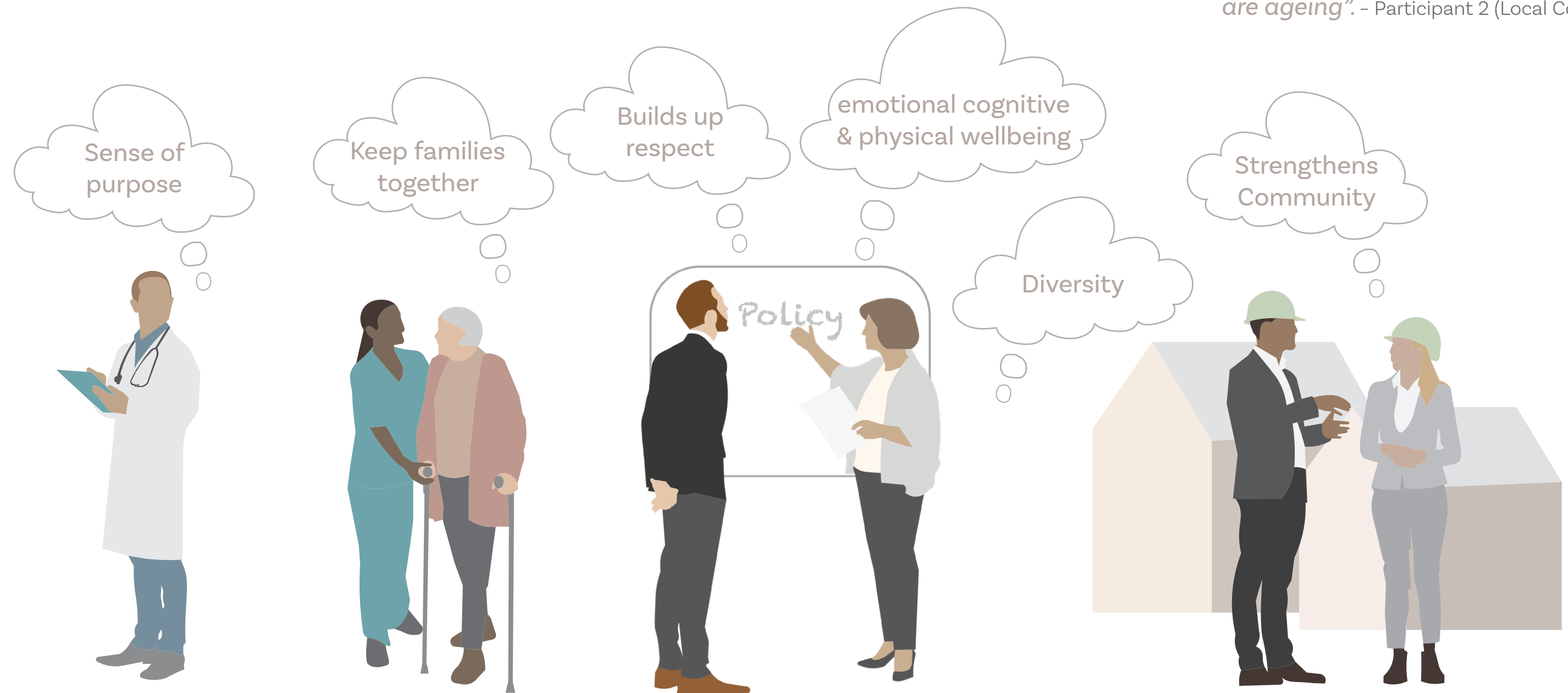
"I mean, my grandson told me, when he came to visit, she told him he should leave. Said that he shouldn't be in here" - Resident 2

"I do wonder if perhaps without the intergenerational component that just retirement communities might not necessarily do the older people the favours that we think it might do them." - Participant 1 (Geriatrician)

"For me, I just don't think the over 55 age limit, age segregation works at all. I think I'd just stop them all together."
"I think certainly if it's for people with care needs over 18, it's better rather than over 55." - Participant 2 (Local Council)

Advantages of Intergenerational Connection

“But I just genuinely believe if we want people to live independently, we want people with mental health needs and people with learning disabilities to live in these properties as well, not just people who are ageing”. – Participant 2 (Local Council)



“we’ve seen an 80% impact on the benefits, particularly around mental health”

– Participant 3 (Intergenerational Expert)

“It results in such a boost for older people; that connection between old and young and that feeling of usefulness. That feeling of being useless is not to be underestimated”.

– Participant 1 (Geriatrician)

3.0 | Findings

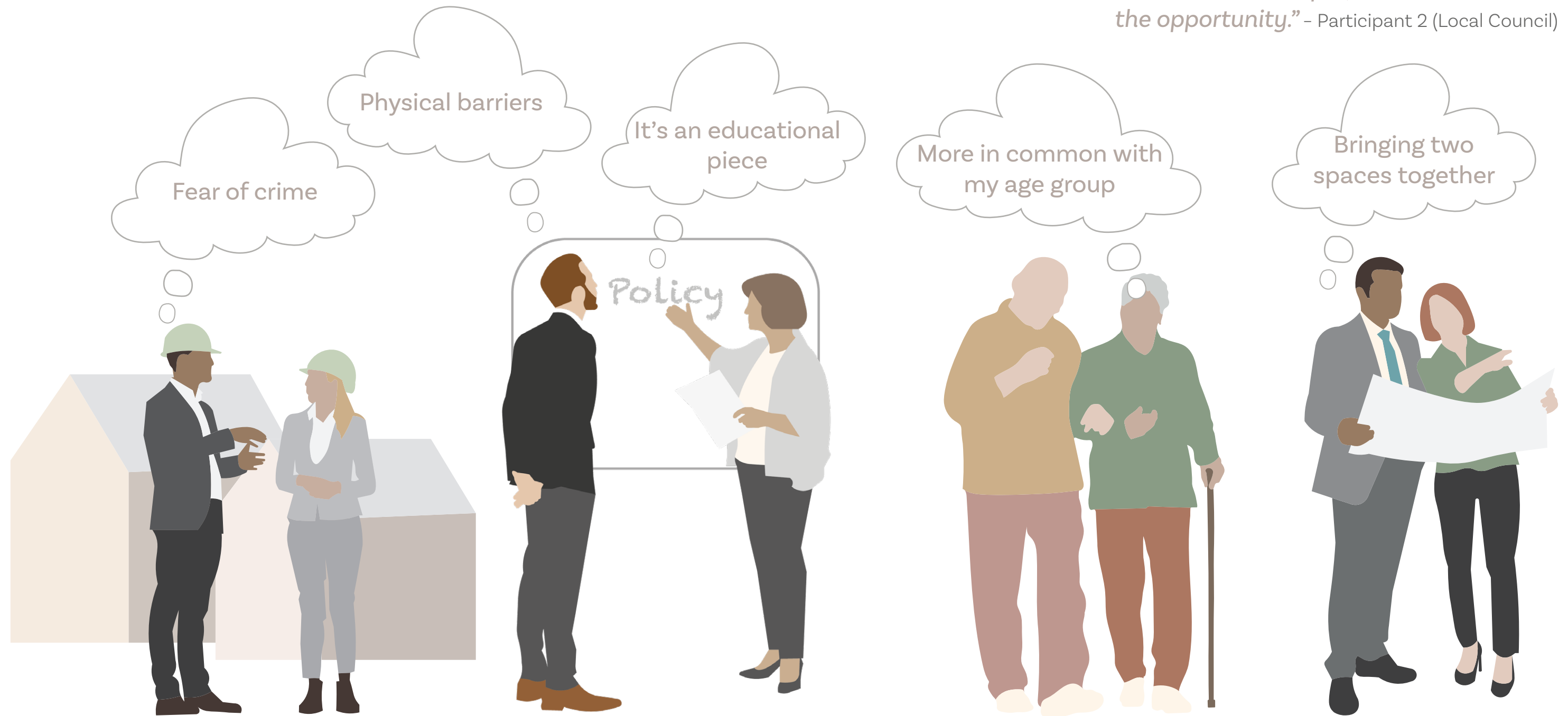


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Resistance and Barriers to intergenerational connection

“If you can prove some of it works and you can work with communities to develop it, then that for me is the opportunity.” – Participant 2 (Local Council)



“They completely think that they’re going to have high crime but chances are they’re not going to be exposed to it.” – Participant 6 (Housing Developer)

“I think it’s an educational piece actually. That needs to be shifted, and building these intergenerational retirement villages can hopefully eradicate that.” – Participant 3 (Intergenerational Expert)

4.0 | Design Considerations

"I think we sometimes need to take a step back to appreciate how it sits in its context, what the wider implications are." – Participant 4 (Architect)

"Whatever you build has to bring people into it, not just have people housed in it." – Participant 2

1.0 Cafe within Extra Care

2.0 Clear Wayfinding

3.0 - Nursery on-Site

4.0 Mixture of Tenures

"So I think in terms of what it looks like, I think it's a mixture of tenure"
– Participant 6



Apartments



Family Homes



Bungalows



Extra-Care /
Specialised Housing



Social Housing



'Rightsizer' Units

5.0 - Communal Gardens



"big, open nature park areas or communal gardens, which are always very effective, and then big communal outdoor places."
– Participant 3

6.0 Access to Amenities, Healthcare & Public Transport

"There was a library, there was a doctor, there was a chemist, there was everything. But now, there's nothing." – Resident 1

7.0 Frequent resting points

8.0 Communal Outdoor Events Space



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Thank you!