Tonic Housing

Making Safe Choices

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2006: When I became CEO of Stonewall Housing it became clear very quickly that there was a gap in services for older LGBT people, as more and more were approaching us for advice and support. 2011: It was exciting to see that Comic Relief supported our Older LGBT Housing Network so we could bring older people face-toface with providers and commissioners to investigate the issues further. It was heartbreaking to lose some of the older generations who were involved in the struggle for LGBT rights before they could

Homes and Communities Agency's Equality and Diversity Board Advisory Group started to consider how they might be able to support registered providers in meeting the particular needs of older LGBT people. The appetite seemed to be growing from all sides as more recognised the need and more wanted to be involved in developing the solutions.

re LGBT-affirmative housing, care and ort services when the Big Lottery ommonweal Housing agreed to rasibility study about starting idation for older LGBT people. Nanned to carry out a wide views on their housing, care

Change of direction: My visits to three LGBT-friendly schemes in the USA in the summer of 2015, thanks to funding from London Housing

Foundation, made it clear that I needed to revise the original approach to the study. The discussions with USA partners showed evidence of need was already available and the key to their success was having the right experts around the table to develop the schemes and carry out local market scoping exercises

On my return from the USA, I had an honest discussion with the consultants who had done great work in developing the original plan behind the feasibility study. It was agreed Stonewall Housing would recruit a different consultant. Julia Shelley proved an inspired choice, having previously worked as the Director of Stonewall Housing and having a broad experience of older people's housing and support issues.

On reflection, since the study was to be quite short (June 2015-April 2016) its goals should have been more specific at the outset and the coordinator recruited who could match the skills and knowledge required. We increased our advisory group membership and brought in the views of researchers, providers, commissioners and investors in the public

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6 Recommendations

This report has set out the current state of play in the provision of housing and related care and support to the older LGBT population.

There are still no specialist schemes, and despite some providers setting out good intentions and improving their practice, older LGBT people are still uncertain about what they can expect, and understanding in their provision of services to fear the worst

There are numerous research reports and surveys going back over the past 20 years that build a comprehensive picture of what is wanted, and guidance and training is available on best practice in delivering services to the older LGBT community.

Housing, support and care providers need to take positive action to ensure that they are really taking on the needs and wishes of older LGBT people, and to ensure their policies and attitudes are embedded in their organisation, through training, through involvement with local LGBT groups and activities.

Recommendations for action To support and encourage the development

of specialist older LGBT housing schemes across all tenures

To encourage housing and care providers to develop good practice and greater the older LGBT community

To develop a resource pool to bring together research, learning and experiences of older LGBT housing

To work with housing providers and others on the development of a range of housing options in order to maximise the choice of housing available to older LGBT

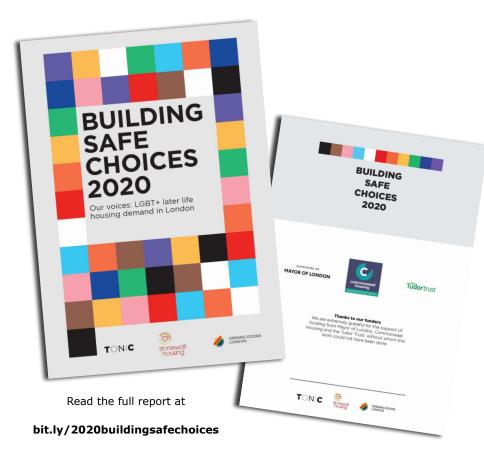
To provide advice and support to individuals and groups who want to work together to create their own housing and support solutions

To build links and shared understanding of different housing options between providers and customers

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COMMUNITY -LED DESIGN



"WE FEEL LIKE THE FORGOTTEN GENERATIONS"		"I AM PREPARED TO DOWNSIZE, BUT WANT TO STAY IN LONDON"
	"WHEN WILL SOMETHING TANGIBLE BE AVAILABLE FOR LGBT+ PEOPLE?"	
"THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF BEING TRANS IMPACT ON YOUR HOUSING OPTIONS"		"I'M SCARED OF MY NEIGHBOURS FINDING OUT I'M GAY"
	"UNLESS YOU HIDE YOUR TRUE IDENTITY YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM YOUR FAMILY"	

BUILDING THE EVIDENCE BASE









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COMMUNITY-LED EVENTS & ACTIVITIES





'OUT' IN THE COMMUNITY



THIS IS HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES OUT

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