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**HAA calls for National Older People’s Housing Strategy**

The [Housing and Ageing Alliance](https://www.housinglin.org.uk/housing-networks/HAA/) (HAA) submitted its response to the Older People’s Housing Taskforce (OPHT) call for evidence today, and makes a series of recommendations to improve the housing and living conditions of older people.

Within its submission, the HAA calls for a national older people’s housing strategy, better accessibility standards, strengthened information and advice, more support for home adaptation and strengthened planning guidance to increase the supply of specialist housing for older people.

Chair of the HAA, Mario Ambrosi, says: *“The taskforce provides a unique opportunity to address the housing needs of our ageing society. We are grateful for the opportunity to respond and engage with the taskforce. The pressures of demographic change mean it has never been more important take action and improve housing and living conditions for older people.”*

Ambrosi, also Director of Communications at Anchor, England’s largest not-for-profit provider of housing and care for people in later life, continues: *“At the HAA, we believe that homes, communities and housing-related services should be planned and designed in ways that enable choice, control, inclusion and independence in later life.”*

**The recommendations made by the HAA in its response to the OPHT call for evidence include:**

* A national older people’s housing strategy, demonstrating what a continuum of good housing options for older people should include.
* Access to practical, affordable housing repair and adaptation services.
* Government should strengthen the provision of information and advice around housing and care options in later life, building on the FirstStop model
* Increasing accessibility standards of new homes.
* Refine the Older People’s Shared Ownership model, building on the work of the APPG on Housing and Care for Older People’s SO-HAPPI report.
* Establish a Cabinet-level Minister and an Older People and Ageing Commissioner to address inequalities and give marginalised older people a voice on housing and related matters.
* 10% of Homes England’s grant programme should be for specialist housing for older people.
* Stimulate consumer awareness of specialist housing for older people and its construction through Stamp Duty relief for purchasers over pension age

The HAA’s full response and recommendations to the OPHT can be found here: <https://www.housinglin.org.uk/_assets/Resources/Housing/HAA/HAA-response-to-OPHTF-110923_SUBMITTED.docx>

The Housing and Ageing Alliance is made up of individuals from local and national organisations working together with a single objective; to bring about improvements to the housing and living conditions of older people.

The membership of the Alliance reflects a range of housing interests, including older people who are active in housing related networks, national organisations from the statutory, voluntary and private sectors and those involved in policy development and representation on various housing related advisory bodies.

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors**

**About the Housing and Ageing Alliance**

The Housing and Ageing Alliance is made up of a broad spectrum of people from local and national organisations working together with a single objective; to bring about improvements to the housing and living conditions of older people. It believes that homes, communities and housing related services should be planned and designed in ways that enable choice, control, inclusion and independence in later life.

For more information and a list of members visit: <https://www.housinglin.org.uk/HAA/>

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