



Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Alliance is to bring about improvements to the housing and living conditions of older people.

Core Value

The group 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.

Principles

The Alliance believes that older people should be able to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible. To do this older people say that they want and need:

- safe, secure, affordable, warm, well designed homes
- practical help with repairs, maintenance and adaptations
- access to public transport, shops and facilities
- flexible and personalised support to live life and feel part of the community, having help on hand when needed

The Alliance wants older people to have choice and control over their housing. To ensure this older people say they want and need:

- homes that are attractive and accessible, easy to move around in and which enable independent living
- homes with enough space with storage and room to have friends and family to visit and stay
- homes that enable them to stay part of the community, living and socialising with people of all ages
- a variety of housing options for all stages of later life
- impartial information and advice to know what is available and make choices

The Alliance believes that older people should be involved in designing and planning homes, neighbourhoods and services as this will help to future proof developments.

Aims

1. To raise the profile of the housing and housing related care and support needs and aspirations of people in later life

2. To be a sounding board for members and other policy makers, discussing ideas, policies and practice to learn and share so as to better meet older people's needs and aspirations
3. To make representations to Government, policy makers and decision making bodies concerning the above individually and collectively as the Alliance.

Objectives

A. To provide a forum and sounding board for a wide spectrum of organisations concerned with ensuring better housing in an ageing society; to meet to share and discuss policy, practice and actions, particularly for individuals who are involved in related policy making and advisory bodies. This can add value to the responses by individual members and the Alliance itself in its shared messages to national and local government

B. At national and local levels of government to:

1. Make representations about the importance, development and implementation of a strategic approach to housing and housing related issues in an ageing society.
2. Encourage strategists, planners and providers to better meet the housing and housing related support needs and aspirations of people in later life.
3. Draw the government's and policy bodies' attention to the implications and impact of related policies and strategies for housing in an ageing society and, conversely, highlight the connection to and impact of housing in policy fields such as health and social care.
4. Promote positive good practice, innovative and creative ideas within and outside government that deliver effective outcomes and benefits for older people with regard to housing and housing related matters, particularly for older people who are the most disadvantaged.

Membership

Membership of the Housing and Ageing Alliance is aimed at reflecting a range of housing interests including older people who are active in housing related networks, national organisations from the statutory, voluntary and private sectors which are involved in the planning, development and delivery of housing and related services, academic interests and those involved in policy development and representation on various housing related advisory bodies.

Members must be

1. Committed to the values, principles, aims and objectives of the Housing and Ageing Alliance.
2. Committed to utilising their wide ranging expertise in order to develop creative and imaginative solutions to the issue of housing and older people and to develop innovative thinking on the matter.

3. Prepared to use their wide ranging expertise and influence in order to facilitate the sharing of knowledge about current best practice on housing and older people and also to develop innovative thinking and creative ideas on these matters.
4. Committed to acting as ambassadors within their own organisations and networks to promote better housing in an ageing society.

Membership is also determined by the personal skills and experience that individuals bring which will add value to the Alliance's work, and not simply attend to represent their employing organisations.

The Core Membership group will drive the activities of the Alliance and will meet at least twice a year to shape activities.

Core Membership of the Alliance will be made up of no less than 10 and no more than 22 individuals.

Wider associate 'membership' will be available for associates who are broadly concerned with housing and ageing and who subscribe to the core value of the Housing & Ageing Alliance.

A person from an organisation who fits the criteria i)-4) above, and who can demonstrate commitment to the principles and aims of the H&AA can apply to join the Alliance at any time, but places will be limited. When numbers of Core members falls below the target range a call will be put out to the wider network of associates as well as any other suitable individuals we identify.

Applications can be considered and agreed/ rejected at the Alliance meeting following receipt of an application. That decision would be based on evidence of meeting the criteria 1 - 4 above and the size/ knowledge mix and any gaps in the Core Membership at the time.

Chair and Vice Chair

The role of the Chair of the Alliance is to promote open and frank discussion of a wide range of issues, to enable all members to participate fully, to act as a spokesperson for the group and to champion the issues agreed by the Alliance with Government, policy makers and associated bodies.

The Vice-Chair will work with the Chair to further the objectives of the Alliance and will chair meetings in the absence of the Chair.

Administration

Administrative support will include arranging venues for meetings, circulating emails, agenda's, notes and associated papers for Alliance meetings and taking notes of the discussions/ action points. Members of the Alliance will be asked to contribute to this process but the Chair will take the lead role and be responsible for ensuring that the proper administrative arrangements are in place and adhered to.

In addition, the Housing LIN will host the Alliance's webpages on its website at:
<https://www.housinglin.org.uk/HAA/>

Working Arrangements

1. It is anticipated that there will normally be 4 meetings of the Core Membership per year, generally held via Teams.
2. Working sub groups may be established to deal with particular issues as and when deemed appropriate by the Alliance and may draw on other wider interests to contribute to specific sub group topics. However, any publications/ public statements/ reports / activities undertaken by the sub groups in the name of the Housing & Ageing Alliance would have to be agreed by the core members
3. Membership of the core group is on an individual basis and no substitution will be allowed. One of the strengths the Alliance is to offer consistency of engagement by individuals who are personally particularly committed to improving housing for older people. Substitutions will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances with the approval of the Chair or Vice Chair and not for two or more successive meetings.
4. Non-attendance by any core group member at three consecutive meetings without exceptional reason (e.g. serious illness, bereavement) would be treated as a de-facto resignation from the core group.
5. Any Alliance member who mis-represents the Alliance or acts in any way that could bring the Alliance into disrepute would also be dismissed from any level of membership.
6. The Chair and Vice Chair will be selected by Alliance members based on a process of nomination, and then a majority vote either bi-annually or upon resignation, or following a majority vote of no confidence at a full Alliance meeting.
7. The core membership will be reviewed annually to identify any gaps in skill/ knowledge mix.

Approved: January 2025