



The Housing and
Ageing Alliance

Terms of Reference

(revised 16 June 2026)

The Housing and Ageing Alliance (HAA) 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.

Purpose

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

Core Value

The HAA 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 HAA 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, age-friendly homes
- practical help with repairs, maintenance and aids 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 HAA 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
- access to impartial information and advice to know what is available and affordable and make choices

The HAA believes that older people should be involved in designing and planning homes, healthy neighbourhoods and services as this will help to future proof developments and build age friendly communities.

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, funders and decision-making bodies concerning the above individually and collectively as the HAA.

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 members and the HAA itself in its shared messages to national and local government.

B. At national and local/regional 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 HAA is aimed at reflecting a range of housing interests including older people who are active in housing related networks, national housing, health and social care 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 HAA.
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.
4. Committed to acting as ambassadors within their own organisations and networks to promote better housing in an ageing society.

Member organisations participate through a nominated representative who brings relevant skills and experience, and who is authorised to speak and vote on behalf of their organisation.

Core Membership of the HAA will comprise no less than 10 and no more than 25 member organisations (each nominating one primary representative).

Wider Associate 'membership' will be available for individuals who are broadly concerned with housing and ageing and who subscribe to the core value of the HAA. A person who fits the criteria 1-4 above, and who can demonstrate commitment to the principles and aims of the HAA can apply to join at any time, but places will be limited. Associate members can advise but not vote.

If the number of Core members falls below the target range a call will be put out to members to nominate new organisations and/or individuals who are aligned to the membership criteria. Applications can be considered and agreed/ rejected at the HAA 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(s) and Vice Chair

The role of the Chair or Co-Chairs of the HAA 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 HAA with Government, policy makers and associated bodies. If there is only one Chair, a Vice-Chair will work with the Chair to further the objectives of the HAA and chair meetings in the absence of the Chair.

Administration

Administrative support will include arranging venues for meetings, circulating emails, agendas, notes and associated papers for HAA meetings and taking notes of the discussions/ action points. Members of the HAA 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 HAA's webpages on its website at: <https://www.housinglin.org.uk/HAA/>

Working Arrangements

It is anticipated that there will normally be 4 meetings of the Core Membership per year, generally held via Teams. Working subgroups may be established to deal with particular issues as and when deemed appropriate by the HAA and may draw on other wider interests to contribute to specific subgroup topics. However, any publications/ public statements/ reports / activities undertaken by the subgroups in the name of the HAA would have to be agreed by the core members.

Membership of the core group is on an organisational basis; substitutions are permitted (see Representation and Substitution).

Non-attendance by a member organisation (i.e. neither the nominated representative nor a substitute) at three consecutive meetings without exceptional reason will be treated as a de-facto resignation from the core group.

The Chair and Vice Chair will be selected by HAA members based on a process of nomination and then a majority vote undertaken bi-annually, upon resignation, or following a majority vote of no confidence at a full HAA meeting. The core membership will be reviewed annually to identify any gaps in skill/ knowledge mix.

Representation and voting

Each member organisation will nominate one primary representative and may nominate one named substitute. Each member organisation holds one vote. Decisions will ordinarily be taken by consensus; where a vote is required, a simple

majority of member organisations present will carry the decision (with the Chair holding a casting vote if required). Quorum is one third of member organisations, with a minimum of six.

Mandate and accountability

Nominated representatives confirm that they have the mandate to speak and vote on behalf of their organisation, and will ensure appropriate internal engagement and sign-off for positions taken within the HAA.

External communications and public statements

The Chair(s) (or a delegated spokesperson) will coordinate any public statements made in the name of the HAA. Where statements imply a policy position, they will reflect an agreed HAA view. As a broad coalition, we recognise that not all organisations will have the same policy position on every topic. The general approach of the HAA will be to speak out openly when a position is shared by all members. There may be occasions when the HAA puts forward a view as that of the majority of members.

Representatives may speak publicly on behalf of their own organisations but must not present individual organisational views as HAA positions.

Representation and substitution

Member organisations participate through their nominated representative or their substitute. Organisations will promptly notify the Chair of changes in representation. Continuity and attendance are expected to support effective collaboration.

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