

## Housing for People with Dementia

**1 in 3** of today's new borns will live to see their 100th birthday <sup>1</sup>



The Dementia and Housing Working Group (DHWG) aims to promote and encourage the housing sector to improve the health, wellbeing and quality of life for people living with dementia.

The DHWG has support from a range of organisations and institutions with an interest in dementia and housing. These include several housing associations, universities, architects and Government departments.

### What have we been up to?

At the UK Dementia Congress in 2020, DHWG presented an Integrated Care Model, demonstrating how important it is to recognise how design and digital technology can support those with dementia.

We have now created a 'Design and Technology' sub-group which is developing a strategy for easy access to dementia-friendly design, technology and information. This aims to support the delivery of Recommendation 34 of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Report: 'Housing for People with Dementia – Are We Ready?' (see below).



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## **Recommendation 34 of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Report: 'Housing for People with Dementia – Are We Ready?'**

We recommend that providers of housing for older people, in the private and social sectors, should consider the design and adaptability of their homes to meet the needs of those living with dementia. This should cover both 'hard design' (wider doorways, accessible kitchens and bathrooms that enable independence) and 'soft design' (covering the auditory impact of surfaces, the use of tactile and visual cues as reminders, sign-posting, labelling).

The APPG report covers key issues and recommendations for improving the design, adaptability and services on offer in homes for people with dementia.

The group is creating a 'go to' resource for policymakers, RPs, housing developers, health professionals, the home improvement sector, and building and environment supply chains. This will include:

- Information on technology-enabled care services for the home
- Insight into how to pool information
- Designs from DHWG housing members – case studies and webinars
- Details on training, work and resources available

### **How to get involved**

Collaboration is key. To help us improve our resources and make a real difference to dementia housing in the UK ... please join our padlet!

A padlet is like a piece of paper, but fancy. You can add any type of file, from text posts, to photos, to video, to any link from any site. To find out more please email: [yasmeen@foundations.uk.com](mailto:yasmeen@foundations.uk.com)

### **Useful resources**

- APPG Report 'Housing for People with Dementia – Are We Ready?' : [https://www.housinglin.org.uk/\\_assets/Resources/Housing/Support\\_materials/Reports/HCO\\_P\\_APPG\\_Dementia\\_Housing\\_and\\_Care\\_Inquiry-LowRes.pdf](https://www.housinglin.org.uk/_assets/Resources/Housing/Support_materials/Reports/HCO_P_APPG_Dementia_Housing_and_Care_Inquiry-LowRes.pdf)
- Alzheimer's Society. (2020). Dementia-friendly housing guide: [https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-06/Dementia%20Friendly%20Housing\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-06/Dementia%20Friendly%20Housing_Guide.pdf)
- Alzheimer's Society. (2020). Making your home dementia friendly: [https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/migrate/downloads/making\\_your\\_home\\_dementia\\_friendly.pdf](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/migrate/downloads/making_your_home_dementia_friendly.pdf)
- HousingLIN: [www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/browse/HousingandDementia/Design](http://www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/browse/HousingandDementia/Design)
- Newton, R., Adams, S., Keady, J., & Tseklevs, E. (2021). Exploring the contribution of housing adaptations in supporting everyday life for people with dementia: A scoping review. *Ageing and Society*, 1-27. doi:10.1017/S0144686X21001367