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Newcastle University launches new “Retirement Living Explained” guide

A groundbreaking new document entitled ***Retirement Living Explained: A Guide for Planning and Design Professionals***, has today been published by the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape at Newcastle University in partnership with Churchill Retirement Living and supported by the Housing LIN (Learning and Improvement Network).

The comprehensive new 68-page guide – available to [download here](#) – provides a fresh perspective on exactly how retirement living should be defined, getting to the heart of the changing needs and expectations for this niche sector of development. Its key conclusions are that specialist retirement housing offers wide-reaching benefits that meet the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, environmental, and social – and that these benefits apply to individuals, communities and society as a whole.

The guide represents the culmination of a three year PhD project carried out by Newcastle University’s Sam Clark under the supervision of Professor Rose Gilroy and Professor Adam Sharr. The project was funded by Churchill Retirement Living, and its aim was to audit the national need for older people’s housing, documenting the ageing population’s aspirations and reviewing current practices. In turn it will influence the design response to retirement living developments in the future.

As the project nears completion, Sam Clark has used his research findings to produce the “*Retirement Living Explained*” guide, which was launched today with a panel discussion from a range of key experts on the topic of older people’s housing. Presenters included Dame Esther Rantzen DBE, Jeremy Porteus (Director of Housing LIN), Spencer McCarthy (Chairman & CEO of Churchill Retirement Living), and Andrew Burgess (Managing Director of Planning Issues).

The “*Retirement Living Explained*” guide also sets out some of the key planning and policy issues that are relevant to this niche sector, and the key considerations that set this type of development apart.

Rose Gilroy, Professor of Ageing, Policy & Planning, said:

“Newcastle University is committed to research that has real world impacts and we are proud to have partnered Churchill Retirement Living in exploring one of the major societal challenges of our time: the ability of older people to live in housing that contributes to their independence and well-being. Our hope is that this research informed document will be read and used widely to stimulate more housing options.”

Spencer McCarthy, Chairman and CEO of Churchill Retirement Living, said:

“We know the UK population is ageing. The number of households aged 65+ will account for over half of new households in the future. However, there is a chronic under supply of suitable accommodation for older people. Up to 3.5 million older people are interested in buying or renting a retirement property, but the next generation of older people have enjoyed unprecedented improvements in living standards and have alternative expectations. We need to establish what these expectations are so we can drive a step-change in housing choice for older people.”

“At Churchill we believe that clearly defined types of housing for older people are required, including retirement living, and that local authorities should be setting specific housing targets for each type. We also believe the guide can help inform a more co-ordinated local and national approach towards achieving this. I would like to thank Sam Clark and Newcastle University for their excellent work to date on this project.”

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About Churchill Retirement Living:

[Churchill Retirement Living](#) specialises in the provision of purpose built apartments designed for older people. Its self-contained apartments are located throughout England and are specifically designed to meet the needs of independent retired people and are provided for sale within a single block. The apartments are sold with a lease containing an age restriction which ensures that only people of 60 years or over, or those over this age with a partner of at least 55, can live in them. The accommodation is managed by Millstream Management Services Ltd, a specialist in the management of retirement developments, and a company wholly owned by Churchill Retirement Living.

Churchill Retirement Living is an award-winning, family run British company, voted ‘Housebuilder of the Year’ at the 2016 WhatHouse? Awards, and ‘Most Outstanding Retirement Operator’ for the 8th consecutive year in 2016 by the UK Over 50s Housing Awards. The company has also received the maximum five-star rating in the independent HBF Customer Satisfaction Survey 2016 and was ranked 13th in The Sunday Times 100 Best Companies to Work For 2017.

For media information and high res images please contact:

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