

Rethinking intergenerational housing

Matter Architecture has been working with a grant from Innovate UK over a 12-month period to rethink intergenerational housing: an old idea that is being rediscovered for its **social benefits**. Our aim was to explore how a modern form of independent living could capture these benefits without the associated limitations. We have shared our analysis, findings and methodology as an **online resource**, which can be accessed at the link below.

We are now working to develop **pilot schemes** with some of our partners and these have helped us to establish a strategic process for facilitating commissioning which is outlined overleaf. Our work has shown that **integrating** the building design with the social benefits of intergenerational living and its future management is key. We are keen to work with organisations to facilitate this wider process as we are doing with our pilot project partners.

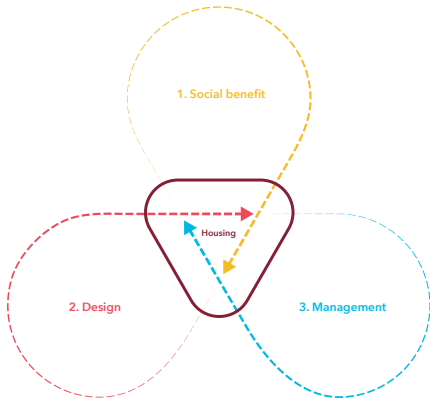
*"Life is about human relationships and
that doesn't change with age"*

Bob, Britain's joint oldest man, 111



<https://matterarchitecture.uk/intergen>

Commissioning intergenerational housing



The process involves exploring the **social benefits**, **design** and **management** of a scheme. This is best achieved through a senior-level steering group, stakeholder workshops and options studies on specific sites.

Whilst there is a logical sequence to these steps, it's important that they continue to inform one another throughout the project development. We now have strong experience to draw on in all these stages of work, including: workshop facilitation; feasibility studies; and experimentation with intergenerational housing operators through our research network.

Please get in touch to find out more about our intergenerational research and development work.

Roland Karthaus, Anthony Hu or Nana Ama Astra

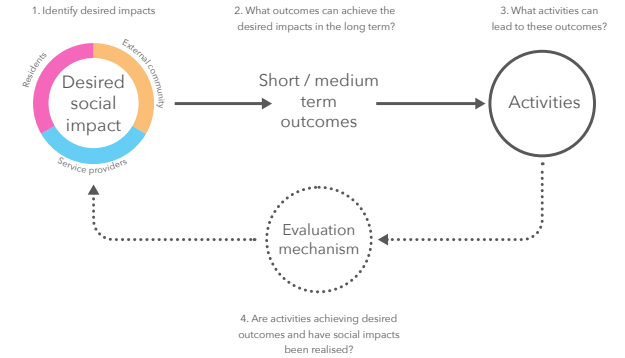
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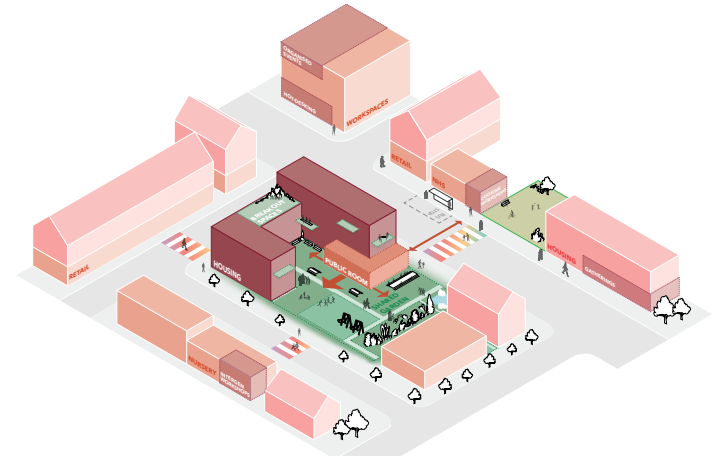
1. Use **social benefits** to build a brief

At the start of the project, bring together decision-makers from across delivery and operational teams. Determine the objectives and clarify language and terminology.



2. Use **design principles** to test sites and progress schemes

Carry out options studies to assess the potential of each site and the viability, taking into account the objectives. Engage with the existing community early and where possible, use co-design to develop the proposals.



3. Design for future management

Develop the model for the future management and operation of the scheme so that it integrates the future residents' participation.

