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Reviewing housing need and demand amongst older people – a checklist

This checklist aims to provide a framework from which a basic population review can be conducted. It focuses on the data to be captured. Once retrieved it would be expected that significant trends could then be identified. It might be expected that this activity would be a basic part of the work of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) or Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA).

TOPIC	QUESTIONS
Baseline data	How do we define older people (remember this is about planning to meet housing need in the relatively immediate future)? How many older people are there now, and will be in the future (maybe at five year intervals for the next fifteen years)? How is the distribution of older people likely to change (for example, changes in the proportion of the population that are aged 85 and over)?
Minority and specialist populations	Are there groups within the population potentially requiring specialist services? For example, people with a dementia, people with learning disabilities, sensory impairments, people from different faith groups?
Location	Where and how, do older people currently live? For example geographical location, tenure and, household status. What is the level of under occupation? How might this picture change over the next 10 – 15 years?
Housing condition	What is the general condition of housing occupied by older people? Roughly, what proportion might be capable of adaptation, or is it already of a sufficient design standard to enable older people to remain living in it independently?
Health	What is the health of the population? Given the known triggers for moves into specialist housing and residential care, are there particular groups within the population likely to need or want to move? What have been the recent results of health surveys concerning, falls, Chronic obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), etc, where the person's condition might be improved by better housing solutions? How is this reflected in local JSNAs or meeting Clinical Commission Group or Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) objectives?
Current Service Demand	What is known about current demand for health, housing and social care services? Are there patterns of particularly high demand across the locality? How do these patterns of demand fit with the picture nationally? What is known about the expectations and preferences of older people locally in terms of their housing desires?
Wealth and eligibility for services	What is the level of wealth and housing equity held by older people as compared to the regional and national average? How might this impact on housing provision or the self-funder market? What proportion of the local population is likely to meet local social care eligibility criteria? What proportion of the older peoples' population currently in receipt of residential care may have an alternative option given the development of extra care housing?