

NATIONAL STRATEGIC BACKGROUND AND OTHER BIBLIOGRAPHY

NATIONAL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES - HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FOCUS

1999

Better Government for Older People report, 'All our Futures' 1999

The report includes in its recommendations, the need to combat age discrimination and to promote a strategic joined-up approach to an ageing population. Better Government for Older People continues as a Network with an Older People's Advisory Group.

2001

Building capacity and partnership in care (DH)

An agreement between the statutory and the independent social care, health care and housing sectors providing a framework for future working relationships between providers and commissioners locally. The document identified that the role of housing will be increasingly important in the provision of long-term care.

Quality and Choice for Older People's Housing: A Strategic Framework

The ODPM and Department of Health require Local Authorities to produce comprehensive older people's strategies that provide a strategic connection between Housing, Health, Social Care and support for its older population. Underpinning this is the belief that Housing has a central role to help people remain involved and live life to the full, receiving the appropriate care, support and wider services. Policies should keep them safe and prevent crime, through Housing, Health and Social Care working together in an integrated way.

Local Area Agreements and Local Public Service Agreements

Local Area Agreements (LAAs from 2004) and Local Public Service Agreements (LPSAs from 2001) are policies created by ODPM as part of the developing agenda for local government. Local Area Agreements are agreements, covering the area of one or more local authorities, which focus on a collection of goals across a range of services and which can relate to either national or local priorities. Redditch's LAA includes the themes of healthy communities and older people and stronger and safer communities.

National Service Framework for Older People (DH March 2001)

The National Service Framework sets standards for older peoples' services, and the means of delivering and monitoring them across eight key areas. The standards relevant to this Strategy, principally relating to the support provided through the Community Warden Service, include rooting out age discrimination, intermediate care, falls, mental health in older people and the promotion of health and active life in older age. The approach has developed services that support independence, including intermediate care services, to help people avoid an unnecessary hospital admission, and speed recovery and rehabilitation. The Promoting Independence Grant is supporting councils to help more people to retain their independence for longer. Supporting People is helping vulnerable people live independently in the community by providing a wide range of housing support services.

2002

Securing Our Future Health: Taking a Long-Term View

The Wanless Report found that the most use of intensive services is made in last year of people's lives, irrespective of age. Severe illness and frailty were thought likely to decline, while the number of minor health problems may increase as people live longer, and longer life is likely to equate to more years with a disability. It also reported the gap in life expectancy between those in deprived neighbourhoods and their better off peers. It concludes that in order to meet people's expectations and to deliver the highest quality over the next 20 years, the UK will need to devote more resources to health care and that this must be matched by reform to ensure that these resources are used effectively.

2003**Preparing Older Peoples' Strategies: Linking Housing to Health, Social Care and other Local Strategies (ODPM, DH, HC)**

Provides a framework for producing strategies that link older people's housing requirements to other services in the community.

2004**Better Government for Older People (BGOP 2004)**

In 1998 a pilot programme, supported by central and local government and older people's organisations, was launched to show what needs to be done to make 'Better Government for Older People' happen. BGOP is a 'movement' of organisations working in partnership to change attitudes and services in order to achieve an improved society for older people across the UK.

Across the UK 28 pilot projects involved older people to create better services and communities that work for older people and to meet the challenges of our ageing society. This resulted in local agencies working together with older people in new and better ways (All our Futures).

The BGOP Partnership is made up of BGOP's Older People 's Advisory Group (OPAG) and the broad range of organisations that subscribe to BGOP and work in alliance locally, regionally and nationally, including Government departments and agencies, older people's forums and groups, Local Authorities, 'Age Sector' organisations, Local Strategic Partnerships, Health Trusts, Housing Associations, Police and Fire Services.

Choosing Health White Paper (DH)

Aims to support the public to make more healthier and informed choices in regards to their health (2004)

LINKAGE Building Partnerships (DWP)

This is a consultation document from DWP seeking views on how we should adapt to an ageing society, in preparation for the Government's overall strategy on older people. It aims to dispel myths and stereotypes about ageing which create barriers to the social inclusion of older people, and to modernise public services, making them responsive to the needs and aspirations of individual older people. It proposes that older people should be involved in the design, delivery and evaluation of services which affect them, so that older people achieve well-being and independence.

2005**Independence Well-Being and Choice (DH Green Paper)**

This consultation paper sets out a vision for social care in which:

- individuals are given greater choice and control over the way in which their needs are met
- Social Services have a key strategic and leadership role for partnership working, including with the independent and voluntary sectors, to provide services which are well planned and integrated
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- high priority is given to the inclusion of all sections of the community
- services are of high quality and delivered by a well-trained workforce or by informal and family carers who are themselves supported
- better use is made of technology to support people, and provide a wide range of supported housing options
- there is an emphasis on preventing problems to help maintain the independence of individuals

Those with the highest needs receive the support and protection needed to ensure their own well-being, and the safety of society.

Opportunity Age – Opportunity and security throughout life – the National Strategy on Ageing (DWP)

Opportunity Age is the Government's strategy for an ageing society. The strategy aims to end the perception of older people as dependent; ensure that longer life is healthy and fulfilling; and that older people are full participants in society. Two of the key directions of the policy relate to active ageing, to enable older people to play a full and active role in society, and to services that allow people to keep independence and control over their lives as they grow older, even when constrained by the health problems which can occur in old age. Housing and Housing Support are an essential part of this approach.

2006

Our Health Our Care Our Say: a new direction for community services (DH)

This White Paper services gives local health and social care agencies a key role in tackling inequalities and improving access to community services, and promotes opportunities for people to maintain independence and wellbeing throughout their lives. It expects that people with the highest needs will receive most support and that services will be of high quality, delivered by a well-trained workforce or well-supported carers. Technology will be better used and there should be a wide range of housing options, while the NHS and Social Care will where possible prevent ill-health through more personalised services, fitting better with people's lives.

A Sure Start to Later Life: Ending Inequalities for Older People (ODPM)

This initiative derives from the Government strategy "Opportunity Age" which shifts the emphasis from crisis care to support the long-term independence of older people, and is modelled on Sure Start services for children. The Social Exclusion Unit (SEU) through A Sure Start to Later Life aims to enable older people to maintain their independence in later life through prevention and local services. will be piloted in 8 local authorities in 2006/06.

The sure start aims to bring together education, health and care and family support services through a single point of delivery. The SEU is undertaking pilots which will promote early interventions to prevent inequalities in older age.

The sure start to later life includes older people being involved in the design and delivery of services; a range of services that are person-centred and reflect the diverse needs of individuals; services that reflect the needs and aspirations of older people and anticipate changing environments; accessible services; and services that are preventative and will go beyond health and social care to leisure and transport. The model will be piloted through the Link-Age plus programme delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions and Partnerships for Older People Projects (POPPs) led by the Department of Health.

Possible preventative services include:

- handyperson repairs
- benefit take-up
- transport
- accessible shops
- befriending
- advocacy
- floating support
- leisure
- life-long learning
- employment
- engagement in service delivery decision making and planning

A New Ambition for Old Age: Next Steps in Implementing the National Service Framework for Older People (Department of Health)

2007**Independence and Opportunity - Our Strategy for Supporting People (DCLG)**

This strategy is based on four key themes; Keeping people that need services at the heart of the programme; Enhancing partnership with the Third Sector; Delivering in the new Local Government landscape, and; Increasing efficiency and reducing bureaucracy. Aims:

- Capture and share best practice about what an effective, user-focused model of support looks like
- Clearly set out what service users can expect and influence locally through the development of charters for independent living, linked to best practice
- Ensure that people receiving Supporting People services are kept properly informed about what is happening, particularly when changes are being made which could affect future delivery of those services
- Ensure that access to services is not unnecessarily restricted through local connections or administrative boundaries, particularly for groups of people, such as survivors of domestic violence or gypsies and travellers, who tend to be mobile
- Explore the inclusion of housing support in the emerging Common Assessment Framework for Adults, which would allow a person's health, social care and housing support needs to be assessed at the same time
- Publish a National Housing Strategy for an Ageing Society which will review current provision and plan for the future in the context of an ageing society. It will look at all tenure groups and will cover the whole spectrum of mainstream and specialist housing. It will outline how it can ensure housing and housing support services rise to the challenge of demographic change
- Enhance service user choice and control by using the learning from the Individual Budget pilots and other choice led personal funding mechanisms

NATIONAL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES - HOUSING FOCUS**2000****Quality and Choice: A Decent Home for All – The way forward for Housing (DETR, DSS)**

This provides the Government's policy framework for housing, covering: local partnerships; sustainable home ownership; promotion of the private rented sector; the quality of social housing; the provision of new affordable housing; promotion of choice in social housing lettings; strengthening the protection available to the homeless; new forms of tenure for social housing; moving to a fairer system of affordable social rents; improving Housing Benefit; tackling other forms of housing-related social exclusion.

2001**Quality and Choice for older peoples' Housing: a strategic framework (DETR, DH)****2002****Affordable Homes, Strong Communities – housing for older people (HC)**

2003**Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future**

Regional Housing Strategies identify key priorities in each region, ensure a link with regional economic and spatial strategies, identify sub-regional themes, and provide a basis on which decisions on housing capital investment can be made. Regional Housing Strategies were introduced in the Communities Plan (2003). The Strategies aim to: set out a picture of the current housing situation across the region; be based on robust up-to-date evidence; cover all tenures - not just social housing; set out a vision for the region; set out priorities for action; cover the medium to long-term; identify sub-regions based on housing markets; show clear links to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies.

Strategy for Housing Older People in England (Housing Corporation)

Sets out the Housing Corporation's broad approach to housing and services for older people.

2005**Delivering Housing for an Ageing Population (HOPDEV)**

The Housing and Older People Development Group, is an independent body, supported and sponsored by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department of Health. It has advised Government on older people's housing issues since 2001, when it was set up to help Government deliver the Strategic Framework linked to *Quality and Choice for Older People's Housing*. HOPDEV is now advising on the development of the National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society.

20/20 a vision for housing and care (EROSH)

Produced by EROSH and a variety of partner organisations, the report is aimed at 'a society where people will be able to access and benefit from the housing support, telecare and health services they aspire to, with a full knowledge of the options available'.

2006**Code for Sustainable Homes (DCLG)**

The Code includes the objective of building to Lifetime Homes standards.

2007**Homes for the Future: More Affordable, More Sustainable (DCLG)**

The aim of this paper is to promote well-designed and good quality homes, with a wider objective of improving the quality of life for all members of the community, as well as creating safer and stronger communities and improving the environment.

Independence and Opportunity - Our Strategy for Supporting People

Department for Communities and Local Government: June 2007

Design and Quality Standards

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Housing Strategy for Older People (*due 2007*)

Importantly, a National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society, to be published in autumn 2007, will set out more detail about ensuring housing growth responds to the needs of an ageing population. A Pre-Strategy consultation was commenced in May 2007.

The Social Exclusion Unit report *A Sure Start to Later Life - Ending inequalities for Older People* (January 2006) committed Communities and Local Government, working with the Department of Health, DEFRA and external partners, to developing a strategy for housing and older people. Work on the strategy is now underway and we plan to publish the strategy in Summer 2007.

NATIONAL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES - GENERAL FOCUS
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Government Research

The Government plays a key role in determining the future development of housing and support provision and commissions a broad raft of research and reports that help influence the actions at a local level. A current example is the Department of Communities and Local Government's report 'Impact of Demographic Change on Housing', due later in 2007. The project has four main objectives: describe the key features of the current housing situation of older people; understand the implications of an ageing population on a future housing market by developing scenarios based on current trends; understand current and future older people's reasons for choices, housing requirements and future aspirations and consider what implications there might be for a National Housing Strategy for an Ageing Society.

Best Value in Housing Framework

Best Value is a key element of the Government's programme to modernise local government, and places best value authorities under a duty to seek continuous improvement in the way in which they exercise their functions. The Best Value Service Delivery Indicators are designed to enable comparisons to be made between the performances of different authorities, including different types of authorities, and within an authority over time. Authorities have to set targets against all indicators, which are relevant to the services they provide.

The Older Persons' Strategy expects to deliver indications of Best Value through:

- Providing a strategy for responding to national objectives and being able to demonstrate that the Strategy is being implemented
- Working to local objectives and performance measures established that reflect national priorities and Best Value
- Contributing to the planning of services in a co-ordinated way in partnership with other local stakeholders
- Working in partnership with local older peoples' voluntary organisations in developing services – not merely consulting them
- Providing appropriate channels for communicating directly with older people themselves to obtain their views and evidence that the views inform future planning
- Providing services that actively promote independence and choice; are fair and consistent; treat customers with dignity, and respect individual cultures and lifestyles; are accessible to all, and address social exclusion issues; are sufficiently flexible to meet individual needs and are capable of adapting quickly to changing circumstances
- Providing information about services that is comprehensive and covers all available choices; is in clear, simple language setting out the main eligibility criteria; is available in a variety of accessible formats; and is freely available to older people, families and carers and voluntary organizations
- Providing Consultation in forms older people are comfortable with, which are likely not to be formal public meetings; and which involve older people on a wide range of, not just 'older people's', issues, and are followed by clear reporting on outcomes and feedback to contributors

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