

**'Doorbells – Dreaming for the Future'**  
**A 'pack of cards' to guide later life housing conversations**

**Background to the pack**

Elders Council of Newcastle have worked in partnership with Skimstone Arts and Northumbria University to develop a theatre production ('Doorbells – Dreaming for the Future'), designed to engage and promote conversations about how we think about, and plan for our later life housing needs. Built around the production, this standalone resource pack and accompanying film are designed to facilitate others in hosting similar events and conversations. This work was funded by Care and Repair England, an independent charitable organisation working to improve older people's housing.

**Where can I find the film?**

<http://skimstone.org.uk/doorbells-dreaming-for-the-future-film/>

**Suggestions for hosting the conversation**

1. We found discussion to work well in small groups (around 5-10 people)
2. Consider starting the conversation by asking each group member for a one word reflection on the film
3. Suggested discussion questions are provided overleaf
4. The enclosed feedback postcard can be useful in gathering additional responses and reflections from the audience
5. Please use the final card to let us know how you have used the film/resource pack/performance

**We hope that you find this resource useful**



# Doorbells

**Tell us what you think!**



### **Suggested discussion questions:**

1. Thinking about the character (as well as your own experiences), how much do we think about our future selves/homes throughout our lives?
  - o What kinds of homes do we imagine we'll live in at different times throughout our lives? Why is this the case?
  - o What kind of neighbourhoods – rural/urban? And why?
  - o How important are connections in the community? In what ways and why?
2. How might plans for our future homes be affected by our family structure, for example:
  - o People ageing without children
  - o People who are caring for relatives as they age themselves
3. What sources of support do you think might be available/helpful for the character and others in her circumstances?
4. How often do you feel there is a gap between aspirations and reality when we're thinking about our future homes? E.g. between what we want versus what is available/affordable
5. What's needed to help us better plan for and manage our housing needs and decisions as we grow older? (e.g. more accessible information etc.)

### **We'd be really grateful for your feedback**

How, if at all, has the performance prompted you to think more about where and how you might be living as you grow older?

**Please post your feedback in the box provided**

**Thank you!**

**Please tell us more about how you have used the film, resource pack and/or theatre performance here...**

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