

Better Homes for Older People who live in Wirral:

A Housing Manifesto 2019



OLDER PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT believe that everyone should have access to a decent home, whatever their age. Decision makers across housing, benefits, social care and health need to work together to achieve this outcome.

We want Wirral Housing providers to commit to the following:

- Improve existing homes for health and well-being in later life by introducing mandatory guidance.
- Home adaptations should be delivered quickly and efficiently, and all assessments should be a core part of integrated social care and housing systems.
- Wirral needs a practical affordable housing repair service for older people, including the handyman service with safe and efficient work carried out by reliable persons.
- Local authority house condition audits need to be introduced for all older person's housing whether owner occupied, private rental or social housing to tackle disrepair and prevent stock decline.
- Build all new homes for all ages and abilities. All new homes should be built to accessible standards to prevent forced moving in later life and should also be suitable for specific adaptation if needed.
- Introduce housing regulations not guidelines for design for all new build housing.
- Build a wider range of supported housing for those with care and support needs, including social needs.
- Provide an independent source of timely, integrated housing advice and information for older people. This will enable informed decisions to be made by older people when looking at housing needs. Combine this with an emergency housing service that is well advertised.
- Provide a register of accessible, adaptable housing to help older people locate suitable homes quickly.
- Engage older people from Wirral in the planning of the housing strategy that considers solutions for all tenures and places housing at the heart of the social care and well-being plan for Wirral.
- Provide guidance on how to develop local plans on how Wirral will meet the needs of older and disabled people (2017 Housing White Paper). The Wirral guidance needs to make it clear that development plans should link housing, health and care policies together more effectively.

- Clearly show how Lifetime Homes standards can be implemented in the Housing Strategy for Wirral house building and adaptations.
- Include the Nationally Prescribed Space Standard used in the Buildings Regulations in all plans and guidance.
- Local plans need to have robust policies about how it affects/improves housing and health for older people.
- Increase capital funding for Disabled Facilities Grant and introduce small 'Healthy at Home' grants.
- Design an Older Person's Housing strategy co-designed with Older People who live in Wirral.
- Wirral Borough Council's 2030 plan should include provision to meet all identified housing needs for older people.
- Introduce an identified Housing officer for Older People.

103,638
over 65's
in Wirral
(JSNA 2013)



1 in 5 people in England reported a disability in 2011 census



7 in 10 A&E falls admissions are 65+,
7 in 10 of these are female



Good housing is fundamental to health and well-being. The local plan will deliver neighbourhood health care in local areas and good housing is vital for these changes to work and for people to be cared for in the community.



Falls in Wirral cost the health and social care economy approx. **£8.9** million per year.

Wirral Older People's Parliament is the voice of older people living on Wirral. We are a not for profit voluntary group aiming to raise awareness on the impact of poor housing on health and wellbeing. For details of what we do please see wirralopp.co.uk



The estimated cost of poor housing to the NHS in UK is **£1.4** billion per annum.