



Summary of meetings

Older People's Housing Champions network

Meeting 1: 11 June 2013 There was enthusiasm for the network which aims to: -

- support older activists in housing,
- raise the profile of housing and ageing among older people's groups,
- identify emerging issues in housing directly from older people,
- act as a sounding board for issues such as the Silverlinks project
- ensure that the voices of older people are heard in the housing policy and practice arena.

The meeting enabled the sharing of activity on housing in the regions. There was a discussion of the plans for the Silverlinks project and a debate about the European declaration on ActiveAgeing@Home

Meeting 2: 14 October 2013 agreed that network members would comment on a developing report from Care & Repair England on health and housing to be launched early next year. The network is also developing its manifesto asks in housing and ageing.

A short presentation by Tony Watts on the network and on the key housing issues will be included at the UKAFA (United Kingdom Advisory Forum on Ageing) meeting in late November. Network members also provided critical input into the Flagship bid for Care & Repair England's Silverlinks project and will play a crucial role in developing and supporting the project should it be successful.

Meeting 3: 12 March 2014 discussed the success of the Silverlinks project and planned how members will work locally with Care & Repair England to enable older people who are facing life changing choices concerning their homes and living situations to make well informed decisions.

Work shared across the network included an update on the interagency group in Derby developing links across housing, health and social care; how locally the Better Care Fund was addressing housing with a mixed picture identified; local plans for conferences and seminars that focus on housing and ageing and work in Newcastle to consider the integration of housing, health and care from the older person's perspective.

The group also debated and agreed it's 'manifesto asks' due to be published later this year and advised on work to develop a better evidence base for housing interventions

Meeting 4: 3 June 14 included a presentation from Jo Oldman from Age UK on their report on housing and ageing, considered the next stage for Silverlinks and finalised the network manifesto. Work shared across the network included local conferences held (NW) and planned (WM) on housing and ageing, work on developing a local housing plan in Leeds, a focus on older people as consumers in the SE and a project in Newcastle to identify what integration looks like from the point of view of a consumer.

Meeting 5: 25 November 14 heard about Care & Repair England's plans to produce a report on decent homes and undertook a review of the work of the network to date to plan the next year's action. Work shared across the network included , work in Leeds to influence the local

housing strategy, the development of age friendly homes in Derbyshire and work being undertaken by SEEFA for the LGA on older people's attitudes to local councils.

Meeting 6: 10 March 15 considered its workplan for 2015/16, discussed next steps for Silverlinks and considered the impact of housing and care advice for older people. Work shared included local actions plans across the network such as linking housing to the Care Act and to health, influencing local housing strategies, digital inclusion and the role of technology and developing a new anti ageist narrative.

Meeting 7: 8 July 15 discussed emerging housing issues post-election and in particular the future of Disabled Facilities Grants. A briefing was produced by Care & Repair England to argue the case for funding in future. On Silverlinks, new pipeline projects were welcomed and the group considered the development of a network of local trainers. We also shared work locally across the country on reviews of local housing strategies, on working with housing associations and on the vexed issue of influencing planners so that housing was fully engaged with social care and health planning.

Meeting 8: 6 April 16 began to develop the network's s influencing priorities in the new landscape sharing ideas from local action on influencing local housing strategy and working with the JSNA to engage housing. The group also offered comments on Care and Repair England's guides on making homes healthy for people with long term conditions. On Silverlinks it was noted that a priority for the next phase was to promote workshops and self-help guides and undertake an evaluation of the Silverlinks approach

Meeting 9: July 16 included a workshop session on evaluating Silverlinks and the group further developed its influencing plan with the aim of refreshing the groups manifesto on housing focusing on 'housing as the hub.' Over the summer case studies of local action will be developed and further resources for local action including 'how to do' cameos. Local action included plans in the W Midlands to survey members about what is a good later life, listening events in Leeds to develop the council's housing strategy and local engagement with emerging NHS Sustainability and Transformation plans to ensure housing is a part.

Meeting 10: Nov 16 The meeting welcomed new members - Joan Rutherford, from Manchester and Maureen Tilsley and Alan Gowers, from Newcastle Elders. It heard about the new Age Friendly charter in Leeds, the survey being undertaken in the West Midlands on older people's experience and views of ageing and the new narrative on ageing produced by SEEFA in the S East. The University of the West of England researchers attended the meeting to discuss their research for the Centre for Ageing Better. The group gave them its views on the issues of concern for older people on adaptations services and agreed to feed in any material to the literature review for the research. It was agreed the group would update its manifesto welcoming an article written by Tony Watts on his views on housing and ageing which offered much to consider.

Meeting 11: April 17

The group finalised its Housing Manifesto for 2017 and planned its promotion. The issues raised form the group's current work priorities. It was sent to prospective MPs and influencers just before the hastily called election. Sheila Mackintosh from the University of the West of England presented the initial findings of the adaptations research for the Centre for Ageing Better and the group offered comments for the final report and guidance being published. A presentation from Joan Rutherford on age friendly issues in Manchester gave much food for thought for

action locally and nationally and the group also heard about the launch of EngAge net – the new national forum aimed at engaging older people. On Silverlinks, the group noted the focus on working with other agencies to embed housing options advice in their work and welcomed the new project in Hackney with 10 projects now working across the country to offer older people peer support and housing options advice.

Meeting 12: July 17

In welcoming support from Esmee Fairburn Charitable Trust the group developed its programme for 2017/18 and beyond agreeing areas for briefing and training in housing and agreeing to work locally in the NW, NE and Y and H to meet the outcomes agreed. It was noted that a successful information day on housing was held in Newcastle and that Newcastle Elders will be influencing a Future Homes project in the NE. SEEFA produced their comments on the Queen's speech including in relation to housing and are working to get businesses including those working in housing to engage better with older people. Leeds Older People's Forum continue to work to influence the local housing Strategic housing market assessment and housing strategy. With regard to Silverlinks the group focused on who to engage with locally and nationally to continue to influence bodies to offer housing options guidance to older people.

Meeting 13: Nov 17

The meeting identified concerns about the lack of diversity in new housing across the regions with many groups aiming to influence local housing strategies. It was agreed that engaging with planning too was key. The group agreed that a joint meeting with the Trustees to include a briefing on planning would be useful. An action plan was agreed for the group over the next two years with local housing work developing in Leeds and Newcastle to engage vulnerable groups of older people in housing issues. On Silverlinks, the group offered comments on a decluttering project being initiated by Care & Repair England and heard about new initiatives in the Silverlinks project. Health and housing links is a regular item on the agenda and it was noted how hard it still can be to engage local health structures with housing.

Meeting 14: Mar 18

Local feedback from champions identified a range of issues which would be important to consider for the Manifesto the group planned to develop later in the year so it was agreed that the next meeting would aim to identify the key priorities. The group also spent time identifying what older people should expect from adaptations services to feed into work with the Centre for Ageing Better. A joint meeting with the Care & Repair England Trustees also discussed the priorities for Care & Repair England and ways to work more closely together on key housing issues. This was followed by a presentation from the TCPA on planning and ageing which, it was agreed, would lead to a brief for local older people's action groups on influencing local planning

Meeting 15: July 18

It was noted that SEEFA and Leeds Older People's Forum were working on issues of housing advice for older people which, it was agreed, would be a key area for the group in 2019 having also debated the learning from Silverlinks. Engage net had produced its new narrative on aging and was about to undertake a series of mature conversations including on housing. It was noted the Derbyshire would be producing a new local housing strategy soon which was welcomed. The group discussed the work on adaptations undertaken by Care & Repair England for the

Centre for Ageing better and noted that safe and accessible homes would be a priority. All the resources produced by the housing champions were reviewed and a timetable developed to update them and it was noted that the planning brief would be published soon

Meeting 16: Nov 18

It was noted that many local councils were consulting on issues in the private rented sector. Local groups were urged to respond on issue for older tenants. Concern was expressed that the House Builders Federation was challenging planning expectation on accessible housing. A strategy to act was discussed and agreed. There was also a discussion of possible local projects on housing and ageing to take forward in the South, London and the W Midlands and the group agreed to update the manifesto and draft a key asks paper for the Spending Review in 2019 and a new infographic.

Meeting 17: March 19

The Champions provided a local update from each of the regions. An update on the Year 2 local projects on housing and ageing was provided with activities being carried out in the South East; West Midlands and London. The second part of the meeting involved a joint meeting between the Housing Champions and Care and Repair England Board, and a presentation by Helen Garrett from the Building Research Establishment around the subject of disrepair.

Meeting 18: July 19

Local updates from each of the Champions regions was provided. The meeting was informed that the Year two activities in the South East; West Midlands and London had been carried out and follow up reports had been written. The focus on the rest of the meeting was on non-decent homes and the development of the DFG adaptations Champions Checklist.

Meeting 19: November 19

The Housing Champions provided local updates from the 9 regions across England. An update on continued work from the Year 2 local projects was provided and initial ideas for the Year 3 local project were discussed, they include ideas for local activities in the East Midlands; South West and the East. The remainder of the meeting was focussed on discussing work priorities of non-decent homes; HoME Coalition and adaptations including the launch of the finalised DFG Challenge checklist and the upcoming House of Lords event which focusses address non-decent homes.

Meeting 20: March 20

There was a shorter meeting due to the House of Lord Event (Care and Repair England and Centre for Ageing Better) in the afternoon. The second half of the meeting included a joint meeting between the Housing Champions and Care and Repair England Board. An update on Year 3 local activities was provide to include projects in the East; East Midlands and the South West. A discussion over future projects was continued after the updates. The joint meeting highlighted the new Home and Dry report produced by Care and Repair England and The Centre for Ageing Better, which highlights the state of decent homes and the impact on health and wellbeing amongst older populations. The report was launched at the House of Lords event in the afternoon.