

# Age, Home and Community:

The First Five Years



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# AGE, HOME AND COMMUNITY – THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

## FOREWORD

In 2011 the Scottish Government and COSLA published Age Home and Community: A Strategy for Housing for Scotland's Older People. The strategy presented a vision for making housing and housing-related support work well for older people along with the outcomes we wanted to achieve and a set of actions we would take to achieve this. At the heart of this strategy was the knowledge that older people consistently say they want to remain at home as they age, and that living in the right home with the right physical features and having access to the right support services can provide the key to people being able to do this.

The strategy laid down a challenge for public services to pursue an urgent and sustained programme of reform, focused on improving outcomes through greater integration of public services at a local level – and achieving this despite the challenging economic situation and public sector funding constraints. It recognised an opportunity to change Scotland's housing for Older People to make Scotland a better and fairer place, and called for partners to work together to achieve that vision.

At the midpoint of the 10 year strategy, this document sets out the key commitments made in 2011 and the progress made against these so far. This is an opportunity to recognise the progress made and celebrate some of the vital work going on across Scotland to ensure the Housing system is playing its part in rising to meet the changing needs and aspirations of Scotland's older population.

Since 2011, significant progress has been made across the system. Collectively across Scottish Government, COSLA and partners across the Housing sector, we have reviewed and updated local planning regulations to better reflect the needs of older people; placed older peoples' housing clearly within the new integrated health and social care landscape; taken steps to ensure high quality advice for older people on their housing options; implemented a fuel poverty strategy to help older people maintain a warm, comfortable home environment; provided practical advice to make best use of existing stock and taken steps to ensure new housing stock is available which meets older people's needs.

While we are making progress, we must also ensure we continue to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities in achieving our vision for older people's housing by 2021. That is why we are continuing to work with stakeholders to develop a refreshed strategy and delivery plan which will follow in autumn 2017. For now, the report which follows sets out some examples of progress and innovative practise, alongside an assessment of our work so far.



**Kevin Stewart**  
Minister for Local Government and Housing



**Councillor Kelly Parry**  
Spokesperson for Community Wellbeing COSLA

## OVERVIEW

The 2011 Age, Home and Community strategy set out a range of initiatives with the collective aim of better supporting older people to live independently at home as they age. This is something that older people consistently tell us they want, and as set out in the original strategy the housing sector has a number of crucial contributions to ensuring this can happen:

- Ensuring an appropriate balance of housing provision
- Providing specialist housing with care and support
- Providing housing adaptations and other preventative property-related services
- Providing information and advice on housing and support services
- Building new housing, both mainstream and specialist, which is adaptable
- Supporting local communities through wider activities, such as promotion of community cohesion

This review reports what progress has been made towards each of the 34 original commitments in the first 5 years of the 10 year strategy, as well as highlighting some examples of exemplary practice that have developed in this time. The document is organised according to the five original themes of:

01 Clear strategic leadership

02 Information and advice

03 Better use of existing housing

04 Preventative support services

05 New build housing

Much has been achieved across the sector since Age, Home and Community was published in December 2011, but we recognise there is more to do and further to go, particularly to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities, and to tackle some of the greatest challenges, including moving to a truly preventative model and responding to the changing needs and aspirations of Scotland's older population. This document captures our progress at the midway point but we will be continuing to work with stakeholders, including older people themselves, to fully meet the ambitions of the Age, Home and Community strategy and improve outcomes for the older population of Scotland up to 2021, and beyond. Our refreshed strategy, to be published later in the autumn, will set out the steps to achieve this.

## 01 CLEAR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

**We said: we will publish a national strategy for housing for older people.**

We published a [national strategy](#) in December 2011



**We said: we will increase use of housing-related services to support the local objectives of the Change Fund for Older People's Services.**

We worked with the Change Fund to embed use of housing-related services in their approach and issued the [Final report of the Change Fund](#) in 2015.



**We said: we will update assessment criteria for housing and related support needs of older people within local strategic planning processes for housing.**

We published Revised Guidance for Strategic Housing Investment Plans in July 2014 and updated Local Housing Strategy guidance. We published a Technical Guide to inform analysis of strategic needs assessments of housing interventions required to deliver national health and wellbeing outcomes. We held regional master-classes to support strategic planners in housing, health and social care to identify the housing changes required locally.

We issued a Housing Advice Note explaining the requirements on Integrated Joint Boards in relation to housing.

Support was provided by ihub (formerly JIT) housing team to eight partnerships to develop the housing components of their Strategic Commissioning Plans.



**We said: we will identify a business case for housing and related support to achieve the outcomes we are seeking for reshaping care for older people and increase the evidence base for housing-related preventative support services.**

Research was published by the [SFHA](#), [GWSF](#) and [CCHAs in Glasgow](#) on the contribution of housing associations and co-operatives to supporting older people to live at home. Later in 2012 this was followed by JIT research on the role and impact of housing services in the context of 'shifting the balance of care'.

We published a Housing Advice Note in September 2015 which made it clear that housing has an important role to play in the successful integration of health and social care service. Legislation and guidance set out that the housing sector must be represented in the key planning groups - both at Partnership level and in the localities.

We put collaboration with the housing sector at the heart of the Partnerships' thinking and planning by requiring each of the new integration authorities to produce a Housing Contribution Statement (HCS) as an integral part of its Strategic Commissioning Plan.



**We said: we will encourage the development of new models of housing with care and support in all tenures.**

We have included a manifesto commitment to "consider introduction of a similar scheme to Help to Buy, for new build homes to encourage growth in the retirement housing sector to better meet the need for affordable retirement homes, sheltered and very sheltered housing." There are a number of initiatives already available such as new Supplied Shared Equity including the Abbey Place development. We have been working on a number of further options for older people which we will launch later this year.

**In progress**



## CASE STUDIES

### **Review of Sheltered Housing, Aberdeen City Council**

In 2013, following a review of integrated housing and social care in Aberdeen, social work, housing and the independent sector care at home providers came together to agree responsibilities for meeting service user needs across the City. In all Aberdeen City Council owned sheltered and very sheltered housing, the local authority would provide for personal care and most housing support needs. The private and voluntary sector providers would in the main provide care and support to those service users living in the community (out with sheltered housing).

Within sheltered housing the integrated teams removed duplication of tasks by combining duties undertaken by sheltered housing wardens and senior carers into one role – Senior Personal Carer. Each complex was allocated a team of personal carers who work both within the complex and can provide short term interventions in the local area as required. The Senior Personal Carer leads the team and is responsible for monitoring and reviewing individuals' care plans, allocating work to care staff, for both ongoing and short term interventions, and provide support and supervision to the staff. The teams do not change, ensuring a team who are known to service users and importantly staff who know the needs and preferences of their service users. Feedback from service users and carers has been positive and provides a more flexible and responsive approach.

### **Housing for Older People Strategy Group, North Lanarkshire Council**

North Lanarkshire Council established a Housing for Older People's Strategy Group which meets every eight weeks to discuss strategy action plans which set out specific work streams to meet the housing and support needs of older people. They have completed their first action plan which included five strategic housing priorities including: developing a range of mid-market, shared equity and equity release housing options; reviewing the council's sheltered housing allocation policy and re-designating specialist older people's housing; and review the housing options approach for older people. They have recently agreed their second action plan which sets out any actions they are still to complete and new actions such as meeting the needs of people supported in community settings with dementia or complex support needs as identified and linked to their Local Housing Strategy. [North Lanarkshire Council - Local Housing Strategy 2016-2021.](#)

## 02 INFORMATION AND ADVICE

**We said: we will encourage organisations providing information and advice to older people to gain accreditation under the National Standards.**

The *Scottish National Standards for Information and Advice Providers (SNSIAP): A Quality Assurance Framework (2009)* is the accepted quality framework for agencies providing advice on housing, money, debt and welfare benefits issues. The government-funded scheme reopened in November 2016 and in June 2017 the first four advice agencies to receive accreditation under the Scottish Government's new quality assurance model were announced.



**We said: we will pilot a housing options approach for older people.**

We included this as an action in the Joint Housing Delivery Plan for Scotland and a project group was set up. This includes the Scottish Government, Housing Options Scotland, Age Scotland and Inclusion Scotland. Together we have been gathering information from older and disabled people to identify what information they want from a Housing Options service. Partners are continuing to work with older and disabled people to gather current information.

In progress

**We said: we will review information for older people on the House Key website.**

We reviewed the website and it became clear that the information held was readily available elsewhere so in 2015 it was agreed that the website would no longer be maintained.



**We said: we will review information and advice on housing and support for older people.**

We mapped out the high level national housing advice provision. We recognised that it was overly complicated to map local provision and concluded that the important thing was to ensure individuals had access to advice, rather than focus on where it originated.



## CASE STUDIES

### Age Scotland

The Age Scotland helpline provides access to information, friendship and advice through a confidential Freephone number. This service is available to older people, their families and carers. The service specialises in enquiries about care, benefits, housing, heating and legal and end-of-life issues as well as providing information about services and opportunities to reduce isolation and engage with the local community.

One example of the helpline in action involved Mr A; a man in his late 70's who lived alone. Mr A had a number of health issues and recently had an operation which had made it more difficult for him to complete day-to-day tasks such as cooking. Mr A also explained that since his operation he has been keeping his heating on 24 hours a day, resulting in higher than usual bills and wanted to know how he could reduce his energy costs. He received no disability benefits and stated that his income was too high to enable him to access means-tested benefits.

The Age Scotland adviser offered a referral to Home Energy Scotland and Citizens Advice energy comparison website. The adviser explained how to get assistance to claim Attendance Allowance (AA) and gave information on the application process as well as help to complete the application. The Adviser provided information on AA and explained that Mr A may be entitled to means-tested benefits. As Mr A had served in the army, he was also provided with information and contact details for Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA) and Armed Services Advice Project (ASAP) and offered a referral.

### Care and Repair

Care and Repair services operate across Scotland and offer personal, financial and technical support to people who need to repair, improve or adapt a home which is no longer suitable to the person's needs. The service is available to owner-occupiers, private tenants and crofters who are aged over 60 or who have a disability.



The provision of advice and information is a central part of Care and Repair's role, as well as providing practical assistance with grant applications and co-ordinating repairs. Care and Repair is a home-based and personalised service which puts the client in control of decisions.

A concerned neighbour contacted Care and Repair as Miss C was boiling snow and river water to drink and bathe as her water pipes had burst due to cold weather. Care and Repair accessed an energy grant to provide heating and insulation to the home and the client was able to remain in her cottage. Care and Repair also provided a benefits check which resulted in an increased weekly income.



## 03 BETTER USE OF EXISTING HOUSING

**We said: we will support development of expertise/knowledge on adaptation of existing housing to improve its suitability for people with dementia and associated support for staff development.**

In June 2013 Improving the Design of Housing to assist People with Dementia was published as a design guide on adaptation of housing for people with dementia. In spring 2016 three Care & Repair projects (Aberdeen, Angus and Lochaber) were awarded grant funding for three years to develop a dementia enablement service. In addition, the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) commissioned research on the workforce requirements associated with dementia. Dementia Pathways Housing's Role Key research findings were published in March 2017.



**We said: we will consider fundamental change to the funding and delivery of housing adaptations.**

In November 2012 the Adaptations Working Group completed its final report; then in March 2013 Scottish Government issued a response to the Adaptations Working Group.

In August 2014 a number of Adapting for Change demonstration sites were identified (Borders, Falkirk, Aberdeen, Fife and Lochaber) which in March 2015 were then awarded £150,000 from the Technology Enabled Care Fund to support expansion of telecare, with greater connection with the housing sector. Key research findings and full report were published in September 2017.

**In progress**

**We said: We will support improvement of housing quality in the social rented sector.**

In October 2012 Scottish Social Housing Charter indicators were published, followed by Scotland's Sustainable Housing Strategy in June 2013. In March 2014, the new energy efficiency standard for social housing (ESSH) was published, followed by publication of the first Social Housing Charter reports in August 2014.



**We said: we will implement a Fuel Poverty Strategy and support the development of programmes which help older people to maintain a comfortable and warm home environment.**

In November 2012 the [Warm Homes Fund](#) was launched, followed by the Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland in April 2013. In March 2014 the Fuel Poverty Forum published the [final report on its review of the Fuel Poverty Strategy](#), then in December 2014 [Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland \(HEEPS\) Summary Delivery Report 2013/14](#) was published. HEEPS interest free loans were launched in April 2015 and in September the launch of Warmer Homes Scotland, the Scottish Government's flagship national fuel poverty scheme. In autumn 2017, following consultation, we expect to publish a consultation paper on a new long term fuel poverty strategy, and Scottish Government will introduce a Warm Homes Bill in 2018 to set a new statutory fuel poverty target.



**We said: we will support development of a register of accessible housing.**

In 2015 a register of accessible housing was put into operation. Scottish Government continues to work with Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living (GCIL) to recognise good practice and increase participation.



**We said: we will support the extension of information and advice to help home owners find reliable tradespeople.**

We reviewed the existing sources of information and while this varied across local areas, there are good sources of information from local authorities, charities and trusted trader schemes. We will continue to work with stakeholders to develop trusted sources of information and advice to help with repairs and maintenance.



**We said: we will provide practical advice about the development of supported housing and put in place arrangements to make best use of resources from all sources including NHS, local authorities and benefits.**

In 2014 the JIT produced a report [Step Up and Step Down](#) looking at intermediate care in Scotland. In March 2015 the Joint Improvement Team supported a RSL consortium to develop housing with care solutions for those with complex needs. In May 2015 a number of pilots were established for the provision of step up/step down accommodation in sheltered housing (Borders, Falkirk and Edinburgh) with the Scottish Government paying for voids. While some of these were successful, others were not sustainable in the longer term. In March 2017 a [Home not hospital presentation](#) provided an update on interim supported accommodation. The next phase will be to respond to UK Government changes to supported accommodation funding arrangements. Work is underway on developing these new arrangements.



**We said: we will prepare a practical guide to the redevelopment of existing sheltered housing.**

A [practice guide](#) was published by the Joint Improvement Team in August 2013.



**We said: we will consider whether there are ways of, and benefits to, developing financial products that are more attractive.**

In April 2015 we launched a two year Help to Adapt pilot to test this approach. A report setting out the key learning points is expected by the end of summer 2017.



**We said: we will consider potential for new, mixed or flexible tenure arrangements.**

In November 2012 the Adaptations Working Group completed their [final report](#) which included research on financial products and opportunities for alternative tenure models. We issued a [response](#) to the report in February 2013 confirming our continuing co-operation with local authorities, housing associations, service users and others in the housing sector and beyond to take the recommendations forward. These included: adaptations to be centred around the individual; a broader outcomes focused service; looking at funding of adaptations; and greater partnership working.



**We said: we will reshape information and advice services on housing, support and care options for older people.**

We have reviewed and developed information and advice for older people on living arrangements (housing, care and support) to ensure best use is made of information. Examples include Care Information Scotland: a phone, web chat and website service providing information about care services for people living in Scotland; the Social Housing Charter which contains the outcomes and standards that all social landlords should achieve for their tenants and other customers. Both put the person at the centre to ensure the advice is right for them.



## CASE STUDIES

### Angus Dementia Enablement Service

Funded by the [Life Change Trust](#), this service provides early intervention and engagement around home issues rather than focus on the condition. There are many aids which can help those with dementia including:

- Weekly planner with removable stickers for nurse, doctor, day care, cleaner etc.
- Magi plug to avoid the bath running over
- Coloured grab rails to stand out from white background
- Daylight bulbs
- Picture stickers to identify different rooms or cupboards in kitchen

The service can also involve working with the client to solve an individual problem. For example, one client had reverted to sleeping on the couch and not using her bedroom. Initially they thought it might be the cold in the bedroom or the inability to work the radiator in the bedroom. However, working with the client they finally found she had forgotten how to use the remote control for the television in the bedroom which was resolved by writing out step by step instructions.

### Immediate to let Sheltered Housing

Housing Options Scotland (HOS) have established a close working relationship with a sheltered housing provider (Trust Housing Association) that has assisted when clients present who are in extreme housing need. The clients have been potentially homeless, in unsuitable accommodation or unable to return home after a period in hospital.

One example is a 90-year-old lady, who lived with her son and was about to be made homeless as her son's house was being repossessed. HOS assisted her every step of the way from sourcing two suitable sheltered housing properties for her to view, accompanying her on the viewings, going along with her to present as homeless, arranging for the section five referral to be sent to Trust and working with her Social Worker throughout the process to ensure benefits and other supports were in place. The suitable properties for this client were identified and viewings arranged within two days of HOS first speaking to the client's son. The speed of the service prevented the client from being required to move into homeless temporary accommodation at the age of 90, which obviously was a huge worry for her and her family.



## Trust Housing Association Design Guides

Trust Housing Association, in partnership with North Lanarkshire's Health and Social Care Partnership, commissioned a set of design guides which aim to help social landlords adapt their existing housing stock to meet the changing needs of older people. While many new houses are being built, a large proportion of existing houses will remain in use for many years. Making cost-effective adaptations to existing stock is a key priority to ensure housing is suitably adapted to meet older peoples' needs. The guides provide specific guidance on adapting and remodelling existing stock, better use of colour and signage in housing developments for older people and creating attractive internal and outdoor spaces with improved access to daylight. Downloadable versions of the design guides are available below:

[Colour and Wayfinding; Daylight Spaces; Remodelling](#)



## Clever Cogs - Blackwood Homes and Care

Assisted Living Technologies (ALT) are devices that are designed to provide care and support to disabled and homebound adults. One such application has been developed by Blackwood Homes and Care to support the digital participation of its clients and improve their quality of life. Blackwood, with support from the Scottish Government's digital participation team is piloting the use of the Clever Cogs system within a small number of its care homes. Clever Cogs technology enables users to open curtains and switch on TVs, order shopping and ensure constant connection with family, friends and carers. Scottish Government's Digital Participation team has also supported an evaluation of this project. Over the period 2015/16 and 2016/17 grant funding of £110,000 has been made available. The objective is to gather evidence of the impact of the technology on a range of stakeholders and assess whether the technology is socially valuable to clients and whether there is a business case for expanding the use of the technology more widely to support the care of homebound and disabled adults across Scotland. A full SROI analysis and final report will be produced in 2018.

## Warmer Homes Scotland

When Mrs A, a 75-year-old householder from Crieff, saw her boiler break down in the middle of winter, she made a call to **Home Energy Scotland** in early February 2016 to see what help might be available.

She explains her situation: “Well, the boiler that was here was broken and beyond repair, I also had no hot water without the heating on as well. So someone mentioned there was a scheme where I could get a new boiler and I just went for it.”

A Warmworks surveyor found that her property had a SAP energy efficiency rating of 38, which indicated that there were a number of improvements that needed to be made in order to make the home warmer and more energy efficient. When the work was complete, Mrs A’s property has now improved to a SAP rating of 66, an increase of 42%.



## 04 PREVENTATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

**We said: we will look at options for extending the role of Care and Repair and businesses operating as social enterprises.**

Care and Repair organisations are run by a number of different organisations depending on location. Some are independent and run as social enterprises, others are within local councils and other are based within housing associations. They are involved in a number of projects such as digital participation, a 20 month project designed to identify, plan and implement small scale pilots to assess how digital technologies can enable people to live in their homes for longer. They are also working with Life Changes Trust to provide customised support services for people affected by dementia. We will continue to look at the scope and range of services provided by Care and Repair and the wider interaction with older people.

**In progress**

**We said: we will publicise and extend understanding of the role, contribution and benefits of housing support services.**

We gathered a collection of best practice examples and a [case study website](#) was established in 2012.



**We said: we will continue to develop telecare and telehealth care.**

In 2012 we published [A National Telehealth and Telecare Delivery Plan for Scotland to 2016](#), followed in 2014 by the launch of the Technology Enabled Care Programme. In 2016, £200,000 was made available to SFHA to host a housing engagement programme as part of TEC Programme. [Supporting and Empowering Scotland's Citizens: A National Action Plan for Technology Enabled Care](#) was published in October 2016 as well as scoping reports into the shift from analogue telecare to digital telecare.

**In progress**

**We said: we will assess the role of social landlords in providing handyperson services as part of their landlord responsibilities.**

We took forward the recommendations of the preventative support working group which identified the use of community benefit clauses in handyperson and gardening services which could support people into employment and increase the sustainability of the services.



**We said: we will help enable the role played by housing providers, as community anchor organisations, particularly the social rented sector, in building capacity and supporting social networks for older people.**

We provided funding through the People and Communities Fund (PCF) and this has created a number of opportunities to build social networks and reduce isolation among older people. For example Bield Housing Association Community Dementia Services. [Evaluation](#) of the community-led approach, as delivered through PCF was published in September 2017.



## CASE STUDIES

### **Bield Housing Association Community Dementia Services**

This project provides intensive support and services for older people with dementia living across Bield Housing projects in Kirkintilloch, Milngavie and Biggar. The service enables beneficiaries to dine with their family on a weekly basis and have a carer with them if needed. There are twice weekly evening care services to give carers respite. People and Communities Fund grant funded an IT training programme which taught older people how to use new technology such as ipads to access internet, online banking and music downloads. Weekly movement and art classes and a sensory garden promote increased social interaction, health and well-being and community integration.

### **Technology Enabled Care**

The Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Programme launched in 2014 and is aimed at expanding and embedding already tried and tested technology, such as telecare, telehealth, online self-management platforms and video conferencing, into routine care planning. For example, Mrs M lives in one of Glasgow's very sheltered housing complexes and had never used technology before but, following support to learn, is now using a tablet with a simple interface to contact family in Australia; to access a range of information on her health conditions and as a method to support her giving up smoking after many years. She is also one of the residents taking part in a small scale daily 'wellbeing check' Pilot which means she can video-conference with staff in the office in the morning to let them know that she is up and about.

### **Self-directed Support - Providing Rural Independent Support**

When Mary's mobility became impaired and her dementia progressed, her nephew and niece looked to find a solution that would allow her to get the support she needed and still remain in the home she loves. The family weren't sure what the final care plan would look like, but knew they didn't want Mary going into institutionalised care for the rest of her life.

The Local Authority did not have the capacity to provide the level of step by step support Mary's family needed to embark on the process of employing Personal Assistants. The solution they proposed was that she should move into a residential care placement over 30 miles away.

The family therefore approached Tagsa Uibhist (supported by the Support in the Right Direction Fund) who provided support to interview and recruit two people to work together to provide at home support for Mary. Tagsa provided the family with crucial support through the process from choosing appropriate interview questions, to seeking references and checking applicants' qualifications.

Mary has been happy and healthy at home, her family and friends can visit daily and everyone has been satisfied with the support she has received since her care package was implemented in March 2013.

The personalised and flexible solution found for Mary costs approximately the same as living in a middle of the range local care home and is less expensive than the closest care home.



## 05 NEW BUILD HOUSING

**We said: we will review whether current building and design standards meet the needs of older people.**

In July 2012 the first stage of comparison of Housing for Varying Needs standards, Scottish Building standards and Lifetime Homes standards was completed. This was followed in autumn 2014 by further work on housing standards by Housing Supply and Building Standards. 94% of houses built by housing associations and councils in 2015-16 met varying needs standards.

**In progress**

**We said: we will encourage the development of new models of housing with care and support in all tenures.**

Following on from the [case study website](#), we now need to work with partners including housing developers to address the needs and issues associated with providing appropriate homes for older people.

**In progress**

**We said: we will deliver an affordable housing supply programme, which enables local authorities to meet local needs, including for older people and disabled people.**

From April 2012 to March 2016, 2,358 homes specifically for older people and people with physical disabilities were delivered through the affordable housing supply programme. Over the lifetime of this Parliament over £3 billion is being invested to deliver at least 50,000 affordable homes across Scotland of which 35,000 will be for social rent. Local authorities are now required by law to prepare a local housing strategy supported by an assessment of housing need. [New Local Housing Strategy guidance for local authorities](#) was issued in August 2014.

**In progress**

**We said: we will increase awareness of the features of new housing that are important to older people and how they can be built into new developments.**

In 2012 a [planning case study website](#) was established to provide examples of how to develop housing that works for older people. In June 2014 an up-to-date Scottish Planning Policy was published, including a section on Specialist Housing Provision and Other Specific Needs. In 2017, we launched a planning consultation, followed by a Scottish Government position statement setting out how it will take forward 20 planning proposals including stronger local development plans that are supported by better community and developer involvement and earlier independent input; and giving people a new right to plan their own place. The intention is to introduce a planning bill by the end of 2017.

**In progress**

## CASE STUDIES



### Fortune Place, Edinburgh, Castle Rock Edinvar

Castle Rock Edinvar's [Fortune Place](#) won the Development of the Year (Age Exclusive) award at the Scottish Home Awards in June 2016. Fortune Place consists of 54 flats, the majority of which are two bedroom to take account of those who require sleep-in care or want family to stay. There is storage for scooters, wheelchairs and hoists and lift access to wheelchair adapted homes that are not restricted to ground floors. Each flat has a defined private entrance and the majority have direct access to a private balcony or patio. It has a district heating system to address fuel poverty.

Working with Scottish Futures Trust and the Scottish Government Digital Participation Team, a grant of £36,000 has supported infrastructure costs so that each home has Wi-Fi to improve online access and provide a platform to test telehealth and telecare solutions for older people. The development has dementia-friendly elements such as glazed wall cupboards in the kitchen, open plan living, doors from the bedroom directly into the bathroom and showers instead of baths.

Castle Rock Edinvar recognised that to promote physical and mental well-being in older people, a scheme needs more than just well-designed and well-built housing. They created space for people to share, encouraging people to converse, socialise and feel part of a community. A £356,000 Big Lottery grant enabled a community capacity builder to be appointed and also allowed for a multi-functional detached Garden Room to be built, providing a focus for creativity and engagement within the landscaped space. Activities include art therapy, craft classes, digital skills and Tai Chi among others.



## **Hanover Scotland, Varis Court, Forres**

The 33 two bedroom flats have been developed in partnership with Health & Social Care Moray (the Integrated Joint Board involving Moray Council and NHS Grampian) and the Scottish Government.

Seven of the flats are for people with dementia, within a dementia friendly zone which includes bespoke communal facilities. Another five flats are used by Forres Health Centre for recovery, enablement and support services for people just discharged from hospital. GPs will be able to refer patients directly. The flats will be for short term stays and will have 24/7 nursing care. All residents will have access to an onsite care team and every property is connected to Hannover's 24 hour community alarm system. The development has energy efficient heating systems, Wi-Fi and capability to host SMART technology.

The new residents have been very positive saying *"We like the staff - they provide great care and make us feel very comfortable."*

## CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Five years into our 10 year strategy, older people continue to tell us they want to live in their own homes so we are continuing to develop policies and strategies which reflect this. In particular we want to ensure people have more choice of appropriate housing that can meet their needs and maintain their independence.

The case studies illustrate the ingenuity and resourcefulness of our stakeholders. Sometimes it is the efforts and ideas of one committed individual that makes a difference and sometimes it needs stakeholders and Scottish Government working together to realise positive benefits for our older people.

While we recognise the many successful outcomes over the last five years, and our partners and stakeholders have responded with resilience and determination to address the many changes that impact on housing for older people, there is still much to do.

Since the strategy was published in 2011, we have seen the formation of 31 new Health and Social Care Partnerships set up to deliver integrated health and social care services; the Scotland Act 2016 which devolves a range of social security powers to the Scottish Parliament and the introduction of Self-directed Support which gives people greater choice and control over how their care and support is delivered.

These and other changes need to be taken into account as we move into the next five years of the strategy. While many of the original commitments are still relevant and are ongoing, there is more we can do to go further and faster to ensure older people have housing options which support their independence and wellbeing throughout later life. We will continue to work with stakeholders to make sure that with the appropriate care, support and adaptations older people are able to continue to live independently in their own homes for as long as they choose to do so.

For these reasons we will be publishing a refreshed strategy.

### Acknowledgements

The Scottish Government would like to thank everyone who provided us with information about their activities. This information has enabled us to prepare a review that recognises the contribution being made across Scotland to improve housing for older people. In particular, we would like to thank those who provided case studies. We would especially like to thank the members of the Age, Home and Community Monitoring and Advisory Group who have provided their time as well as helping to shape the review.





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