



More than
bricks and
mortar

Care & Repair England
Annual Review 2012



*Home is ...
your own front door*



The message from older people about their housing is crystal clear – we want to live safely and independently at home for as long as we possibly can.

This simple aspiration lies at the heart of Care & Repair England. As our Annual Review demonstrates, it informs everything that we do.

Since its creation in 1986, the aim of Care & Repair England has always been to improve the housing and living conditions of older people, particularly for disadvantaged home owners. Our work is becoming more critical than ever as the availability of affordable home repair and adaptation help is decreasing at the same time that the number of poor older home owners is rising exponentially.

We are committed to continue pioneering solutions as well as highlighting the critical role of housing condition and suitability in enabling older people to live decent, healthier lives.

On behalf of the Trustees of Care & Repair England, I extend our sincerest thanks to everyone who has worked with and supported us practically and financially over the past year.



Peter Archer,
Chair of Care & Repair England

Vision

Care & Repair England is an independent charitable organisation which aims to improve older people's housing. Its vision is that all older people have decent living conditions in a home of their own choosing.

Mission

We aim to innovate, develop, promote and support practical housing initiatives and the related policy and practice which enable older people to live independently in their own homes for as long as they wish, particularly for older people living in poor or unsuitable private sector housing.

Strategic Objectives

- Work with older people to identify what they need in order to live independently and well in their own homes and then promote and support the development of solutions, particularly in the private housing sector
- Raise awareness of the scale and nature of the impact of poor and unsuitable housing on the health and well being of older people and work with them to influence change in practice and policy.

Values

Care & Repair believes in the importance of:

- Working directly with older people who are affected by poor or inadequate housing conditions (the majority of whom live in private sector housing) to develop long term solutions
- Enabling older people to live independently and with dignity in their own homes for as long as they wish
- Connecting housing, health and social care in ways that improve older people's whole quality of life
- Enabling older people to influence the planning of housing, related services and wider decision making
- Actively promoting and implementing equality and anti-discrimination practices in relation to age, disability, gender, race, faith and sexual orientation.

This Review gives an illustrated 'snapshot' of the work of Care & Repair England. A more detailed description is included in our Annual Report and Audited Accounts 2011-12.

Homes for better health

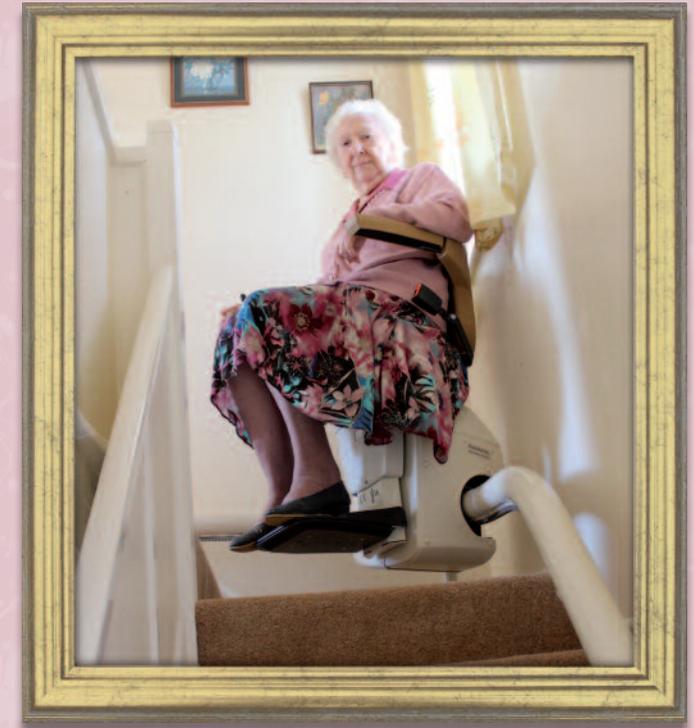
The aim of our 'If only I had known...' initiative is to enable older people, their families and carers to make an informed decision about future housing, care and support, either following hospital admission or where a person has a long term health condition.

Housing advisers located within pilot area hospitals have been working with patients and health staff to improve the transfer of older patients from hospital to home.

This year Care & Repair England published evaluation reports about the programme. These demonstrate how housing help is improving the lives of older patients as well as resulting in quantifiable savings for health and social care.



*Home is ...
sleeping in your
own bedroom*



“Without her (the housing options worker’s) help I would have lost my home, so that there would have been nowhere to go after the operation ... and my recovery would have been still further delayed. After all, part of getting better is coming back home.”

Mr PG

Homes for independence

The new 'Just about managing?' programme is working with older people and local Care & Repair type agencies to develop self help initiatives, including new ways of providing affordable help with small repairs. It is also supporting older people to influence local decisions about homes, services and neighbourhoods.



Some of the results so far:

- Over 600 more older people in Stoke on Trent and Leeds have received help with small, essential repairs and minor adaptations from volunteers and 'Trusted Traders'
- More than 70 volunteers who visit older people have been trained in 'Housing and care options in later life' awareness and/or basic home maintenance
- Older volunteers in Leeds visited isolated older people to talk to them about their housing situations and produced a report aimed at local policy makers
- Older people in Liverpool met with councillors and officials at a special conference to share ideas and views about housing in later life.

*Home is ...
tea in your own kitchen*



Homes and choice

Care & Repair England is working with the national housing and care advice and information service, FirstStop, to improve older people's access to independent, impartial housing options advice.



This year we delivered a major programme of 'Housing Options in Later Life' training, conferences and workshops reaching over 1,500 older people, community leaders, volunteers and professional advisers. Through the 'peer to peer' initiative over 200 older people were given information about their housing options by other older people, primarily via groups of older volunteers on the Wirral and in Knowsley.



*Home is ...
sitting in your
favourite chair*



Homes for a better older age

Care & Repair England continues to highlight the key role of housing and related support for disadvantaged older people living in private housing, particularly in the context of debates about the future funding of Social Care.

Just some of this year's activities:

- Organised a profile raising event in the House of Lords addressed by Professor David Oliver, the Department of Health (DH) National Clinical Director for Older People, to highlight the importance of including housing in Health and Social Care reforms.
- Took an active role in the DH ministerial level working group on Adult Social Care. The resulting Social Care White Paper has a special section on housing. DH announced a special allocation of funds for Disabled Facilities Grants early in 2012.

- Made many representations and submissions concerning housing and ageing including; DCLG Select Committee Housing & Regeneration Inquiry; DH arrangements for Health & Wellbeing Boards; All Party Parliamentary Group (Housing & Care).
- Raised the profile of housing and ageing issues through representation on: Housing and Ageing Alliance (chair); Home Adaptations Consortium (chair); Dept for Work & Pensions backed Age Action Alliance; Department for Communities and Local Government's high level advisory group, the Housing Sounding Board.



Professor David Oliver,
National Clinical Director for
Older people at Dept Health

*Home is ...
washing in your
own bathroom*



Management Committee

PETER ARCHER (CHAIR)

Founder member of Care & Repair England & Chair for 16 years; Partner of the Housing Consultancy Partnership; Chair of St Peter's Housing Association; Founder member of the Pro-Housing Alliance; Board Member of Empty Homes; Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and Chair of its Professional Standards and Policy Committee.

CHRIS LONG-LEATHER (TREASURER)

Retired Chartered Accountant formerly employed as a finance director in the automotive components sector. Treasurer of Age UK Warwickshire for past 10 years.

MARIA BRENTON (SECRETARY)

Professional and personal interest in old age; Consultant on Co-Housing Communities of older people: Locally active on care/housing issues concerning disabled & older people; formerly researcher in University sector and NHS.

DR. IAN P. DONALD

Consultant physician for older people at Gloucester Royal Hospital: Enthusiastic about community care for older people and care at the interface of primary and secondary care; main research interest is the epidemiology of disability in older people, falling and intermediate care.

DAVID GARDINER OBE

Housing and ageing activist; Lambeth Pensioners Action Group and London Older People's Strategy Group; formerly Older People UK Advisory Group; Member of range of independent housing/health/care advisory bodies including Housing & Ageing Alliance.

ELIZABETH PHILLIPS

Chief Executive AgeUK Warwickshire which manages South Warwickshire Care & Repair and the county handyperson service, in addition to a wide range of care services.

LORNA EASTERBROOK

Independent consultant in older people's health, housing and social care; Associate of the Centre for Research on Ageing (Southampton University), the National Development Team for Inclusion & Community Catalysts; Trustee, Beth Johnson Foundation; formerly Kings Fund & Age Concern England.

ANTHONY SHELTON

Chairman of Age Concern Essex; Chair of: Courtaulds Homes of Rest, League of Friends of Halstead Hospital, retired local government housing manager.

JOHN SIMMONS

Retired Deputy Director of Social Services & Head of Adult Services for Derbyshire: Vice Chair East Midlands Older Persons Advisory Group; Executive of UK Older Persons Advisory Group member; Vice Chair, Beth Johnson Foundation.

DOMINI GUNN-PEIM

Director, Director of Health and Wellbeing at Chartered Institute of Housing; Formerly Audit Commission National Lead for Vulnerable Communities & Lead Housing Inspector NE/Y&H.

FRANCES HEYWOOD OBE

Historian and community activist; housing researcher (University of Bristol) specialising in housing and adaptations, now mainly retired; OBE for services to housing for disabled people; Hon. Fellow of the College of Occupational Therapists.

Chief Executive

SUE ADAMS, OBE

Acknowledgements

Care & Repair England wishes to thank all of the donors, funders and strategic partners who have supported and contributed to its work programme during 2011-12.

The John Ellerman Foundation

The Rayne Foundation

The Tudor Trust

Department of Health

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

FirstStop

Family Mosaic

Cobalt Housing

Orbit Group

AgeUK

Anchor

Hact

College of Occupational Therapists

Department for Communities & Local Government

Royal British Legion

Elderly Accommodation Counsel

Staffordshire Housing Association

The Housing Learning and Improvement Network

Equalities and Diversity Policy Statement

Care & Repair England values the diversity of communities and individuals and is committed to making its services, resources and policies responsive, accessible and appropriate to people's diverse range of interests and experience. Care & Repair England believes that people face discrimination and social disadvantage for a wide range of reasons, particularly because of their race, class, sex, age, physical or mental disability, religion, appearance or sexuality. The organisation is committed to challenging such discrimination in any activities that it undertakes.

Patron

Care & Repair England is most grateful to its patron, Baroness Greengross OBE, for her ongoing support for the work of the organisation. This endorsement is greatly valued and appreciated by all of the Trustees and staff.

This report is dedicated to Laurence Shurman (1930 - 2012). Trustee and vice chair of Care & Repair England since 1999, Laurence was a highly valued colleague and friend; his knowledge, wisdom and compassion are greatly missed by all who knew him.



About Care & Repair England

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For further information contact

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Patron: Baroness Greengross OBE

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“Housing can be the springboard that enables older people to remain involved and live life to the full.”