

# Handypersons services

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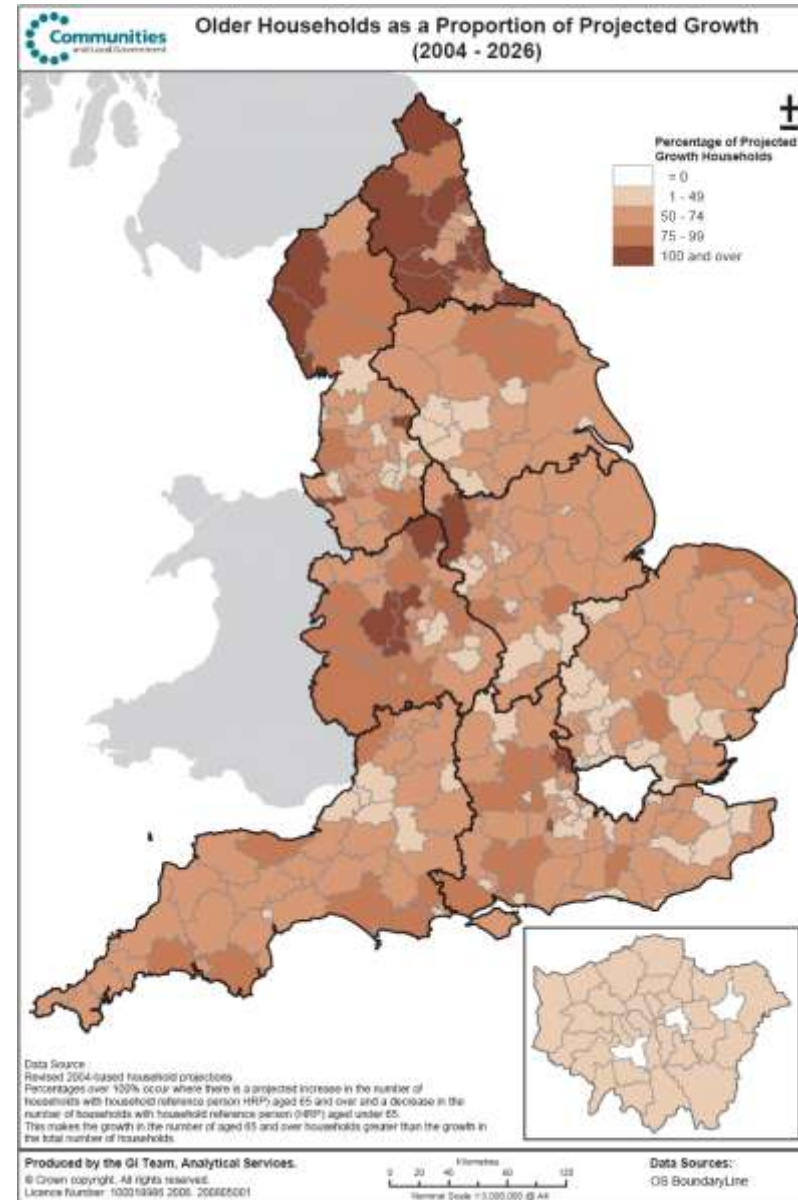
**Communities and Local Government**  
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LIFETIME HOMES, LIFETIME NEIGHBOURHOODS  
A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society



# The big picture that led us to Lifetime homes, lifetime neighbourhoods

- About all of us ageing not older people as a 'client group'.
- Nearly 70% older people own their home and rising. % live in sheltered, 5% in care homes.
- Older households make up almost a third of our communities.
- 48% of all new households will be over 65s to 2026 - 2.4m more older households
- Number of older disabled people to double from 2.3 m to 4.6 m by 2041.
- National ageing debate previously seen as about pensions and care, now housing and communities.



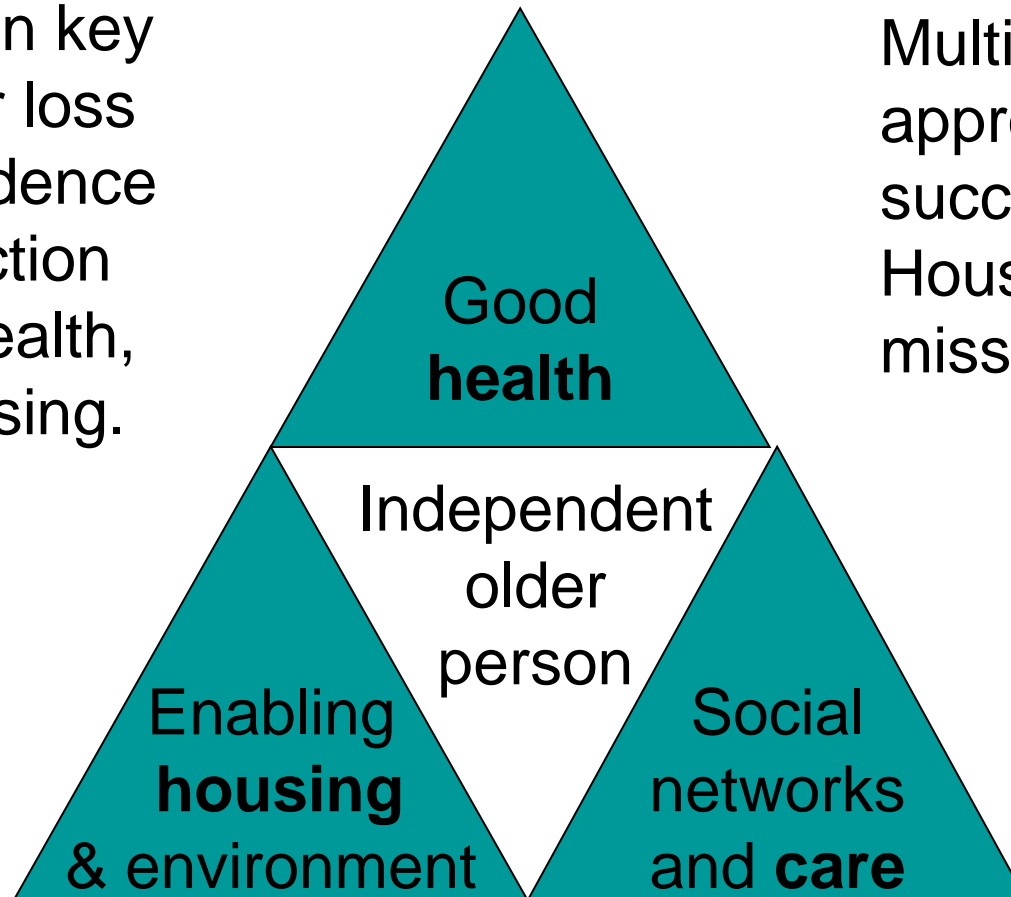
- New local performance framework and PSAs.
- **LAAs** allow work across housing, health and care through flexible funding and joint commissioning.
- **Personalisation and choice.** With **individual budgets** popular low level services may benefit. Market may open for handyman services.
- Growing interest in prevention. Investment in low unit cost preventative services to **improve home safety and independence.**
- Increasing budget pressures?

## Poor housing results in poor health and care home admissions

- **Falls** alone cost the NHS £726m a year
- **26,000 “excess winter deaths” last winter** - result from illness connected to cold and damp conditions (ODPM HSHS research)
- **28% of older people live in non-decent** or hazardous housing or 2.1 million *households* (EHCS 2005).
- **51% go into care home after hospitalisation because a return to home not practical.**
- **Long-term care expenditure** would need to rise by 325% in real terms between 2002 and 2041 if we do nothing.

## Health, housing and care. 'The triangle of independence'

Evidence on key reasons for loss of independence are inter-action between health, social, housing.



Multi-disciplinary approach more successful.  
Housing often missing link.

Services in one area fail the person if other parts missing.

# What older people say they wanted

- We should build **adaptable** ‘homes for life’.
- **Space.** We often need room to accommodate visiting family or a carer, and need good storage space.
- Housing design should be **user-friendly, low maintenance and safe**
- Our homes should also be **affordable to heat.**
- **Access to green, private space, and a safe neighbourhood.**
- Housing that is accessible to good local transport, facilities and amenities.
- Access to independent **information** and advice about our housing options
- **A reliable repairs and adaptations services for that bit of help around the home.**
- But above all, people want to be **listened to and be involved** in the design of everything that will affect us

## Expansion of handyman schemes across country

- Gaps in existing provision
- Many services are not 'holistic' and are not effectively targeted - missed opportunities
- £33m extra funding 2009-11 available to all local authorities to develop new fast repairs and adaptations services and enhanced services
- After that, funding via area-based grant
- Evaluation essential locally and nationally



*Photo: Care and Repair England*

- Small building repairs, odd jobs and minor adaptations
- General home safety checks with remedial action, falls / accident prevention, hygiene, sanitation, food storage and preparation
- Security checks with remedial action
- Small home energy efficiency measures
- Fire safety
- Hospital discharge
- Assistive technology – install and maintain equipment
- Foot in the door for other services, including state benefits, care, support, more substantial home improvements, leisure and social links

Report commissioned as part of Lifetime homes, lifetime neighbourhoods action plan.

- Identifying good practice and innovation in the sector
- Future-proofing – responding to the changing delivery landscape and *Lifetime homes, lifetime neighbourhoods*
- Will inform commissioning, e.g. handyman services.

Sub-reports covering:

- Advice, information and advocacy
- Funding for repairs and adaptations
- **Handyperson Services**
- Major Adaptations – DFGs
- Connecting with health and care

- *Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods.*
- *More Choice, Greater Voice.*
- *Housing choices and aspirations of older people.*
- *Predicting who will need costly care.*
- *The Future HIA*
- *Coming shortly – Handypersons services*

[www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk) - housing and older people section