

Age Friendly Leeds

Housing and Older People

Housing is one of the 8 domains Leeds will be considering in order to achieve our aim of Making Leeds the Best City to Grown old in.

There are 5 key areas we will be exploring and assessing how we can improve in line with the WHO age friendly Cities.

1. The relationship between housing conditions and health inequalities in later life – e.g. fuel poverty; affordable housing and poverty; the need to have housing closing working with the 13 neighbourhood teams.
2. The vital role of housing adaptations and repair in supporting independent living in older age – e.g The provision of reliable and trusted practical services including handyperson, falls prevention, home security improvements, minor adaptations, essential repairs, improvements in insulation and heating systems..; Approximately 66% of people with dementia live in their own homes and most say that they would prefer to remain there for as long as possible. Packages of flexible services are needed to achieve these including reminiscence libraries, retro-decorating schemes, telecare interventions and home support services.
3. The impact of new forms of housing tenure on pensioner poverty and choice - Being in control of where and how you live is critical to independence and well-being. Access to housing options advice is essential for older people to be able to make informed decisions about their current and future housing needs.
4. The vital meaning of housing and home to people's social identity, status and sense of continuity, place and self -many older people wish to remain living in their existing homes within their existing communities. They value the support from family and friends, access to good transport and proximity to local shops and amenities, all of which help to reduce loneliness and social isolation.
- 5.The role of housing design in cultivating liveable home environments that account for the needs and desires of its older inhabitants - Any new housing developments in Leeds should include the provision of bungalows and/or ground floor flats, with good links to local transport, GP surgeries and social amenities.; Specialist housing, including sheltered and extra care, should be planned based on clear assessments of need and designed to allow people to remain living in them for as long as possible, with links to local services and amenities. It is essential that the needs of older people with dementia and those who have sensory impairments are taken into account in formulating specialist housing policies. all new homes should be built to Lifetime Homes Standards