



# Consultation Briefing: Health and social care strategy for older people

## Background

The Scottish Government is consulting on a new [Health and Social Care Strategy for Older People](#) (the Strategy). The consultation document has been informed by discussions with older people and will take account of the Independent [Review of Adult Social Care](#) (sometimes called the Feeley Report) and plans to establish a new [National Care Service](#).

The Strategy will build upon the actions set out in [A Fairer Scotland for Older People](#) and the [Action Plan updated in 2021](#).

The consultation is open to everyone to respond but questions are clearly geared towards older people. The consultation will remain open until 19 June. You can find more information and [respond here](#).

## About the proposals

The Strategy will seek to build upon other ongoing work to deliver integrated, person centered health and social care services for older people in Scotland.

It is structured under four key themes:

- Place and wellbeing
- Preventative and protective care
- Integrated planned care
- Integrated unscheduled care

Housing is covered under the **place and wellbeing theme** which this briefing will focus on.

The consultation recognizes that a lot of support services that help older people to maintain independence and community connections are provided by third sector organisations or rely on short term funding putting them at risk.

Access to services can also often depend on the person's geographical location meaning that there's **unequal access to support**.

**Social isolation and loneliness** is recognized as a health issue and the consultation includes a commitment to develop a five-year plan to tackle the problem.

The **importance of housing to a person's health**

**About this briefing** - This briefing is exclusively for CIH members. These briefings are designed to inform you about current consultations, highlight potential implications for the sector that you might want to consider in your own response and set out CIH Scotland's position.

**and wellbeing** is very briefly mentioned.

Consultation questions ask about current housing conditions and the types of aids and adaptations that would be helpful.

**Early identification and prevention** of issues is highlighted as a key consideration. While this section mainly focuses on community facilities and activities, it does briefly mention **staying safe at home**, preventing trips and falls and the role of organisations like Care and Repair.

## The CIH View

The inclusion of housing in the consultation is too brief and does not reflect the contribution that good housing makes to people's health and wellbeing at every stage of life.

We would have liked to see references made to housing throughout the document. For example, in relation to planning ahead and anticipatory care planning – housing should be a key consideration for someone whose needs may be changing.

The consultation mentions that regular health checks or 'health MOTs' are provided for older by some health professionals presenting an opportunity to review medication and have a general discussion about health. This type of discussion could also be applied to housing, identifying whether the person's home is suitable for their needs or if a referral to the local authority housing team or Occupational Therapist would be required.

## Have your say

CIH Scotland will be developing a response to this consultation. If you would like to share your views please email us [scotland.contact@cih.org](mailto:scotland.contact@cih.org)

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