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Housing people with long-term care needs: evidence and policy

The programme 'A Better Life'

'Innovations for well-being at home'

Madrid, 25-26 June 2013

Ilona Haslewood, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, UK

JRF and JRHT: strategic aims

POVERTY

Our aim:
To identify the root causes of poverty and injustice

PLACE

Our aim:
To support resilient communities where people thrive

AN AGEING
SOCIETY

Our aim:
To respond positively to the opportunities and challenges of an ageing society

Is the UK ready for ageing?

- population change and its common portrayal
- public finances and public services
- housing: supply and demand
- reform agendas: working age welfare, pensions, health services, care funding
- a smaller state, local solutions



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A Better Life for older people with high support needs

Understanding what will really help some of the most marginalised, and least heard, people in the UK to have a good quality of life.

Listening to people who already have the experience of getting older: what do they want and value in life (not only from services)?



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Should I stay or should I go?



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- No single approach works for everyone – ‘staying put’ and moving can both be right
- Specialist and general housing
- Knowing the options, getting the right advice
- The care gamble: planners v. crisis movers
- Implications, risks and expectations

What makes a good living environment for older people?



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- Fits with preferred lifestyle
- Large enough, comfortable, accessible, light
- Storage space ~ for some: a spare room
- Easy to maintain, adaptable to changing needs
- Safe and secure
- Healthy, attractive environment
- Access to transport, local amenities, social networks

Integrated housing and care: benefits & challenges

Independent living

Peace of mind

Supporting partners

Relationships with carers

Help at hand

Social life

Not for everyone

Availability

Affordability

Complexity

Supportive communities

Locality

What else can help achieve a better life?

- ‘That bit of help’: adaptations, technology, practical help
- Relationship-focused residential care
- Solutions based on mutuality and reciprocity: informal support, Homeshare, Shared Lives, Keyring, Co-housing
- Connecting to the system: navigation and brokerage



Weaving the 'people element' into policies

Key messages from A Better Life

- A wider, more balanced discussion (not 'them' and 'us')
- Starting with what is most important to the individual
- Support founded in, and reflecting, meaningful relationships
- An asset-based approach, opportunities for mutuality and reciprocity
- New social contract: rights & responsibilities
- Individual and collective voices to be heard
- Innovation and getting the basics right

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