

Northern Housing Consortium : Helping you Build a Society for all the Ages

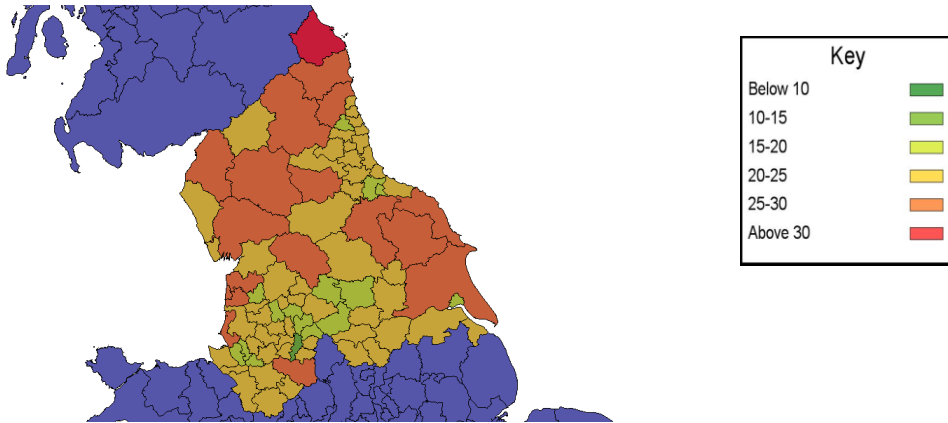
The Department for Work and Pensions has published the Government's vision for a "society for all ages".

The strategy sets out the scale of the challenges we face as a society – as we progress through an enormous demographic shift – and sets out the actions the Government will be taking to improve the quality of life of people – helping people plan ahead for a longer, hopefully healthier, life – to make better use of technological advances across lifestyles, health and fitness, engagement and learning and employment opportunities. The strategy explores the changing role of the family and how older people can be at the heart of new family structures, it addresses how older people can engage in work and the economy and how we can as a society ease the stresses around financial planning for later life.

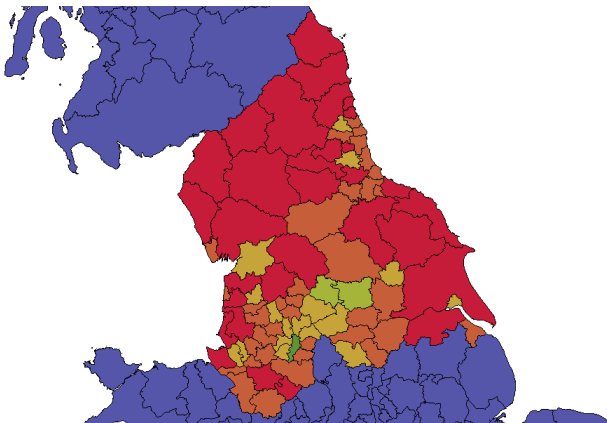
From a public sector perspective, the strategy sets out what changes we need to see taking place in the delivery of housing, health and social care – referring, of course, to the recently published Care and Support Green Paper and considers the role of the housing sector in supporting independence and creating communities that enable all ages to flourish and thrive.

The Northern Housing Consortium has led the way in calling for the housing world – and the government to refine our thinking on creating a society for all the ages. Our groundbreaking project "***Age Friendly Communities in the North***" has provided a clear vision of the changing demographic picture we face in the north.

This is what the age profile of the North looked like in 2006 – showing the percentage of over 60s in each Local Authority in the North.



Fast forward to 2024 and we see a very different picture.



Through ***Age Friendly Communities in the North*** we have developed a comprehensive picture of the demographic change facing our regions – and we’ve consulted with hundreds of people to get their views on what an Age Friendly Community should look like – we know what people would like to see in terms of better use of technology, more inter generational activity, the design of neighbourhoods and communities – much of this is echoed in the Government paper “Building a Society for all ages” and we welcome the government taking a lead on this issue.

“ ***Age Friendly Communities in the North*** is a tremendously exciting project for us and our members,” said Charlotte Harrison, Director of Policy and Practice at the Northern Housing Consortium. “ Members across the three Northern regions from Halton to Tees Valley are working with us to shape our vision for the North and to make sure we – in the housing world – are taking decisions today that will enable us to create communities and neighbourhoods that we can be proud

of in 20 years. We have had extremely positive feedback from members and government about our work and we look forward to working with the Government, now they've set out their strategy."

"We have been working on this agenda for over a year and we're confident we can support members with practical solutions to build an Age Friendly Community. We're holding three workshop days on the 7th, 8th and 9th September to share our findings of the second stage of our project – which involves Northern Architecture working with us and our members to bring our vision to life"

Notes to editors

1. The Northern Housing Consortium is a non-political, not for profit, member based organisation, whose members between them manage almost 90% of social housing in the North. Our main roles are:
 - To provide a comprehensive range of timely, relevant and affordable services for members with a distinct focus on Northern issues
 - To take a lead role in enabling the improvement of housing and organisational performance in the North
 - To work with Government and other bodies to ensure the region benefits from the resources and funding available to provide safe, vibrant, sustainable communities
 - Our Age Friendly Communities project is supported and sponsored by Tunstall and Keepmoat and will be launched in the Autumn at the Northern Housing Consortium's Northern Housing Summit.

Our provision of support is delivered across four themed areas: Quality of Life, Quality of Place, Performance Improvement and Investment & Resources.

Further information can be found on our website at www.northern-consortium.org.uk

2. Northern Architecture's role is to promote high quality architecture and design of public space in the North East of England. We have two main aims:
 - To work with everyone involved in providing buildings and public spaces to achieve the highest standards of development and design.
 - To raise public expectations about architecture and design, stimulate public debate and provide opportunities for the public to become involved in the process of making architecture and public space.

To contact Charlotte Harrison: Charlotte.Harrison@northern-consortium.org.uk

0191 566 1000/07843 356 443