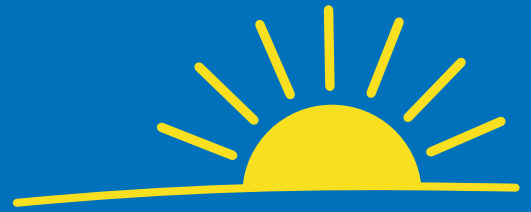


Older homelessness and housing need publication list 2004



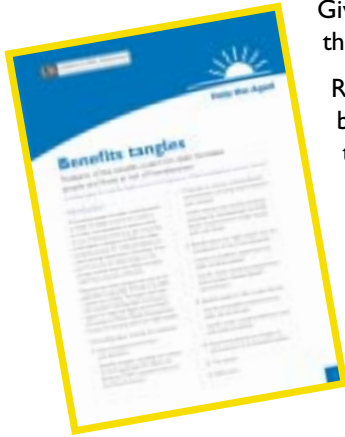
Help the Aged



Help the Aged promotes long-term solutions for older homeless people and those vulnerable to homelessness or in housing need

Benefits tangles

Benefits tangles is a comprehensive briefing paper looking at the problems experienced by vulnerable older people claiming housing benefit and council tax benefit.



Giving policy background, the paper reviews recent benefit changes, including the creation of the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), Jobcentre Plus and the Pension Scheme.

Research has shown that the more vulnerable older people are, the less likely they are to be able to negotiate the benefits system. Older people worry about admitting that they find the forms difficult to understand because they are afraid of being thought senile and 'put in a home'.

Benefits tangles offers practical advice using real-life examples on the main benefit issues for older people and makes a number of recommendations on behalf of the UK Coalition on Older Homelessness.

Benefits tangles Free 24pp ISBN 0-905852-87-7

Help the Aged and the UK Coalition on Older Homelessness November 2002

Housing advice for older people

Advice for older people on housing is provided by a range of statutory and voluntary organisations. Recent studies by the University of the West of England (UWE) reveal older people are often unable to access the services they need and it is vital that advice staff extend their knowledge and ability to refer clients to other relevant agencies. Good advice is a key factor in preventing older people becoming homeless or experiencing housing poverty.



Housing advice for older people sets out the policy context across the UK and describes current initiatives, including Better Government for Older People, Community Legal Service and Care Direct. It also covers work with black and ethnic minority groups.

This briefing paper from Help the Aged will be an invaluable resource for anyone working with older people or in the housing sector.

Housing advice for older people Free 32pp ISBN 1-904528-07-4

Help the Aged, hact (Housing Associations' Charitable Trust) and Crisis January 2003

The UK Coalition on Older Homelessness website www.olderhomelessness.org.uk contains practical examples of the kind of specialist services that local authorities should consider supporting and commissioning.



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Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales

Surviving at the margins: older homeless people and the organisations that support them

Surviving at the margins details the breadth of work being undertaken with older people and offers an insight into the specific and complex needs of older homeless people.



Research for the report was carried out at the University of the West of England (UWE). It assesses the work of the Older Homelessness Partnership Programme, set up to fund innovative projects to tackle older homelessness.

Surviving at the margins offers good practice examples and concludes with a list of recommendations for voluntary and statutory agencies, including funding for user involvement and changes to the benefits system.

Surviving at the margins: older homeless people and the organisations that support them £18.50
108pp ISBN 0-904528-03-1

Help the Aged, hact (Housing Associations' Charitable Trust) and Crisis November 2002

A free summary is also available ISBN 0-904528-02-3

Sheltered housing and the resettlement of older homeless people

Many older homeless people find themselves trapped in temporary accommodation because of a lack of suitable permanent supported accommodation, yet there is an over-supply of suitable sheltered housing.



Sheltered housing and the resettlement of older homeless people provides a blueprint for the sheltered housing sector to work with older people who have a history of homelessness.

The report shows that sheltered housing gives older homeless people the opportunity to have their own self-contained accommodation, alongside the support they need to sustain their home and independence.

This report is a must for all sheltered housing providers and local Supporting People commissioners and teams, as well as for the wider housing and homelessness sector.

Sheltered housing and the resettlement of older homeless people £10.00
50pp ISBN 0-905852-83-4

Help the Aged, hact (Housing Associations' Charitable Trust) November 2002

A free summary is also available ISBN 0-905852-82-6

The harassment and abuse of older people in the private rented sector

Many older people living in the private sector in England suffer abuse and harassment from their landlords, according to this report from Help the Aged.

The report documents personal accounts of verbal, physical and financial abuse by landlords who use scare tactics, massive rent increases and obstructive behaviour to force older tenants to move. Any form of harassment or abuse of older people is intolerable and can be especially damaging in areas where the legal system often fails to protect them. The pursuit of legal remedies to such abuse is difficult, stressful and too expensive for the majority of older tenants.



The harassment and abuse of older people in the private rented sector highlights what older tenants need and recommends that homelessness strategies set out clear plans to make the best use of private housing in order to meet local needs, while maintaining and improving standards.

The harassment and abuse of older people in the private rented sector £14.99
72pp ISBN 1-86134-458-9

Help the Aged, published by Policy Press February 2003

A free summary is also available at

www.olderhomelessness.org.uk/documents/older_private_tenants.pdf

The discharge of older homeless people from hospital

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's good practice handbook on homelessness states that hospital discharge plans should ensure everyone has a safe and secure home or temporary accommodation to go to. However, evidence suggests that, in reality, there is frequently no planning behind the discharge of homeless people from hospital.



The discharge of older homeless people from hospital describes cases where older people have been sent to homelessness departments in taxis long after the offices have shut and where, only at the point of discharge, have ward staff telephoned hostels to find out if there are vacancies.

The report suggests how statutory and voluntary agencies should work together in order to develop agreed protocols covering hospital discharge and outlines a number of the policy and service provision initiatives that have been developed around the UK. It highlights additional challenges and opportunities in providing effective services for older homeless people and offers a series of recommendations to health agencies, housing departments, social services and local authorities.

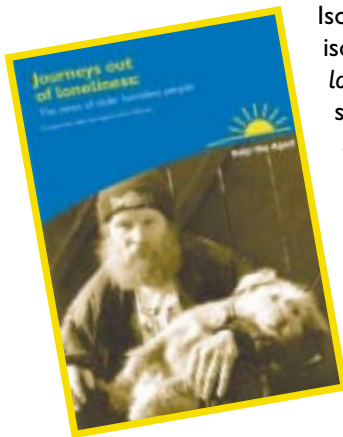
The discharge of older homeless people from hospital £10.00 24pp ISBN 0-905852-98-2
Help the Aged July 2003

A free summary is also available ISBN 0-905852-97-4

Journeys out of loneliness: the views of older homeless people

'I could do with talking to someone but I don't like to ask.'

'I'm not isolated, I live with 20 people. But I do feel lonely sometimes.'



Isolation and loneliness are commonly felt among older people who are homeless. Social isolation often precedes homelessness and homelessness may intensify isolation. *Journeys out of loneliness* is an honest account of older people's perceptions of both their needs and the solutions to their problems.

The report is based on new research by Kim Willcock involving interviews and small group discussions with 160 older people using homelessness services. They identified the lack of meaningful activity and social networks, absence of relationships and associated alcohol problems as key factors in intensifying feelings of loneliness and isolation. They spelled out what they wanted and said that they felt it was important for services to consult them about their views and needs in order to guide the development of new projects.

'Telephone call.... I would like that very much, just to check on me.'

Journeys out of loneliness: the views of older homeless people £12.00 80pp
ISBN 1-904528-04-X
Help the Aged February 2004

A free summary is also available ISBN 1-904528-05-8

Older women and domestic violence

This report from Help the Aged seeks to address the assumption that domestic violence is not an issue for older women and argues that they are often overlooked.



Presenting the findings of new research, *Older women and domestic violence* discusses issues of definition, reviews existing evidence around the incidence of domestic violence among older women and considers some of the ways in which their needs may differ from those of younger women.

The report reviews different models of domestic violence service provision and assesses their accessibility and suitability for older women. It describes a range of existing projects, reviews take-up statistics and discusses issues arising from interviews with project workers.

Older women and domestic violence £10.00 56pp ISBN 1-904528-09-0
Help the Aged February 2004

A free summary is also available ISBN 1-904528-10-4

