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NEWS RELEASE

Date: 23rd January 2008

Care & Repair England calls on Regional Assemblies to Create Homes and Neighbourhoods for an Ageing Population

Care & Repair England (C&RE) has called on Regional Assemblies to plan for demographic change and to plan for housing and neighbourhoods that are better suited to an ageing population.

Older people are the most important national driver in the growing demand for homes and will make up 48% of all new household growth to 2024. Yet hardly any Regional Housing Strategies (RHSs) or Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs) covering the nine regions adequately address demographic change.

National housing charity, Care & Repair England, has completed a comprehensive survey of all eighteen of the major Strategies, analysing the level to which they even mention older people. This revealed a range from zero references to the 'best' strategy mentioning older people in 37 clauses.

'The ageing of the population is the major reason for household growth in most areas, but you would never guess that from reading these Strategies', says Sue Adams, Director of Care & Repair England. "There is clearly a significant amount of progress to be made if housing and neighbourhoods are to be created which meet national objectives of being inclusive, age-friendly places to live, with homes that enable and support independent living and offer a decent quality of life in older age.

ENDS

Editor's notes

1. Care & Repair England is a national charity set up in 1986 by Shelter and the Housing Associations' Charitable Trust (hact) to improve the housing and living conditions of older and disabled people, particularly those occupying poor quality private sector housing, thereby enabling them to 'stay put' in their own homes in greater comfort and security.
2. Its aim is to innovate, develop, promote and support housing related policies and practical initiatives which enable older and disabled people to live independently in their own homes for as long as they wish.
3. The Government is currently developing a new cross Departmental '*Housing Strategy for an Ageing Society*'. This is expected to be published by the lead Department - Communities and Local Government – in early Spring.
4. Sue Adams, the Director of Care & Repair England, is the co-chair of the government's advisory group on housing and older people; HOPDEV –for further details see; (www.communities.gov.uk/housingandolderpeople).
5. A copy of the full Survey is available here: www.careandrepair-england.org.uk/whatsnew.htm
6. Further information available from the Director of Care & Repair England, Sue Adams (01363 82704) or email sueadams@freenetname.co.uk or contact via the head office link: Catriona Saxton, 0115 950 6500 email: info@careandrepair-england.org.uk

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