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## NEWS RELEASE

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008

### ***Care & Repair England applauds Government for putting ageing firmly on the housing agenda***

National housing charity, Care & Repair England, has warmly welcomed 'Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods' - the government's new strategy for housing in an ageing society.

*"This strategy challenges everyone concerned with housing, planning and related services to take the demographic revolution seriously,"* said Sue Adams, Director of Care & Repair England. *"Older people make up nearly a third of households and 90% live in mainstream housing. This new Strategy reflects that reality, and recognises the fact that older people are a major and growing force in the housing market."*

Care & Repair England has particularly welcomed the increased funding for Disabled Facilities Grants and for the small repairs and minor adaptations services ('handyperson schemes') that it has championed for the past 20 years.

The phased introduction of Lifetime Homes Standards in all new housing is also strongly supported by the charity, as this responds to key messages from older people about wanting more adaptable housing.

*"Moving older people from the margins to the centre of housing policy is a crucial response to population ageing",* said Peter Archer, chair of Care & Repair England. *"This Strategy goes a long way towards that and we look forward to working with the government to achieve its vision of inclusive housing and neighbourhoods for people of all ages".*

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Notes ctd overleaf.....

### 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 for 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 published '*Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A Housing Strategy for an Ageing Society*', on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008 [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk) .
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 –see; ([www.communities.gov.uk/housingandolderpeople](http://www.communities.gov.uk/housingandolderpeople)) alongside Terrie Alafat, Director of Homelessness & Housing Support Directorate at DCLG.
5. A copy of Care & Repair England's Summary Briefing on the new Strategy is available here: <http://www.careandrepair-england.org.uk/whatsnew.htm>

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