



Care & Repair England,
The Renewal Trust Business Centre,
3, Hawksworth Street,
Nottingham,
NG3 2EG
Tel/Fax: 0115 950 6500
e-mail: info@careandrepair-england.org.uk
www.careandrepair-england.org.uk

NEWS RELEASE

Date: 12th December 2006

If you are an older owner occupier living on a low pension, organising day to day home maintenance or adaptations to your home can be a nightmare.

For 20 years national housing charity Care & Repair England has championed the cause of low income older home owners. It has pioneered practical services and influenced national policies that help older people to stay living independently in their own homes for longer.

Housing Minister Baroness Andrews, who gave the keynote address at a House of Lords Reception (12 December), celebrated 20 years of Care & Repair England, by stressing that the home becomes increasingly important to people as they grow older.

“Our homes are vital to our health, happiness an identity, and as we get older and spend more time at home, a safe and comfortable home becomes even more important. For the last 20 years Care & Repair has clearly shown that by offering practical help to older owner occupiers, people are able to stay in their homes and maintain their independence and quality of life – without worrying. This is what we want for as many elderly people as possible.”

Home ownership has risen from around half of the population to nearly three quarters in less than thirty years and half of all poor households are now owner occupied. A third of all households are now headed by a person over retirement age (7).

“We need to make the connection between the aim of enabling older people to stay put in their own homes for longer and the need for help to maintain and adapt those homes if you are a low income owner occupier”, said Baroness Sally Greengross OBE, patron of Care & Repair England and a leading figure in the older people’s sector. *“Care & Repair England continues to be at the forefront of new initiatives to meet the growing demand for practical housing help, as well as championing the wider housing needs and aspirations of older people”.*

“There has been a quiet housing revolution that is only just starting to be recognised”, said Sue Adams, Director of Care & Repair England. *“We need to constantly remind planners and decision makers that most older people are now owner occupiers who wish to stay living in their own homes. One of our tasks is to ensure strategies and services adapt to meet that change.”*

ENDS

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 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 charity celebrated its 20th Anniversary at a reception at the House of Lords on 12th December 2006. The event was addressed by Minister for Housing, Baroness Andrews and hosted by Care & Repair England's patron, Baroness Sally Greengross OBE.
4. The Government is currently developing a new 'Housing Strategy for an Ageing Society', due to be published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2007.
5. The House of Lords Reception event was sponsored by Orbit Housing Group (www.orbit.org.uk)
6. 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) alongside Terrie Alafat, Director of Homelessness & Housing Support Directorate at DCLG.
7. Tenure data: *Survey of English Housing, DCLG*, Housing and Poverty Data: *UK Housing Review, CIH/ CML* , Household Composition Data: *Census, ONS*
8. Photographs of the event are available from Care & Repair England.
9. A copy of the 20th Anniversary Brochure is available here (<http://www.careandrepair-england.org.uk/pdf/annualreview2006.pdf>)
10. Further information available from the Director of Care & Repair England, Sue Adams (01363 82704 or 07947 889416) or email sueadams@freenetname.co.uk or via the head office – Catriona Saxton, 0115 950 6500.

Care & Repair England,
The Renewal Trust Business Centre,
3, Hawksworth Street,
Nottingham, NG3 2EG
Tel/Fax: 0115 950 6500

e-mail: info@careandrepair-england.org.uk

Care & Repair England website: www.careandrepair-england.org.uk