

Draft Older Persons Accommodation Strategy

2025 - 2030



What Residents Told Us

- The majority of older residents want to stay in their own home for as long as possible but may need adaptations and practical support to achieve this (including personal care). They may need help with small tasks in the home or garden and staying connected to facilities and the wider community.
- They want accessible information about housing choices and options locally, as well as ensuring information is accessible to all and easy to understand.
- Older residents want equitable access to support and housing options regardless of their personal circumstances.



What Residents Told Us

- Over half of residents suggested their housing needs were likely to change in future and, whilst most people wish to stay in their own home, over a third would consider downsizing.
- There was a significant preference for private bungalows with a small garden.
- Living in a care home is the least desirable option for older residents in Wiltshire.
- Almost half of respondents said they live in a rural area and residents in rural areas are likely to need a lot of practical support to remain in their own home as they get older. Almost a quarter of rural residents can only access essential services with help from others and some said they cannot access essential services at all. There is likely to be significant overlap between the theme of transport and access to facilities, health care and social activities for older rural residents.



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Demand

- Living longer, healthier lives is a real positive. However, ill health and dependency in later life can be hugely challenging for individuals, families and services
- In 2021 Wiltshire's population was approximately 510,400 and it is projected to increase by 7% over the next 20 years. The most significant growth is expected to be among older adults.
- By 2030, about 43,909 residents, or 8.3% of the population, will be aged 80 years or older. A 29% increase from now (2024).
- Whilst we know that people wish to remain in their own homes, we also know that there will be an increase in those with dementia and those with complex dementia will require care home facilities

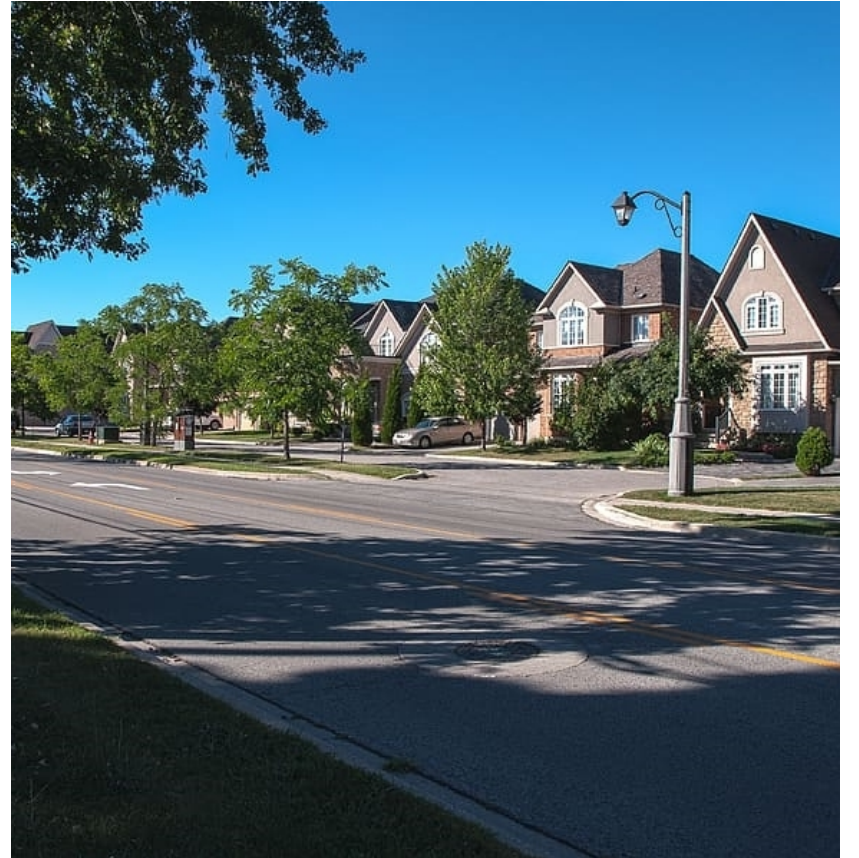
The Draft Strategy

- Right Homes
- Right Place
- Right Support



What We Want to Achieve

- **Outcome 1** – Easy access to information and services on housing choices and options.
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- **Outcome 2** – Increased involvement of older people in planning their future accommodation needs.
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- **Outcome 3** - Sustainable housing options that meet the current and future needs and aspirations of older people.
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- **Outcome 4** - Support to enable older people to live independently across all housing tenures, enhancing the availability of technology and preventative services.



Commitment

- Investing in community services which will support independent living.
- Expanding the use of digital technologies in both supported living and care settings.
- Engaging more with our older residents so that we can more fully assess and understand their future housing needs.
- Looking to increase supported accommodation options with specialist designs for complex needs as required.
- Enhancing availability of accessible housing through developer contributions for people aged fifty-five and over.
- Developing specialist residential facilities, which promote independent living.
- Boosting the provision of nursing and specialist dementia care homes.



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Commitment

- Developing additional housing options, such as home share, shared houses, and independent flats to reduce predicted demand increase on care homes. The number of people over the age of sixty-five living alone in Wiltshire is predicted to increase by 25% by 2035, from 120,500 to 150,800.
- Using Individual Service Funds (ISFs) to give people choice and control over the support they receive e.g., people wishing to pool their budgets could attract new providers into the market.
- Wherever possible modernise care homes to make them fit for purpose and phase out older, converted facilities. This could potentially reduce available placement capacity by 333 in current block contracted facilities. However, analysis does show an oversupply of beds in some areas of Wiltshire.
- Encourage the development of innovative community-based homes with wrap around community services e.g., shops, health services, voluntary support services and leisure services.
- Encouraging innovation in the current market.
- Providing learning and development opportunities to ensure standards and cost efficiencies.
- Collaborating with Area Boards and Parish Council to identify, plan and develop land that aligns with strategic priorities set out in this Strategy.
- Support planning processes for developers to meet strategic goals.



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