

Housing and Health

HEATER Webinar
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Shane Elliott
Housing and Health Lead



HousingExecutive

Value of Home

“

Our home is not just a dwelling place. It should be a place of comfort, shelter, safety and warmth...it is the main setting for our health throughout our lives

”



Home and Well being

- Safety - reduction in falls/accident
- Independence – ability to carry out tasks
- Quality of Life and general well-being
- Greater control over our lives
- Social relationships/belonging
- Emotional wellbeing
- Financial wellbeing
- Employment/education
- Improved health outcomes
- Reduces need for hospital admission
- Assists with patient flow in Acute settings
- Reduces need for Nursing/residential care



Healthy homes

Government White Paper makes it clear that healthy homes and buildings contribute to:

- Lower costs to the NHS and a healthier population
- Better educational attainment and workplace productivity
- Reduced emissions, lower energy bills and a lower carbon footprint
- Improved health, wellbeing and comfort
- Greater life chances, independent living and care



Reference: Building our Future Laying the Foundations for Healthy Homes and Buildings
All party parliamentary group for healthy homes and buildings- White Paper 2018

Cost of unhealthy homes

- In the winter of 2014/15 an estimated 43,900 excess winter deaths occurred in England and Wales - the impact of cold housing specifically was estimated to cause a fifth of these excess deaths , claiming more lives than road accidents, alcohol or drug abuse
- Children in cold homes are more than twice as likely to suffer a respiratory problem than those living in warm homes
- More than 1 in 4 adolescents living in cold homes are at risk of multiple mental health problems, compared to 1 in 20 in warm housing
- Cold homes are also associated with increased incidence of colds and flu, which as well as killing people, are known to worsen existing conditions such as arthritis and rheumatism

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World Health Organization

HOW HOUSING CAN IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

There are many opportunities to promote health by addressing housing conditions including:

Healthy housing is becoming more important in light of



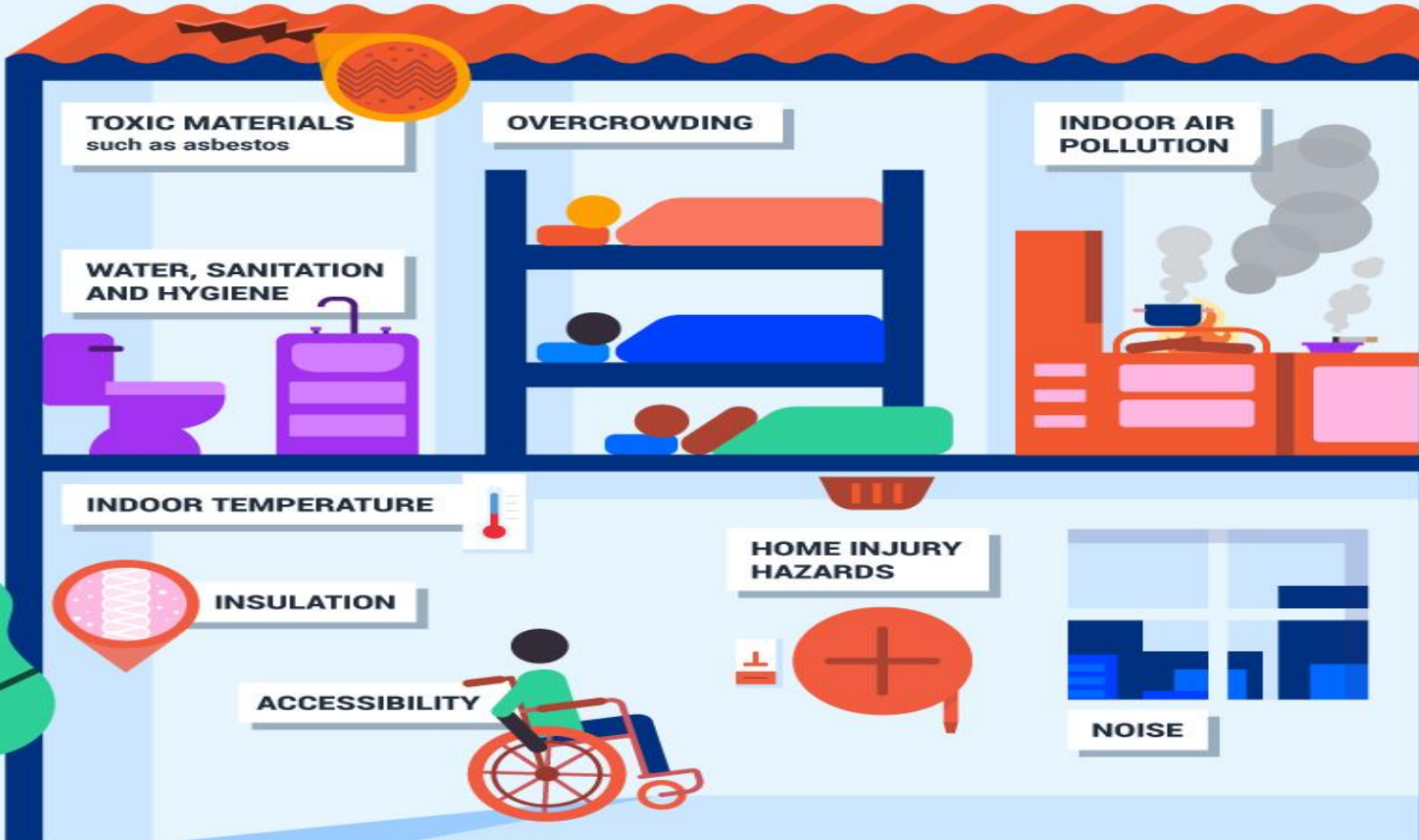
URBAN GROWTH



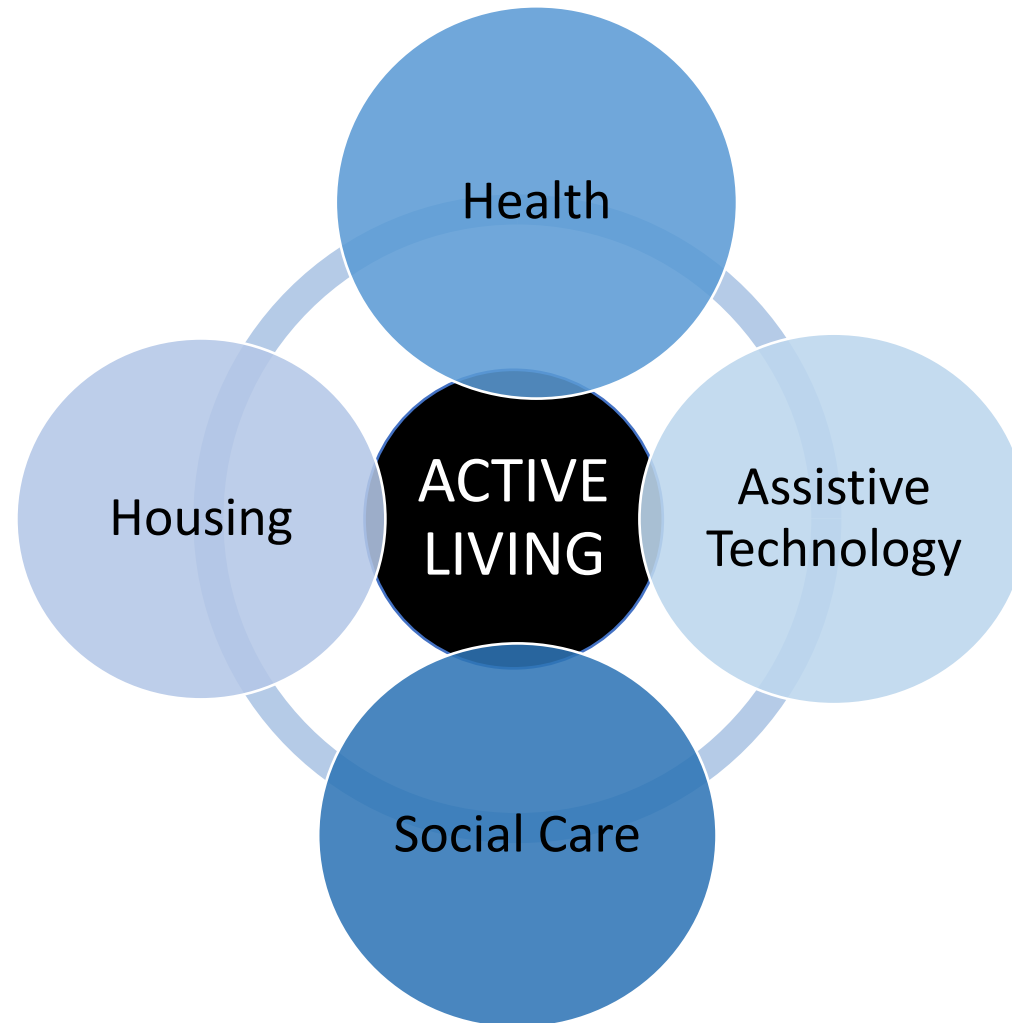
AGEING POPULATIONS



CLIMATE CHANGE



Focus on Integration - Partnership working Housing, Health and Social Care - keys to active living



Current focus on Accessibility

Physical access to/from and within home e.g.

- Level approach
- Doors and corridors
- Space standards in habitable rooms

Facilitated through

- Adaptations - £29million expenditure 20/21 in NI
- New build programmes – 10% of new build social housing to wheelchair standard



Challenges- Housing and Health



Key Work Streams

- Reformation of Departmental Forum

Interdepartmental Housing and Health Adaptations Programme Board

- Regional Review of Assistive Technology Services



- Input to relevant strategies to ensure Housing is referenced e.g. Social Care Reform, Autism Strategy

- Update Best Practice Guidance to Access Housing adaptations

- Review/reformat/relaunch Adaptations Design Communications Toolkit



Key Work Streams

- Development of Inclusive Design Guide- Housing Design to Support Independent Living - include cognitive/sensory impairment, ASD ,LD etc.



- Interagency complex case management guidance - Health/Housing interfaces and pathways
- Introduction of partnership forums (NIHE/HSC Trusts/service users)



Key Work Streams

- Management/implementation of an Accessible Housing Register
- Implementation of Training for front line NIHE staff re. ASD
- Development of clearer housing pathways for people with disabilities
- Building Control guidance document re. minor adaptations
- Research – outcomes/effectiveness of housing adaptations
- Potential development of Housing and Health Strategy



