



Commissioner for Older People
for Northern Ireland

Janet Thomas
The Housing Executive
2 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8PB

RE Draft Corporate Plan 2017/2018 – 2020/2021

Dear Janet

I am writing to you on behalf of the Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland (COPNI) in relation to the *Housing Executive's Draft Corporate Plan 2017/2018 - 2020/2021* Consultation. The role of the Commissioner is to promote awareness of issues relating to older people and be an authoritative independent champion for them.

Older people already have unique housing needs and requirements. More older people are owner occupiers, and are more likely to live in households suffering from fuel poverty and poor housing conditions. In the longer term, influences such as health policy may result in more older people living at home for longer, requiring more adaptations, maintenance, and access to different forms of housing.

The Commissioner welcomes the statement that *"With an ageing population, it is important to look at the services and housing provision that will need to be provided for the future. We will investigate the service needs for the future needs of our customers and bring forward an Older People's Strategy."* The Commissioner agrees that future demographics will have implications for the housing needs of older people.

The Commissioner is pleased to note that the Housing Executive will bring forward an Older People's Strategy, and generally support the Housing Executive's commitment to investigate what the future housing needs of older people will be, and to produce tailored solutions for them. The Commissioner would be prepared to assist the Housing Executive in this work, and will await any further information with interest.

If you would like to discuss any of these queries in further detail, please do not hesitate to contact the Policy Team via:

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(028) 90 890 894
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Yours faithfully,

Emer Boyle
Head of Legal and Policy Advice
Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland