

## APPG on Social Integration inquiry into intergenerational connection

### Call for evidence on intergenerational housing

**DEADLINE: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

#### About the APPG:

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Social Integration brings together Parliamentarians from all political parties with an interest in the issue. The group's mission is to drive forward a cross-party conversation on policy solutions to break down barriers to integration and create opportunities for people from all walks of life to build bonds of trust, across ethnic, age and class divides. The APPG is chaired by Chuka Umunna MP, with the Secretariat provided by The Challenge.

#### Introduction and context:

In December 2017, the APPG launched an inquiry into intergenerational connection, to examine the ways that meaningful bonds can be fostered between the young, old and everyone in between. The 2016 EU referendum and 2017 General Election brought to light significant divides between generations, and a society in which there is often misunderstanding across the age spectrum.

The APPG published its *'Healing the Generational Divide'* interim report in May 2019, setting out the start of a policy framework to strengthen connections between different age groups. This drew on written evidence from 30 different individuals and organisations, plus findings from four parliamentary events and community visits in south London, Manchester and the West Midlands. The interim report explored four main policy areas through which stronger intergenerational connections could be built: local community projects, public services, housing and technology.

The chapter on intergenerational housing (pg. 41-45) highlighted ways that existing housing as well as new developments could play a greater role in integrating rather than segregating different generations, and proposed some initial policy recommendations to help this happen. The APPG would like an opportunity to gather more evidence on this specific subject.

This further call for evidence is intended as an opportunity for individuals and organisations working on intergenerational housing to provide their thoughts and feedback on the interim report's proposals, and to respond to any of the questions below that they wish to. The evidence gathered from this call for evidence will be invaluable in helping to inform the APPG's final report on intergenerational connection, due to be published before the end of 2019.

#### Definition of 'intergenerational housing'

Our definition of intergenerational housing is centred on places where younger and older people live alongside one another, mix and share activities and experiences, and provide mutual support. While there are a number of older people's housing schemes that receive visits from younger children, providing great benefits to all involved, the APPG would regard these as intergenerational projects rather than intergenerational housing.

### Terms of reference:

The APPG invites respondents to answer any or all of the following questions on intergenerational housing.

1. What are the key ingredients that have enabled intergenerational housing projects to succeed?
2. What are the main challenges that you have experienced when developing intergenerational housing projects, and how can these be overcome?
3. What role do the different tiers of government have in helping intergenerational housing projects to flourish, e.g. local, regional and national government?
4. How can we elevate intergenerational housing up the policy agenda, both at national and local levels? Are there other policy agendas that intergenerational housing can align with, to make it a more appealing focus for government, e.g. wellbeing and creating age-friendly towns and cities?
5. How can we encourage local authorities, architects and private developers to work together to bring forward more intergenerational housing?
6. What funding and regulatory framework would best enable intergenerational housing projects to develop, and which bodies, e.g. Homes England, have a role to play in creating this framework? Related to this, how can we ensure funding for intergenerational housing projects not only supports the building of such schemes, but means they can be sustainable?
7. Aside from those centred on funding, are there non-government or non-departmental bodies that you think have a particularly important role to play in supporting intergenerational housing projects, e.g. The National Housing Federation, and how can they do this?
8. How can different organisations that are developing intergenerational housing projects collaborate? For instance, should the Intergenerational Housing Network be expanded to include an online platform?
9. If you have been involved in developing homesharing schemes, have you experienced any challenges in relation to the removal of benefits for either the homesharer or the householder? If so, how can these challenges be overcome?
10. How can we bridge the urban-rural divide between younger and older people, through which younger people increasingly tend to cluster in cities and large towns, and older people in smaller towns and villages?

### Responding to the call for evidence:

If you make a submission of evidence to the APPG, please ensure that:

- Your submission is no more than 2,000 words in length.
- You state clearly who the submission is from, i.e. whether from yourself in a personal capacity or sent on behalf of an organisation.
- You include a brief description of yourself/your organisation.
- You state clearly if you wish for your submission to be confidential. If this is not indicated, the APPG reserves the right to reference the content of your submission in future reports and publications.
- You email your submission in Word or Pdf format to [appg.socialintegration@the-challenge.org](mailto:appg.socialintegration@the-challenge.org)
- You submit your response no later than Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019.