



FIT FOR OUR
FUTURE

www.fitforourfuture.today

Designing, building and adapting homes for inclusive living

Campaign Manifesto

May 2023

We believe everyone should have a home that's suitable, safe and promotes independent living as their needs change.

We want a permanent change of mindset, to one that understands ageing and accessibility, and makes inclusive design and provision integrated parts of mainstream housing practice and [professional qualifications](#).

We need this approach to inform the way homes are designed, managed, maintained and adapted as a core part of modern housing services.

We stand for:

- **Better homes** – new and existing homes with flexibility and adaptability built in and maintained by design.
- **Better lives** – people's changing needs and the opportunity for home aids and adaptations as standard thinking and support for everyone.
- **Better designs** – creating [inclusive](#) and thoughtfully designed homes where people are proud to live and which prolong independence and promote mobility.
- **Better strategies** – shifting away from reactive, 'that'll do' interventions in a crisis to proactive and preventative home designs and improvements that boost people's quality of life and deliver long-term value.

We stand against:

- Uninclusive home designs and adaptations that are ugly, lack wider purpose and have a negative impact on people's pride in their homes, their self-perception and quality of life.
- Designs and provision that signal vulnerability and put people more at risk of stigma, isolation, crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Short-term thinking, funding and delivery of aids and adaptations that treat people's changing needs like abnormalities or personal failings.

We welcome:

- People and organisations who share our vision as supporters and key drivers to make *Fit For Our Future* homes and services a reality and the norm.
- Better use of [Disabled Facilities Grants](#)¹, [local council funding](#)² other finance to achieve long-term savings in housing, health, social care and welfare benefits.
- The [Better Social Housing Review](#) recommendations, and the [Building Safety Act 2022](#) with its focus on reducing the risk of accidents at home.
- [Changes to social housing regulation to strengthen consumer standards and resident satisfaction](#)
- [Innovation](#), changes and resources that secure better use of homes, greater efficiency and less demand for health, social care and other services.

We are:

- An '[agent of change](#)' campaign based on the principle that the person or organisation responsible for making a change must also bear responsibility for its impact.
- An alliance of housing, property and other agencies united by our desire and determination to do things differently and better.
- A [Homes for Living partner](#) (with energy provider [E.ON](#) and [Newcastle University](#)) – supporting people's mobility, wellbeing and freedom at home with free and attractive aids and equipment.
- In tune with the [rapid demographic changes](#) behind the need for more inclusive and flexible home designs, aids and adaptations.

We understand:

The homes that most people will continue to live have already been built. So as well as achieving more flexible and future-proof designs for new homes, we need more innovative, responsive and effective adaptation services to meet everyone's needs. All provision for inclusive living should be [sustainable](#) – for individuals and their families, communities, housing providers, and the environment.

We hope you will join and back our campaign.

Find out more at:

www.FitForOurFuture.today

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¹ In England, Wales and Northern Ireland

² In Scotland