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The Centre for Policy on Ageing's response to 'Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society', published 25 February 2008

The Centre for Policy on Ageing welcomes the government's joined-up strategy for housing in an ageing society.

Gillian Crosby, the Centre's director, said 'I am delighted that the government is proposing new measures to support older people in their homes now and also planning for communities that better meet the needs of people of all ages in the future.

'The strategy acknowledges that specialised housing in particular must be considered from the perspective of older people matching their aspirations and lifestyles. We need new thinking and creative solutions that empower older people to live their lives as they wish within a safe and inclusive community. Commissioners must engage with older people through listening events, direct communication, group forums and research and work with them to achieve sustainable housing and communities.

'Broadening the range of housing options available to older people – such as co-housing – and providing the information and support to make choices are critical elements of the strategy.'

The government accepts that specialised housing of all types has been under-researched and the lack of robust surveys is a major gap. CPA supports the government's aim to develop a joint national research approach to expand and enhance the evidence base in this area and welcomes the opportunity to contribute.

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Notes

1. The Centre for Policy on Ageing in partnership with the Older People's Programme has been commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Independent Living Committee to explore older people's vision for long term care focusing on how they can exercise choice and control over their lives in whatever setting. The one-year project is due to produce a final report in March 2008.