

# New Parliamentary report highlighting need to make housing “dementia ready”



A new report called “Housing for people with dementia – are we ready?”, has been published by the All-Party Parliament Group (APPG) on Housing and Care for Older People.

The report was produced by gathering evidence from older people living with dementia, from organisations within the housing and care sectors including Accord, and from government departments.

The 52-page document highlights that the number of BAME people with dementia in England and Wales is likely to double to around 50,000 by 2026. The report also recommends that local authorities should clearly set out the housing demand for people living with dementia in their locality when producing housing plans, including estimates for need in BAME and LGBT communities and how these targets will be met.

Rishi Spolia, Head of Locality, Accord Housing Association, said:

“Accord are delighted to be involved in the Ageing Well Network and the research that has been produced by the APPG. The group has supported Accord’s work and given us the ability to focus and target actions that ensures that the current stock and service offering for existing BAME populations, as well as any new provision or services, will better reflect cultural and faith diversity. The disproportionate effect that Covid 19 has had on BAME groups has further highlighted the discrepancies that can arise from poor accommodation and community provision in our ageing population.

“Accord has been working on an older persons’ offer tailored towards BAME communities which is culturally sensitive with quick wins like installing lever taps in our properties to communities that require running water to perform ablution before prayers and making food available to suit specific diets. We hope to offer a pathway of accommodation to customers that will range from a person of good health being housed in general needs accommodation, moving to sheltered housing, extra and nursing care, or have care in their own homes as they grow older to improve choices and outcomes for BAME older people and those diagnosed with associated support needs

like dementia and mental health. This will enable families to be comfortable that their loved onesâ personal, mental and dietary needs are being catered for with the peace of mind that it will be graceful, respectful and culturally aware.â

A copy of âHousing for people with dementia â are we ready?â can be downloaded from the dedicated APPG inquiry webpage at: <https://www.housinglin.org.uk/APPG-Housing-and-Dementia>

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