|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Content type* | **Publication** |
| *Date* | 28 May 2013 |
| *Title* | **Downsizing in later life and appropriate housing size across our lifetime** |
| *Excerpt* | A think piece calling for a fresh look at under-occupation and housing in later life. |
| *Body copy* | This think piece is one of series produced for the [Hanover@50 debate.](http://www.hanover50debate.org.uk/)It laments the refusal of many people aged over 65 to recognise they are ageing, aggravated by a misinterpretation of ‘ageing in place’ in the UK. The latter has seen retirement housing regarded by policymakers and many potential customers as a place for those with significant health and care needs – and has thereby exacerbated the sector’s poor image. We have been distracted by arguments around under-occupancy marred by ageist overtones.The paper says:• Asking older people alone to downsize is ageist: we should be discouraging under-occupation through life• Older people are often in denial about the realities of ageing – and therefore what downsizing and specialist housing could offer them• Older people will move if they are offered housing options that will improve their quality of life and potentially improve their health and social care outcomes in later years• Local authorities have seen retirement housing as largely for those with existing care needs, exacerbating the sector’s image problem• We need to build more homes if we want to encourage downsizing – we could make things worse for first-time buyers if they and older people chase similar smaller homes.Author: Dr Dylan Kneale with Sally-Marie Bamford and David Sinclair |
| *Category (choose one only)* | [ ]  Culture and society[ ]  Finance and wealth[ ]  Health and care systems | [ ]  Infrastructure[ ]  Productivity |
| *Culture and society topics (choose more than one if relevant)* | [ ]  Arts and music[ ]  Community[ ]  Digital connections[ ]  Families[ ]  Identity | [ ]  Inequalities[ ]  Isolation[ ]  Loneliness[ ]  Relationships[ ]  Social connections |
| *Finance and wealth topics (choose more than one if relevant)* | [ ]  Advice[ ]  Debt[ ]  Financial planning[ ]  Housing wealth | [ ]  Investments[ ]  Pensions[ ]  Personal finance[ ]  Savings |
| *Health and care systems topics (choose more than one if relevant)* | [ ]  Cancer[ ]  Care homes[ ]  Dementia[ ]  Hearing loss[ ]  Immunisation | [ ]  NHS[ ]  Nutrition and hydration[ ]  Prevention[ ]  Sight loss[ ]  Social care |
| *Infrastructure topics (choose more than one if relevant)* | [ ]  Built environment[ ]  Education | [ ]  Housing[ ]  Transport |
| *Productivity topics (choose more than one if relevant)* | [ ]  Consumption[ ]  Employment[ ]  GDP[ ]  Growth | [ ]  Opportunity of longevity[ ]  Recruitment[ ]  Training[ ]  Work |
| *Themes* | [ ]  BME[ ]  Cost[ ]  Emerging issue[ ]  Funding[ ]  Good practice[ ]  Immigration[ ]  Innovation[ ]  Intergenerational[ ]  International | [ ]  LGBT[ ]  Life expectancy[ ]  Older consumers[ ]  Policy[ ]  Providers[ ]  Technology[ ]  Welfare[ ]  Workforce |