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| *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 |
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