



Community  
Conversation...

# A Place Called Home

Your living choices in later life



To complete an online version, please visit [consult.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/a-place-called-home](https://consult.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/a-place-called-home) to find out more or scan the QR code



How would you like to live as you grow older?

How can you best stay independent and healthy?

What kind of accommodation would you prefer?

**Where you choose to live as you grow older, and what extra support or care you may need, are key decisions most of us have to make at some point.**

We need to ensure there is the right mix of living choices and support options for older people in Westmorland and Furness in the coming decades.

Before we begin more detailed planning we want to hear what residents think about their future: what will living well look like as you get older? What do you know about different housing options available to older people?

The survey should take just 10-15 minutes to complete.

Return your completed survey by Monday March 30, 2026, at 4.30pm to Barrow Town Hall, Kendal Town Hall, Voreda House Penrith, or any Westmorland and Furness library, OR pop it into an envelope and post it free to FREEPOST Westmorland and Furness Council



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## My parents need care and support, or may do soon, can I take part?

Yes. If you are a carer or are starting to think about the future care of an older relative, we would like to hear from you. Do also encourage your relative to take part in the survey themselves though, if they are able. To give your views as a carer or relative please tick the appropriate box on the next page.

Please do not answer questions on behalf of your relative, but give your own perspective about future provision of accommodation and care in Westmorland and Furness.

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## How do organisations and groups take part in the survey?

There is a separate stakeholder survey for Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Organisations and people who work or volunteer for them. Please visit: **[consult.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/adult-social-care/a-place-called-home-stakeholder-survey/](https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/adult-social-care/a-place-called-home-stakeholder-survey/)**.

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## Privacy Statement

In submitting this form, you agree to your feedback and comments being used for the purposes of informing the Adult Social Care future of care project. Any feedback and comments used will be anonymised.

The information will be accessed only by necessary staff at Westmorland and Furness Council.

Your data will be held securely and will not be distributed to third parties. You have a right to change or access the information collected in this survey.

When this information is no longer required for this purpose, Westmorland and Furness Council will dispose of your data.

To read our full privacy notice, visit our website: [westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/your-council/data-protection-andprivacy/privacy-notice](https://westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/your-council/data-protection-andprivacy/privacy-notice).

### 1 Have you read our privacy policy and are you happy to proceed with this survey?

Yes, I'd like to proceed

### 2 About you. Select all that apply.

I am a resident of Westmorland and Furness and want to complete the survey for myself

I am a carer for an older relative or person in Westmorland and Furness and want to give my perspective

Neither of the above apply to me

**Please tick if you are also an employee of Westmorland and Furness Council**

I am an employee of Westmorland and Furness Council

### 3 What's important to you?

**We'd like to start by asking what's most important to you to be able to live well as you grow older and may be in need of more and care and support.**

- What does **independence** mean to you?
- What does **home** mean to you?
- What does **community** mean to you?
- Do you have any **worries** about the future?

**Thinking about the future, what does “staying independent” mean to you? What will be the most important things you’d like to continue being able to do independently, to live well as you grow older?**

**What makes ‘a place called home’? Do you want to stay in your own home for as a long as possible, or are you more open to moving to more suitable accommodation for when your needs increase?**

**If you needed to move to more suitable accommodation in later life, how important to you will be staying in the same town or village, connected to your current, social and community support and activities?**

**Thinking about the future, what are you most concerned about when considering your future housing and care needs as you, or you and your partner, grow older?**

## 4 Your living choices - awareness of options

**Here is a list of housing options for older people so that with the right environment and support they can go on living the best life possible. Please tick all the ones you have heard of, or are aware of.**

- Staying in your own home with adaptations installed for older people
- Living in a house or flat specially designed from new for older people
- Living in age-restricted retirement flats
- Living in “sheltered housing” or “housing with support”
- Living in a “retirement village”
- Living in “extra care housing” “assisted living” or “housing with care”
- Living in a residential care home
- Living in a nursing home
- Living with a Shared Lives carer

**For the same list of options, please tick those you are confident or quite confident that you understand what that option involves, and how it is different from the others**

- Staying in your own home with adaptations installed for older people
- Living in a house or flat specially designed from new for older people
- Living in age-restricted retirement flats
- Living in “sheltered housing” or “housing with support”
- Living in a “retirement village”
- Living in “extra care housing” “assisted living” or “housing with care”
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- Living in a nursing home
- Living with a Shared Lives carer

## 5 Your current home

### What kind of housing do you currently live in?

A conventional home - with no special adaptations

A conventional home - with adaptations fitted

A conventional age-friendly home built new with adaptations

Housing with support - specialised housing for older people such as sheltered housing or retirement flats, with basic support and security of a daytime site manager and alarm system

Housing with care - specialised 'Extra Care Housing' where there is 24-hour personal care on site if needed, usually with communal facilities, which may include a restaurant, laundry, shop, or hairdresser, and social activities.

Residential care home

Nursing care home

### Which of the following best describes your current housing situation?

Own a property outright

Own a property but still buying on a mortgage

Own a share of a property through a Shared Ownership Scheme

Rent from a private landlord

Rent from a social landlord (such as Local Authority or Housing Association)

I don't know

Prefer not to say

Other (Please specify below)

### What do you think might get more difficult if you stay living in your current home?

## 6 Your current support needs

### What are your current support and care arrangements? (For you or a partner in the same home)

- Not receiving any support or care
- Receiving low-level help from friends and family (e.g. shopping, gardening, transport)
- Receiving low-level paid support (e.g. cleaning, gardening)
- Receiving regular support in the home for daily living from paid carers  
(e.g. washing, dressing, meals, medication)
- Receiving support in a residential care home
- Receiving care in a nursing home
- Prefer not to say

## 7 Your living choices - thinking ahead

### How much thought have you given to what kind of housing you would prefer to live in as you get older and if you need more support?

- A lot of thought
- Quite a lot of thought
- Some thought
- Hardly any thought
- Never thought about it yet

Give reasons for your answer (optional)

## 8 Your living choices - find out more

### 1 | Staying in your own home

*Also called: mainstream housing, general needs housing, ordinary housing.*

You stay where you are, with support brought in if needed.

**Key features:**

- Home adaptations (e.g., grab rails, ramps, stairlifts)
  - Technology for safety: community/personal alarms, fall detectors, smart devices
  - Support at home possible: equipment, home care, domestic help, meals services
  - Can apply for social care assessment to check support needs
  - Maintains independence and continuity.
- 

### 2 | Sheltered Housing / Retirement Housing

*Also called: retirement living, independent living, housing-with-support.*

Self-contained flats or bungalows for older people (often 55+ or 60+), to rent or buy, with low-level support.

**Key features:**

- Own front door, usually 20–50 homes per scheme
  - Visiting or on-site scheme manager/warden (support varies)
  - 24/7 emergency alarm system
  - Shared lounge; sometimes guest room or gardens
  - No routine personal care, but care can be arranged separately.
- 

### 3 | Extra Care Housing

*Also called: very sheltered housing, assisted living, housing with care, retirement villages (private sector).*

Self-contained homes (often flats), to rent or buy, with care available on-site.

**Key features:**

- Personal care available (washing, dressing, medication)
  - Staff available up to 24/7 in most schemes
  - Communal dining room, social spaces, activities
  - Emergency call system linked to care staff
  - Can be rented or owned.
-

## 4 | Retirement Villages

*Also called: integrated retirement communities, continuing care retirement communities*

Large developments of homes with extensive facilities, usually private sector.

**Key features:**

- Mix of bungalows, flats, or houses for older adults
  - Domestic support and personal care available on-site
  - Restaurant, shops, leisure facilities (e.g., gym, hairdresser)
  - May include an on-site care home.
- 

## 5 | Shared Lives Housing

You live in the home of an approved Shared Lives carer and share family and community life.

**Key features:**

- One-to-one, family-style support in a household environment
  - Increasingly considered for older adults needing support
  - Can offer strong social connection and continuity
  - Usually for people who can live semi-independently.
- 

## 6 | Care Homes (Residential or Nursing)

Residential settings with 24-hour staffing.

**Key features:**

- Residential care homes: support with personal care only
  - Nursing homes: include on-site qualified nurses
  - Communal living, meals provided, staff always available
  - Suitable for people needing high levels of support or complex care needs.
-

## 9 Your living choices - future preferences

**If your need for support and care increased, which of the following options would you prefer?**

Staying in my own home - with adaptations and/or increasing levels of personal care in the home as and when needed

Moving to a conventional but more suitable home first - with adaptations and/or increasing levels of personal care in the home as and when needed

Moving to Sheltered Housing or Retirement Housing - with basic support and increasing levels of personal care in the home as and when needed

Moving to Extra Care Housing or 'retirement village' - with 24-hour personal care on site if needed now or in the future, extra communal facilities and social activities

Moving to a Residential Care Home

Give reasons for your answer (optional)

**If your care needs were such that the only realistic options were moving to a good Residential Care Home or into a good Extra Care Housing community, which would you prefer?**

Residential Care Home

Extra Care Housing community

Not sure

Give reasons for your answer (optional)

## 10 What should the council prioritise?

Below are some suggestions for improving the living choices and support in Westmorland and Furness for people in later life. For each of these options please select whether you think these should be lower priority, medium priority or highest priority for the council.

	Low priority	Medium priority	High priority	Don't know
Adapt existing homes of people in later life so the home is more physically accessible/ age-friendly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide latest digital technology to assist and monitor people at home to keep them safe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide financial assistance to people in later life to adapt their existing homes to be more accessible/ age-friendly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourage development of new conventional housing that is more accessible/ age-friendly (e.g. smaller properties, bungalows, apartments with lifts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop affordable housing specifically tailored to the needs of people in later life with lower incomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourage development of 'retirement housing' - accommodation which is only for people aged 55-60+ and is designed to suit older people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide more council-run residential care homes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourage the development of more independent residential care homes and nursing homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide more specialist residential support for people with complex dementia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourage development of alternative accommodation to care homes like extra care housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve support services to people in later life so people have better advice and information about future housing options, home modifications and support/ healthcare assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 11 Final thoughts

**Having taken part in this survey, do you feel better informed about the housing options that might be available to you in the future?**

A lot more informed

A bit more informed

Made no difference

Additional comments (optional)

**Has this survey been useful in prompting you to think more about what you might need to live well in the future?**

Very useful

Quite useful

Not useful

Give reasons for your answer (optional)

**What would you like to know more about in the future as you plan your living choices?**

**Is there anything else you would like to comment on?**

**Would you like to take part in further engagement and consultation activities on Adult Social Care in the future, and on other Westmorland and Furness Council activities?**

Yes - Please tell me about future Adult Social Care engagement and consultation activities (enter email address below)

Yes - Please tell me about future Westmorland and Furness Council engagement and consultation activities (enter email address below)

No

Your email address

## 12 About you

To help us ensure we have engaged with a cross section of residents, please complete the optional monitoring questions below.

To read our full privacy notice, visit our website: [westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/your-council/data-protection-andprivacy/privacy-notice](https://westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/your-council/data-protection-andprivacy/privacy-notice).

### Why we ask for this information

As a public authority, Westmorland and Furness Council is subject to the public sector equality duty set out in the Equality Act 2010 which can be viewed here [legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/part/2/chapter/1](https://legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/part/2/chapter/1). This means that in exercising our functions we must work towards:

- eliminating discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act
- advancing equality of opportunity between those with and without protected characteristics
- fostering good relations between groups with and without protected characteristics

One of our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion aims is to strengthen the knowledge we have about our individual service users and residents.

While sharing information about protected characteristics is not a requirement, having this information gives us more understanding of the experience and outcomes different groups of people have of our services, meaning we are better able to identify and tackle any inequalities.

It also makes it easier for us to work with individuals to develop services that are appropriate to them.

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### Data protection and privacy

The information you provide will be handled in line with the Westmorland and Furness Council privacy policy and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

We may use anonymised statistics and data to inform discussions and decisions, including to improve things. However, no information will be published or used in any way which allows an individual to be identified. All details are held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

The information that we are asking you to provide is informed by our duties under the Equality Act 2010, and includes information about your age, race, sex and health.

**What age are you?**

- 16-24     25-34     35-44     45-59     60-74     75-79  
 80-85     85+     Prefer not to answer

**What is your legal sex (as recorded at birth)?**

- Male     Female     Prefer not to answer

**What is your ethnic group?**

Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background

## Asian or Asian British

- Bangladeshi     Chinese  
 Indian     Pakistani  
 Other Asian or Asian British background

## Black, Black British, Caribbean or African

- African     Caribbean  
 Other Black, Black British, Caribbean or African background

## Mixed or Multiple ethnic group

- White and Black Caribbean  
 White and Black African  
 White and Asian  
 Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background

## White

- British     English  
 Welsh     Scottish  
 Northern Irish     Irish  
 Any other White background

## Other ethnic group

- Arab     British Romichal  
 Welsh Romany (Kale)  
 Irish Traveller     Scottish Traveller  
 Eastern European Roma  
 Any other ethnic group

## Prefer to self-describe

- Prefer not to answer

**What is your postcode? (optional)**

**How would you describe the place where you currently live, in terms of how urban or rural it is, and access to services now and in the future?**

- Urban – in a large town or very near, with most services  
 (Barrow, Ulverston, Kendal, Penrith only)  
 Rural town/village – smaller town or large village, or near, with many services  
 Rural – small village or near, with some services  
 Remote – isolated, with no or very few nearby services  
 Prefer not to answer

**Do you have a disability or long-term health condition?**

Yes  No  Prefer not to answer

**If yes, how would you describe your disability or long term health condition? (please select multiple options if necessary)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Disability                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Progressive Conditions and Physical Health (such as HIV, cancer, multiple sclerosis, fits, etc) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autism                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sight   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behaviour and Emotional                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing                                   | Prefer to self-describe  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learn or understand (Learning Disability) | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manual Dexterity                          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memory or ability to concentrate          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility and Gross Motor                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Perception of Physical Danger             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal, Self Care and Continence        |  |

**Do you identify as Neurodivergent?**

Yes  No  Prefer not to answer

**Returning this form**

Please return your completed survey by Monday March 30, 2026, at 4.30pm to either Barrow Town Hall, Kendal Town Hall, Voreda House Penrith, or any Westmorland and Furness library, OR pop it into an envelope and post it free to **FREEPOST Westmorland and Furness Council**



**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**



## Translation Services

If you require this document in another format (e.g. CD, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone: **0300 373 3300**.

للوصول إلى هذه المعلومات بلغتك، يرجى الاتصال 0300 373 3300

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে 0300 373 3300 নম্বরে টেলিফোন করুন।

如果您希望通过母语了解此信息，  
请致电 0300 373 3300

Jeigu norétumète gauti šią informaciją savo kalba,  
skambinkite telefonu 0300 373 3300

W celu uzyskania informacji w Państwa języku proszę  
zatelefonować pod numer 0300 373 3300

Se quiser aceder a esta informação na sua língua,  
telefone para o 0300 373 3300

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde görmek istiyorsanız lütfen  
0300 373 3300 numaralı telefonu arayınız

