

# Housing and sight loss

Issues for design, management and  
maintenance

# Why address sight loss?

- Around 2 million people in the UK have sight loss that affects everyday life, most are aged over 65
- Many eye conditions are age related
- Normal ageing of the eye means that, as we age, we need more light than younger people to achieve the same vision: around 13 million people aged over 60 are affected
- Design that is good for sight is good for everyone.

# The research foundations

- The housing needs of people with sight loss (University College London):
  - People aged over 65
  - People ‘of working age’
- Lighting for people with sight loss (University of Reading):
  - Within Pocklington housing.

# People's housing priorities

- Independence, choice, access to services, contact with family and friends
- Known, safe and secure environments – inside and outside the house
- Minimum change and disruption
- Individual responses to assessments of individual needs, including information
- Time and support to adapt to changes.

# The outcomes people want

- A home that is comfortable, easy to live in and personal
- Safety and security – within and outside
- Accessibility – within and outside
- Opportunities to make the most of sight, in choice of activities and in daily living

# Design, management and maintenance: six key points for sight

- Involve people
- Improve lighting
- Use colour and contrast
- Avoid clutter
- Avoid glare
- Accessible appliances.

# In practice:

- Sufficient, and flexible, space
  - Power points
  - Storage
- Design to maximize vision
  - Light, without glare
  - Colour and contrast
- Hazards are designed out
  - Door opening systems
  - Easy to follow routes.

# Supporting practice: Pocklington guidance

- The Design Guide: Housing for people with sight loss
- Housing LIN factsheet 26
- Improve the lighting in your home: booklet with RNIB
- Pocklington Good Practice Guide 1: Meeting the housing and support needs of people aged 18-55 with sight loss
- Pocklington Good Practice Guide 4: A practical guide to improving existing homes

# Other Pocklington resources

- Forthcoming publication
  - Lighting implementation: Good Practice Guide 5
- Lighting training
- Consultancy
  - Audit existing buildings
  - Review designs for new developments
- ‘Light for Sight’ a multidisciplinary strategy.

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