

# Inclusive Living Toolkit: Overview

This overview document will explain what the inclusive living project is and how using the toolkit can help your organisation in the future. The toolkit comprises three documents to help your organisation to consider and take an inclusive living approach.

## Why is inclusive living important for social housing?

In 2018, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations created an ambitious Innovation and Future Thinking programme that includes three key streams, one of which focused on the home of the future. This brought together the housing, construction and wider sectors together to create a vision for future living. The concept of inclusive living was created to explore social inclusion, inclusive design and building connections in the housing sector.

The vision for the home of the future is about integrating fragmented elements to support accessibility, adaptability, flexibility and independence within housing. The home of the future will be designed around individual needs and desires of the people living there, and will reduce isolation and support connectivity and independence through a framework that focuses on:

- **Social inclusion and equality**
- **Physical space and design**
- **Relationships and connections**

## Project overview

The inclusive living project is about creating a vision for the housing sector.

Government policy is increasingly focusing on the following areas that will shape the home of the future:

- **healthy ageing**
- **technology**
- **climate change**

This project aims to explore the concept of inclusive living and present evidence for a framework that can support the housing sector in meeting these key challenges. The initial focus of the project was on ageing, but, from the findings of the literature review, the home of the future partnership wishes to promote a more inclusive vision for the housing sector, based on the idea that inclusion, inclusive design, connections and relationships are good for all groups, from those with dementia to younger people living with physical disabilities and beyond. At present, activity that supports these challenges can be fragmented.

**To meet these challenges, the Inclusive Living Toolkit will support organisations to consider inclusion in their strategic and operational planning to 'future-proof' housing.**





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### What's involved in inclusive living and using the toolkit?

#### 1. Indicate your interest in the inclusive living project

Once you have indicated that your organisation is interested in getting involved in the inclusive living project, we will give you access to the full Inclusive Living Toolkit which contains detailed information about the project.

#### 2. Identify an Inclusive Living Ambassador

Your organisation should then identify an inclusive living ambassador – a volunteer who will help to embed the principle of inclusive living into your everyday operations and future development planning. They will receive training and support on the functionalities of the toolkit, its purpose and how to facilitate conversations about inclusive design within your organisation.

#### 3. Agree to setup an Inclusive Living session in your organisation

Once you have appointed your inclusive living ambassador, you can organise a session on inclusive living using the Inclusive Living Toolkit. The session can either be an in-person workshop or an online session as long as you can share your screen. Microsoft Teams and Zoom can support this function.

#### 4. The resources available for you to use as part of the inclusive living toolkit:

##### 1. Inclusive Living Evidence Review

This is a good place for ambassadors to begin as it outlines evidence that supports the concept of inclusive living.

##### 2. Inclusive Living Checklist Tool

The Inclusive Living Checklist Tool allows housing associations and co-operatives to think holistically about inclusive approaches to housing development, maintenance and repair. The tool is designed to allow ambassadors to facilitate a group session on different elements that can be adjusted, changed, or implemented to support more accessible practice and design.

##### 3. Notes for Inclusive Living Ambassadors

A summary of the concept of inclusive living, the role of ambassador and tips on how to run an inclusive living session.

