

HAVEN OR HELL? A CRITICAL DEBATE ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF AGEING-IN-PLACE

HELEN BROWN

SENIOR LECTURER IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, UNIVERSITY OF DERBY

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

@HELENBROWN09 

AIMS OF THIS SESSION

- Definitions of ageing-in-place
- Why important – Occupational Therapists and me!
- Challenge assumptions about ageing-in-place
- Identity drivers of ageing-in-place
- Consider possible consequences of this policy agenda
- Implications for Occupational Therapy

AGEING-IN-PLACE – SOME DEFINITIONS

- “Place, is space with meaning” (Cresswell, 2004)
- “...remaining living in the community, with some level of independence, rather than in residential care” (Davey, Nana, de Joux, & Arcus, 2004, p. 133).
- “The ability to live in one’s own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009)

WHY IS AGEING-IN-PLACE IMPORTANT?

- Ageing population (LGA, 2017)
- Increasing numbers and multiples of long term conditions (DH, 2012)
- Austerity
- Integration (NHS, 2017)
- Expectations
- **Housing underpins all other interventions**



WHY IS AGEING-IN-PLACE IMPORTANT TO ME?

CASE EXAMPLE 2010

- 85 years old, male, ethnic minority, lived alone, mental health condition
- Ageing-in-place – social housing, bungalow, nice suburb
- Does not want to move

CASE EXAMPLE

- Neighbour complaints / Anti Social Behaviour
- Erratic behaviour – windows covered with newspapers, self neglect
- Refusing access – visit with Housing Officer
- No heating or electricity, little furniture, no food, disrepair, cold, dangerous...?
- Risk? Best interest? Who decides?
- Short term outcome
- Long term outcome

AGEING-IN-PLACE – ASSUMPTIONS

- Most older people prefer to age-in-place...?
- “...helping older people to remain living at home fundamentally and positively contributes to an increase in well-being, independence, social participation and healthy ageing” (Sixsmith and Sixsmith, 2008, p. 219).
- Cost effective solution to scarce health, social care and housing resources

AGEING-IN-PLACE - DRIVERS

- Health – ‘home first’ – DTOCs /STPs (NHS Mandate 2017-18)
- Social care – ‘prevent, reduce, delay’ (DoH, 2014)
- Housing – ‘housing first’ – (MHCLG, 2017)
- Mental health – security of tenure, quality (MHF, 2016)
- Third sector – Centre for Ageing Better, Shelter, Age UK, MIND
- Industrial Strategy (HM Government, 2017)

AGEING-IN-PLACE - OLDER PEOPLE

- Prefer to age-in-place?
- Place attachment
 - Home - identity
 - Neighbourhood – familiarity
- Social and emotional connections
- Choice and opportunity - Aspiration
- Limitations – financial, availability, suitability, social class

THE ISSUES - HOME

- Harm – hiding harmful behaviours (Gurney, 2019)
- Abuse – how do we know? (Biggs et al, 2009)
- Accident – risk management (RSoPA, 2019)
- Repair – heating, damp, fuel poverty (Age UK, 2016)
- Isolation – loneliness strategy (HM Government, 2018)
- Care – ‘deserts’ (The Guardian, 2019)

THE ISSUES - NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Amenities – shops, services
- Transport – price, frequency
- Accessibility – benches, rails,
- Safety – lighting, repair
- Inclusivity – intergenerational, gentrified
- Green (and blue) space – quality?

WHAT IS CONTRIBUTING TO THESE ISSUES?

- Health / Social care – lack of resources
- Housing – shortage across all tenures
- Inequalities – exacerbate issues
- Intersectionality – marginalised groups
- Neo-liberalism – whose responsibility?

SHOULD WE INTERVENE?

- Why? – the right thing to do
- Who? – everyone in need
- What? – older people actually want
- When? – when people need it....!
- Where? – in place
- How? – the tricky one...but I would say just ask...?

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

- Call to action...
- Ask the why?
- Advocate
- Make connections
- Impartial information and advice
- Influence

IMPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH

- What do older people really want?
 - Home and Neighbourhood
- Which occupations are valued?
 - Meaning
- How are aspirations expressed?
 - Hope

QUESTIONS?



REFERENCES

- Biggs, S., Erens, B., Doyle, M., Hall, J., & Sanchez, M. 2009. *Abuse and neglect of older people: Secondary analysis of UK prevalence study*. London, UK: King's College London and the National Centre for Social Research.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009. *Healthy Places Terminology*, available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/terminology.htm>
- Cresswell, T., 2004. *Defining place. Place: A Short Introduction*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Ltd, 12.
- Davey, J.A., de Joux, V., Nana, G. and Arcus, M., 2004. *Accommodation options for older people in Aotearoa/New Zealand*. Christchurch: Centre for Housing Research.
- Department of Health, 2012. *Third edition of the Long term conditions compendium*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/third-edition-of-long-term-conditions-compendium-published>
- Department of Health, 2017. The Government's revised mandate to NHS England for 2017-18. Retrieved on May 31st 2019 from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/692140/NHSE_Mandate_2017-18_revised.pdf
- Department of Health, 2016. Care Act: Care and support statutory guidance. Retrieved on October 19th 2018 from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance> (Accessed 16 October 2016).
- Gurney, Craig (2019) Harm from Home?: The hidden geographies of health-harming behaviours and the meaning of home. Paper prepared for Housing Studies Association Annual Conference 2019; *Home Struggles: Politics, Marginality and Resistance in the Contest for Housing*. Sheffield: 10-12 April 2019
- HM Government, 2017. Industrial Strategy: building a Britain fit for the future. Retrieved on October 19th 2018 from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/664563/industrial-strategy-white-paper-web-ready-version.pdf
- HM Government, 2018. *A connected society: a strategy for tackling loneliness – laying the foundations for change*. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-connected-society-a-strategy-for-tackling-loneliness>

REFERENCES

- HM Government, 2011. *Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/laying-the-foundations-a-housing-strategy-for-england--2>
- HM Government, 2011. *Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/laying-the-foundations-a-housing-strategy-for-england--2>
- Local Government Association, 2017. Housing our ageing population: learning from councils meeting the housing need of our ageing population. Retrieved on April 22nd, 2018 from https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/5.17%20-%20Housing%20our%20ageing%20population_07_0.pdf
- Marmot, M., 2010. *Fair Society, Healthy Lives: a strategic review of health inequalities in England post-2010 (The Marmot Review)*, Marmot Review, London.
- Mental Health Foundation, 2016. *Mental Health and Housing*. Mental Health Providers Forum: London
- MCHLG, 2017. *Fixing our broken housing market*. HM Government: London
- Nicol, S., Roys, M. and Garrett, H. 2015, “The cost of poor housing to the NHS”, available at: http://www.housinglin.org.uk/_library/Resources/Housing/Support_materials/87741-Cost-of-Poor-Housing-Briefing-Paper-v3.pdf (accessed 14 July 2016).
- RoSPA, 2019. *Older people safety*. Available at: <https://www.rospace.com/home-safety/advice/older-people/> (accessed 31 May 2019)
- Sixsmith, A. and Sixsmith, J., 2008. Ageing in place in the United Kingdom. *Ageing International*, 32(3), pp.219-235.
- Wiles, J.L., Leibing, A., Guberman, N., Reeve, J. and Allen, R.E., 2012. The meaning of “aging in place” to older people. *The gerontologist*, 52(3), pp.357-366.