



Healthy Homes and Buildings

A Mission for Healthy Homes and Buildings

**Why Healthy Homes
and Buildings are central
to the delivery of the
Government's 5 missions**



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A Mission for Healthy Homes and Buildings



The Healthy Homes and Buildings APPG believes everyone has the right to live in a healthy home.

We are on a mission to embed health and wellbeing principles in future legislation for future generations. This Healthy Homes and Buildings Missions Paper sets out why healthy homes and buildings are central to the delivery of all 5 of the Government's key missions: **boosting economic growth, strengthening communities, reducing health inequalities, breaking down barriers to opportunities, and making Britain a clean energy superpower.**



Kickstarting economic growth



Stronger, safer communities



Build an NHS fit for the future



Break down barriers to opportunity



Make Britain a clean energy superpower

Healthy Homes and Buildings deliver across all of the Government's 5 key missions



Mission 1: Growth

Boosts the economy: A National Retrofit Strategy could create 500,000 jobs and increase household disposable income by 2%.

Reduces pressure on the NHS: Poor housing costs the NHS £1.4bn annually. Healthier homes could save £600m per year.

Meets Net Zero targets: Retrofitting homes and buildings to be carbon neutral will generate a green economy and a healthier, more skilled and productive workforce.

Mission 2: Stronger, Safer Communities

Poor housing can contribute to crime and anti-social behaviour: 75% of high-crime London boroughs are among the most deprived.

Stronger communities start with better homes: When people live in good quality, well designed and "healthy" homes and places, it creates a stronger sense of community and belonging, which positively impacts their health, wellbeing and social behaviour.

Mission 3: Health

Poor housing is driving health inequalities: Cold, damp, and mouldy homes worsen respiratory diseases, hitting vulnerable groups the hardest.

The NHS is footing the bill: Poor housing is projected to cost £136bn over 30 years in health and social care.

Retrofitting and accessibility: Retrofitting homes improves independent living and reduces hospital admissions. Investing in healthy housing now will ease long-term pressure on health and social care services.

Mission 4: Opportunity

Job creation and skills development: Living in well-connected, healthy homes and places which do not cause or exacerbate poor health and wellbeing will boost productivity, growth, opportunities and life chances.

Impact on educational attainment: Damp, cold, poorly ventilated and badly lit homes result in a range of health issues including respiratory problems such as asthma. Sickness and poor health in children caused by poor housing will result in increased absence from school, limiting opportunities and educational attainment. This can have a long-term impact on the economy, future skills and labour market.

Mission 5: Clean Energy

Locally-driven retrofit: Community-led retrofit programmes not only reduce carbon emissions but also improve the occupants' health; ensuring homes are warm, dry, and energy-efficient.

Indoor air quality and energy efficiency: Poor ventilation contributes to damp, mould, and respiratory conditions. With 80% of ventilation systems non-compliant, improving standards will improve both energy efficiency and public health.

Building regulations and energy performance: Current Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) proposals fail to account for air quality and the wider health benefits of energy-efficient buildings. A more holistic approach is needed to ensure homes are truly health positive and sustainable.



Policy asks & call to action



- **Commit to a fully funded National Retrofit Strategy** embedding health and wellbeing standards, leveraging public and private finance and creating high-quality green jobs
- **Mandate minimum housing quality standards** and invest in large-scale regeneration of sub-standard housing to reduce crime and build stronger and safer communities
- **Embed housing in NHS and health prevention strategies** prioritising retrofit funding to reduce damp, mould, and cold-related illnesses, and enable independent living for an ageing population
- **Align housing and economic policy** to deliver high-quality, affordable homes at scale while driving job creation and skills development
- **Make healthy, energy-efficient housing central to Britain's clean energy strategy**
- **Establish a cross-departmental committee for healthy homes and buildings and/or Minister and department dedicated to tackling the problems caused by unhealthy homes and buildings.** It is time for the Government to address health inequalities and embed wellbeing principles in future legislation.

The Government must integrate health and well-being principles into future legislation, acknowledging their deep connection to our living, working, resting, and recreational environments.

Given we spend 90% of our time indoors, the homes and buildings where we live, work, rest, and play should not cause or exacerbate poor health and wellbeing.

We make a compelling case for policy and legislative change in our [Healthy Homes Manifesto](#) and [White Paper](#). It is beyond clear that the UK must build and retrofit homes and buildings that are not only energy-efficient but also safe and healthy.

The Government must now take an holistic, joined-up approach that recognises the inextricable link between health and housing. Poor-quality homes contribute to worsening health outcomes, increased NHS costs, lower educational attainment and deeper social inequality.

References



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This Paper was produced by the
HHB APPG following its meeting:

**WHY BUILDING HEALTHY HOMES IS
CENTRAL TO DELIVERING THE GOVERNMENT'S
5 MISSIONS FOR CHANGE.**

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