

Housing Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce

Terms of Reference



Background

The housing sector overall ensured that all residents regardless of tenure feel safe and that their homes support their physical and mental wellbeing.

The UK is facing an unprecedented pressure to deliver homes. The housing sector has been tasked by government to build 300,00 homes a year against the backdrop of Local Authorities struggling to consent new homes without the backlash of their existing residents. There is also pressure to improve the existing housing stock in the UK to make homes more efficient and sustainable alongside delivering on Net Zero targets.

This must be achieved whilst balancing the key responsibility of meeting changing regulatory compliance to ensure the safety, and wellbeing of residents.

At present, there is a broad range of regulations, standards, legislation, and policies in place, or being produced, for key priorities affecting the housing sector. Despite many of these overlapping both in their objectives and delivery, there is a lack of joined-up thinking or meaningful targets to measure progress. There is a clear need for a strategic approach to policy, budgets, and resources to meet the challenges impacting the UK both today and in the future.

Scope

The Housing Safety & Wellbeing Taskforce, launched in January 2022, brings together partners from the public, private, and charitable sectors across the UK to discuss, share best practice and the challenges for creating safer, healthier homes.

The Taskforce will drive forward strategic collaboration within the sector. The Taskforce will create platform for sharing best practice and a holistic approach to delivering homes for the UK. Most importantly we will focus the conversation on the human impact of delivery and how the end user needs to be the centre of future decision-making within the sector.

Aims

The Taskforce will aim to take an industry-leading role in best practices across the UK for the housing sector.

1. The Taskforce will build and maintain relationships with UK-wide partnerships to influence and advocate for positive change. These include all four administrations of the UK's constituent nations, regional frameworks, Local Government and charities.
2. The Taskforce will provide an independent platform where organisations can come together to confidentially share service delivery challenges, identify gaps in knowledge and skills, and find solutions to support the sector in developing safer and healthier homes.
3. The Taskforce will launch six focused tasks. These tasks will be led by an ambassador who will work to establish a scope of work and separate individual aims for each task.
4. The tasks below (as identified in Fig.1) will be launched individually by the ambassador representing the task in consultation with the housing sector or a round table representing the public, private and third sectors. Each task will be identified with the five key priority challenge areas of focus known as the 'Pillars' with a triad of further exploration.

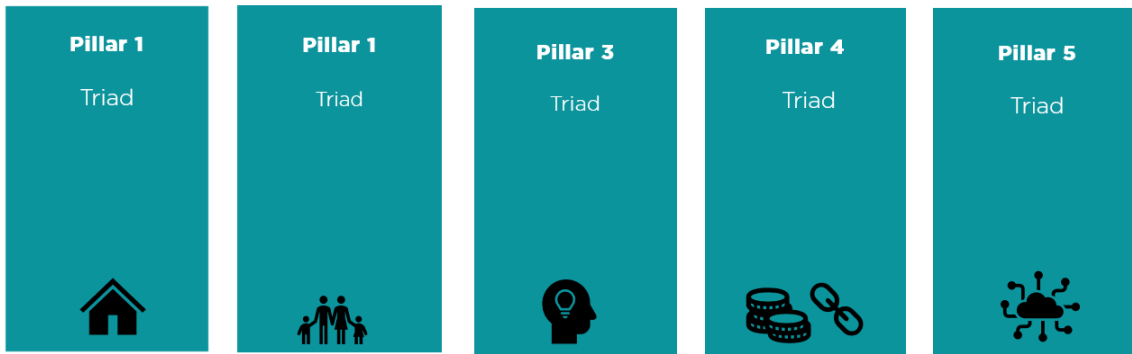


Figure 1

Membership of the Taskforce

The organisation will be strictly non-commercial and non-partisan, committed to promoting a holistic approach to housing safety and wellbeing.

Founding Members

- These are organisations that were originally involved in the setup of the taskforce and will be listed on the website.
- Founding members can also, if they choose, nominate a person from their organisation to be an ambassador.

Ambassadors

- Individuals that take a leading role in ensuring the taskforce is achieving its goals as set out in the terms of reference.
- They jointly have responsibility for the taskforce overall as well as their individually led tasks.
- They are responsible for managing the taskforce and ensuring resources are identified and being utilised effectively.
- They promote the taskforce at events and work to make sure it is making the impact it needs to achieve its goals.

Members

- Individuals or organisations that have an interest in the taskforce and may wish to share insights and perspectives when asked to do so or input into work streams when appropriate.
- Does not have to be working as part of a specific task but may have interest in a specific task or topic.
- Named person in an organisation and given autonomy to input into a task.