

Housing 2023 conference



Access Denied:

Why are so few of the homes we build genuinely inclusive?

Joan Rutherford

Chair, Older People's Housing Champions

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GM Big Disability Survey 2022

Consequences of lack of wheelchair-accessible housing:

Lack of dignity

- I have a commode in the kitchen because I'm unable to get upstairs to the toilet
- I had to buy a stinky chemical toilet for an understairs cupboard

Lack of independence

- I have to live with my parents because no alternative is available (man aged 49)

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Inadequate indoor space

- I can't get to the bathroom upstairs anymore so I have to wash in the small cloakroom downstairs and I can't get my wheelchair in so I struggle
- I am an electric wheelchair user with no access to my kitchen because of narrow doorways
- my front door hits the radiator so it doesn't open completely
- the house isn't big enough to get my new bigger power chair around
- the front door to the building is very heavy, and can be a struggle for me to open in my chair
- I can't use or charge a mobility scooter due to the design of my house

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Poorly designed outside space

- my back garden is inaccessible
- access isn't easy using my mobility scooter, mainly due to restrictions in angles of fences etc.
- had I designed the property it would have a better layout

Insufficient family-sized housing

- no homes are available for a disabled adult wheelchair user with a family
- it's cramped - 6 people in a 3-bedroom house with small rooms, a tiny kitchen and small bathroom
- they don't seem to build large ones for families
- I don't meet the criteria for age restrictions for bungalows

Inaccessible neighbourhood

- I can't go anywhere without steep hills and obstructions

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Information: **Big Disability Survey 2022**
(Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel)

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Thank You

