

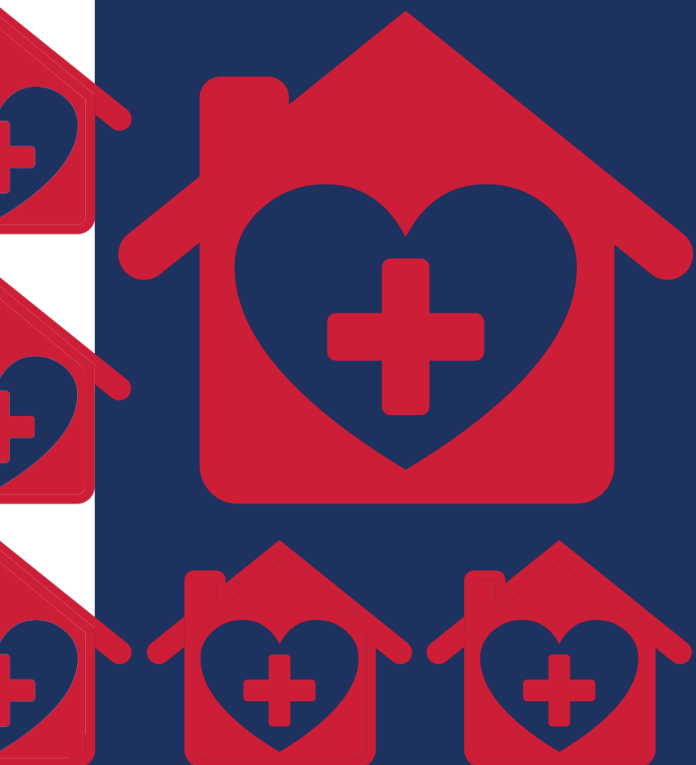


**Healthy Homes and Buildings**

# **A Mission for Healthy Homes and Buildings**

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



# 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, creating opportunities, and securing clean energy leadership.**



**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:** Building and retrofitting homes and buildings which are carbon neutral will generate a green economy and a healthier, more skilled and productive workforce.

## Mission 2: Stronger, Safer Communities

**Poor housing contributes 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 on 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 plethora 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 enhance 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 embed health inequalities and 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.

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**. With thanks to our sponsors:



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