

SHETLAND'S LOCAL PLACE PLANS

Leaflet 13 - A Multi-Generational Approach Perspective

Why should we think about a multi-generational approach?

Planning for all ages helps build inclusive, resilient communities. Decisions about land and buildings can support interaction between generations, meet diverse needs, and help people live well at every stage of life.

How does a multi-generational approach affect land use and buildings?

- Housing and public spaces can be designed to suit all ages
 - Shared facilities encourage interaction and reduce isolation
 - Services and infrastructure can be co-located for convenience
 - Intergenerational design supports learning, care, and wellbeing
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Key concepts:

Inclusive Design: Spaces that are safe, accessible, and welcoming for all ages

Shared Use: Facilities that serve multiple generations and activities

Intergenerational Interaction: Opportunities for learning, care, and connection

Flexible Housing: Homes that adapt to changing family structures and needs

What does this look like in Shetland?

- **Community halls and leisure centres** often host activities for all ages
 - **Housing shortages** may affect young families and older people alike
 - **Remote areas** benefit from co-located services and shared transport
 - **Schools and care homes** can partner for shared learning and events
 - **Outdoor spaces** can be designed for play, rest, and socialising
 - **Digital hubs** support learning and connection across generations
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Things to think about when planning land and buildings:

- Are homes suitable for families, older people, and changing needs?
 - Are public spaces designed for play, rest, and social interaction?
 - Can buildings host activities for different age groups at different times?
 - Are services and transport accessible to all generations?
 - Are older and younger people involved in shaping local spaces?
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Examples:

- Design housing with flexible layouts for families and older residents
 - Create outdoor spaces with play areas, seating, and shelter
 - Use community buildings for youth clubs, lunch clubs, and shared events
 - Support transport options that serve school, work, and care needs
 - Encourage intergenerational projects like gardens, murals, or storytelling
 - Include digital access and support in shared spaces
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For information and support:

- [Your Community – Shetland Islands Council](#)
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- [Your Community – Shetland Islands Council](#)
- [Voluntary Action Shetland](#)
- [Home - Planning Aid Scotland](#)
- [Play and Storytelling - Connecting Generations The Intergenerational Way - Play Scotland](#)
- [Generations Working Together](#)
- [Intergenerational National Network - Outside the Box](#)