UK Urban Ageing Consortium: Domains

Domain	Key issues
Outdoor Spaces and Buildings	• the disproportionately disabling impact of obstructive, urban environments on older people (and the mitigating effects of accessible, inclusive design) • the value of green, open spaces in fostering health and wellbeing in older age • the vital (but often neglected) role of older people in planning and design processes • the impact of urban environments on people's identity, sense of self and belonging in older age • the importance of safety issues – lighting; pavements etc. to older people • the need for developers and planners to develop longer-term stakes in the places that they build • the inherent value of public spaces as spaces that can be used, shared and appropriated (even in older age)
Transportation	• the vital relationship between transportation, mobility, health and wellbeing in older age • the physical and social barriers to movement that limit the use of different types of transport in older age • the critical role of transportation in promoting social inclusion, wellbeing and independence in later life • the role of transportation in maintaining a sense of self and connection with the world in later life
Housing	• the relationship between housing conditions and health inequalities in later life • the vital role of housing adaptations and repair in supporting independent living in older age • the impact of new forms of housing tenure on pensioner poverty and choice • the vital meaning of housing and home to people's social identity, status and sense of continuity, place and self • the role of housing design in cultivating liveable home environments that account for the needs and desires of its older inhabitants
Social Participation	• the relationship between social participation, health and wellbeing • the risks of social detachment in older age • the value of meaningful, productive and stimulating social activities • the value of social networks in providing both practical and emotional support
Respect and Social Inclusion	• the widespread prevalence and acceptance of negative attitudes and behaviour towards older people

	• the multiple impact of these behaviours as they: obscure understanding of the ageing process; reinforce structural inequalities - and shape patterns of behaviour that marginalise and exclude older people (denying personhood, voice and sense of self) • the real impact of often obscure ageist attitudes (including impact on physical and mental health and wellbeing) • the way in which these attitudes and behaviours are both institutionalised and internalised and accommodated • the degree to which social inclusion is dependent on fundamental structural inequalities that underpin social exclusion in older age
Civic Participation and Employment	• the significant social contributions that older people make through employment, voluntary work and active citizenship • the particular needs and challenges that older people face in relation to • the increasingly complex issues around employment in later life • the vital role of volunteering for older people in promoting health and wellbeing (and supporting later life transitions) • the need to acknowledge older people as equal citizens and facilitate rights to civic participation as a matter of course
Communication and Information	• the vital role of communication and information in supporting social and civic participation, health and wellbeing in older age (particularly around life-changing events associated with older age) • the high value that older people place on both formal and informal information and communication • the barriers and challenges to the effective provision of communication and information (from affordability to cultural legibility to the challenges of emerging technology) • the vital role of communication and information in supporting informed and meaningful choice
Community Support and Health Services	• the value of linking community assets with the whole health and care system