



# CREATING A SENSE OF SECURITY WITHOUT SEGREGATING GENERATIONS

MIMI HADLEY

LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

## INTRODUCTION

There are currently 17,600 care homes in the UK housing nearly 500,000 residents (Berg, 2021). With around 19% of the UK population aged 65 or older, with this expected to grow to 24% by 2043 (Lewis, 2021), the demand for care home beds will significantly increase over the coming years. The current design of care homes segregates the residents from the rest of society by forming closed communities within the property, with the only interaction with the outside world being visitors. As the cognitive and physical abilities of the residents diminish, they begin to feel like prisoners of the care facility. One of the ways to overcome this is by integrating care homes into a broader community by forming multigenerational communities.

Multigenerational communities are designed based on uniting residents of all ages and creating a sense of community. This is done by incorporating a school, care home and residential units all on one site. Having a sense of community helps combat loneliness and improve the health and well-being of its residents. However, combining multiple generations on one site raises concerns such as keeping children safe in and out of school hours, the safety of care home residents, and a sense of security for residents living in the apartment buildings. Since each generation requires varying levels of security, does this mean that they need to be segregated from each other to live in harmony?

The research will investigate the benefits and challenges of creating a multigenerational site, ensuring inclusivity and security without a sense of segregation, and ultimately aim to understand if it is possible to meet each generation's security needs without segregating them. This will be achieved by studying existing multigenerational communities, reviewing government initiatives, guides and building regulations, and collecting data from the public to ensure the research is thoroughly informed.

## OBJECTIVES

- 1 TO EXPLORE THE CONCEPT OF MULTIGENERATIONAL LIVING.
- 2 TO RESEARCH HOW SECURITY CAN BE IMPLEMENTED ALONGSIDE INCLUSIVITY
- 3 TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE PUBLIC PERCEIVES MULTIGENERATIONAL COMMUNITIES AND THEIR POSSIBLE SECURITY CONCERNS CONCERNING THEM.

## SECURITY WITHOUT SEGREGATION

Housing multiple generations on one site makes ensuring the site is secure slightly more challenging as each generation requires a varied level of security.

To improve the safety of buildings and their users, the police force created a security initiative called Secure by Design, the main security measures mentioned were:

- No recessed entrances
- Good lighting scheme
- Access control
- Passive surveillance from neighbours
- CCTV

Approved Document Part M: Access to and use of buildings (2015) sets out the regulations that must be met so that buildings are accessible to people of all abilities. The most prominent regulations mentioned are:

- Ramp gradients on approach to a building must be between 1:20 - 1:12
- External doors must have an openable width of 850mm
- Stairs must have a minimum width of 850mm to allow for the installation of a stairlift
- There must be a bathroom located on every floor that has a bedroom

## MULTIGENERATIONAL LIVING

The Cambridge Dictionary defines the term (2022) "Multigenerational" as "consisting of or relating to more than one generation". A multigenerational community can be defined as one where residents of different age groups and generations reside in the same community, and the needs of each age group are accommodated for.

Studies have been conducted on the effects of older generations interacting with children and young adults. These interactions have been shown to affect the physical and mental health of all generations positively. The main benefits of such interactions for the older generations are (Lovett Care, n.d.):

- Reduced loneliness
- Encouraged physical activity
- Reconnecting individuals with their communities
- Promoting social interaction

The benefits for children involved are:

- Improved communication skills
- An understanding of older generations
- Increased confidence, self-esteem, and empathy
- Opportunity to learn about the community and history



## METHODOLOGY

A convergent mixed-methods approach will be used to understand multigenerational communities, the possible security concerns, and how to create a safe environment for each generation without them feeling segregated. Creswell and Creswell's Research Design (2018, p. 15) defines convergent mixed methods as "a form of mixed methods design in which the researcher merges quantitative and qualitative data in order to provide a comprehensive analysis of the research problem".

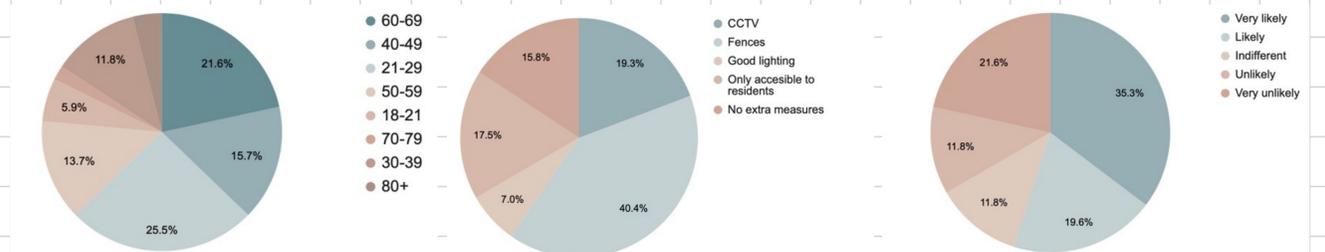
Surveys have been conducted to understand the public views on multigenerational communities and their possible safety concerns for living in such a community. These responses have been cross-examined with case studies, existing legislation, and government guidance to comprehensively answer the research question posed.

## RESEARCH METHODS

The quantitative research explores case studies, existing legislation, and government guidance documents to explore existing multigenerational communities and how security and inclusivity can be combined to answer the research problem.

## RESEARCH RESULTS

This paper aims to understand if it is possible to provide for each generation's security needs without segregating them. A questionnaire was published to gather the public's thoughts on multigenerational living and the possible security concerns, which is the third objective of the research.



### PARTICIPANT AGE

This question was to ascertain the age group of the participants and whether age plays a part in being more open to the idea of multigenerational living and their security concerns.

### HOW LIKELY WOULD YOU BE TO LIVE IN A MULTIGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY?

This question ascertains the participant's likelihood of living in a multigenerational community given the opportunity and therefore a better understanding of the participant's views on such communities. A Likert scale was used to collect answers, one being very likely and five being very unlikely

### WHAT SECURITY MEASURES WOULD NEED TO BE IN PLACE FOR YOU TO USE THE COURTYARD?

This question ascertains which security measures were needed for the participants to feel comfortable using the proposed central courtyard area. A handful of participants did not think there needed to be any extra measures put in place to make the central courtyard area useable.

## DISCUSSION

### EXPLORING THE CONCEPT OF MULTIGENERATIONAL LIVING.

With the population's life expectancy increasing and the demand for assisted living increasing, the research supports the concept of multigenerational communities and housing. Multiple generations residing on one site have mental and physical health benefits for all involved. The study of existing multigenerational communities throughout Europe strengthens the idea that this way of living is sustainable and desirable; this is supported by the low turnover of residents for each of the sites reviewed.

### RESEARCHING HOW SECURITY CAN BE IMPLEMENTED ALONGSIDE INCLUSIVITY.

The research found that along side inclusivity the general security measures needed to ensure the security of the site were:

- A good lighting scheme, including automatic and 24-hour lighting in all communal areas, well-lit footpaths
- Access control on all communal doors and gates, such as the use of key fobs and intercoms
- A CCTV system with recording equipment
- Passive surveillance provided by residents
- The site being devoid of potential hiding spots

### UNDERSTANDING HOW THE PUBLIC PERCEIVES MULTIGENERATIONAL LIVING AND THEIR POSSIBLE SECURITY CONCERNS IN RELATION TO THEM.

The survey results indicate that the majority of participants were in favour of living in a multigenerational community. This confirms the research findings conducted to understand the concept of multigenerational living. By asking the participants their age, the correlation was made that the age groups 21-29 and 60-69 were the most in favour of living in a multigenerational community, whereas 40-49 and 50-59 were the least in favour.

## CONCLUSION

This research paper aimed to understand if it could provide for each generation's security needs without segregating them on the site. The research conducted answers the objectives and aim of the research by combining existing legislation, government guidance, existing multigenerational communities and data collected from surveys.

Further research into security measures and inclusivity would need to be conducted to ensure no feeling of segregation amongst users. The research would also benefit from cross-examining existing multigenerational communities and collecting data from a larger group of survey participants if the survey was run for a more extended period.