

DEAR RESIDENT ARE YOU AWARE ?

THERE ARE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO DISPENSE WITH ORDINARY SHELTERED HOUSING.

IN THE PAST THOSE RESIDENTS IN RECEIPT OF BENEFITS, HAD THE WARDEN'S (SCHEME MANAGER) SALARY PAID FROM WITHIN THOSE BENEFITS.

THIS IN MANY CASES HAS CEASED AND IT HAS BEEN GIVEN OVER TO 'SUPPORTING PEOPLE' TO PAY THAT PART OF BENEFITS WHICH INCLUDED THE WARDEN'S SALARY. HOWEVER, SUPPORTING PEOPLE WILL NOT PAY FOR A SITE BASED WARDEN (UNLESS THERE ARE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES) THEY WILL ONLY PAY FOR 'FLOATING STAFF' WHO WILL VISIT PEOPLE WHO ARE CONSIDERED TO BE 'IN NEED'. (NOT EVERY RESIDENT WILL QUALIFY AS IN NEED !) THESE SAME VISITORS WOULD ALSO VISIT OTHER SHELTERED UNITS AND SOME ELDERLY PEOPLE LIVING IN THEIR OWN HOMES.

FLOATING SUPPORT STAFF ARE NOT A NURSING SERVICE AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY SUPPLIED BY THE LANDLORD. FLOATING SUPPORT CAN BE PUT OUT TO CONTRACT. THE ROLE IS TO ASSIST PEOPLE WITH GENERAL LIVING PROBLEMS AND CEASES WHEN THOSE PEOPLE ARE CONSIDERED IN A STABLE SITUATION. IN 'BORROWED WORDS' THEY THEN 'FLOAT AWAY' .

THE CONSEQUENCE OF THE ABOVE IS THAT SHELTERED HOUSING WILL, EVENTUALLY, BE NO DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER OAP FACILITY WHICH IS FITTED WITH ALARM CORDS.

REGRETTABLY RESIDENTS ARE OFTEN LETTING IT HAPPEN WITHOUT A FIGHT AND IT IS OFTEN TOO LATE TO FIGHT IF FLOATING STAFF HAS ALREADY BEEN INTRODUCED AT YOUR SCHEME !

THE MAIN PROBLEM IS THAT THE RESIDENTS OF SHELTERED HOUSING ARE VULNERABLE AND THINLY SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM. THEY DO NOT REPRESENT A LARGE VOTING BLOCK SO ARE GENERALLY NOT BACKED BY MPs. IT IS UP TO RESIDENTS TO BAND TOGETHER TO CREATE PRESSURE ON MP s, ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE MEDIA. WHY NOT FORM A COMMITTEE TO FIGHT NOW !