

# Homes for Older People

## Making the right move

Getting older shouldn't mean losing our independence, especially when it comes to thinking about our home. We all want the valuable opportunity to live somewhere with our own front door, the reassurance of feeling secure and knowing assistance is on hand if there's an emergency. We may also want to remain involved with the wider community, our family and our friends.

## How we can help

The Councils' and Housing Associations participating in Home-Link provide a range of studio, one and two bedroom flats and bungalows which are specifically for older people, called Sheltered Housing. All Sheltered Housing homes have:

- an emergency alarm service, providing a 24 hour care line and
- Sheltered Housing or Scheme Managers, who get to know residents and their visitors, making sure they know about scheme activities, local services and support available from voluntary and statutory agencies, and respond to activated emergency alarms.

Some Sheltered Housing provides on-site communal facilities, such as resident lounges, hobby rooms, a laundry, hair dressers, guest accommodation and garden areas. Sheltered Housing residents living in homes which do not have on-site communal facilities are actively encouraged to join activities at a nearby scheme.

## Things to consider

Above all, we want you to be happy in the home you choose. So, here are some important points for you to think about before deciding whether Sheltered Housing is right for you:

- We recommend you visit several schemes to meet the Manager and other residents, to see if you will feel comfortable with the location and surroundings. You will need to contact the relevant Landlord to make arrangements to view your preferred schemes.
- You will have the independence of your own front door with the security of an emergency alarm service.
- Your family and friends are actively encouraged to visit with you and join in with social activities, both within and outside the accommodation, if you choose to.
- Sheltered Housing tenancies are offered on a rental basis. Please do not be put off by the level of charges indicated in some Sheltered Housing advertised in Home-Link, as you may be entitled to claim Housing Benefit according your personal circumstances. Our staff can provide advice and assistance if you think this may apply to you.
- Our Sheltered Housing supports voluntary and statutory agencies access to your home, if you are unable to manage your own personal care, or carry out tasks such as shopping and housework.
- Pets are allowed in some Sheltered Housing but we recommend you check with the relevant Landlord.
- And finally, we would encourage you to talk to your family, friends and us, but make sure the final decision to move is yours! Moving to please someone else is not a good idea.

If you or someone you know would like more details about the availability of Sheltered Housing in your area, please contact the relevant Landlord.