

## **TAUNTON HERITAGE TRUST INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL RESIDENTS REGARDING INDEPENDENT LIVING**

As with all other almshouse charities, the Taunton Heritage Trust has a duty to only provide accommodation to people capable of independent living.

The Taunton Heritage Trust's definition of independent living is as follows –

*A Resident must be capable of living independently in their flat and capable of managing all their own affairs on a day-to-day basis. This includes cooking and cleaning for themselves, managing their laundry and organising their own shopping, medical appointments, medications etc. A Resident may be able to maintain their independence with the assistance of a care package, but this assistance must be organised and managed by the Resident.*

If a Resident begins to cause the Trust concern in terms of their ability to maintain their independence, the Warden will record a log of events in a "Notes of Significant Issues" document for that particular Resident. In addition, the Warden uses the Trust's Resident Support and Care-Risk Assessment document in order to assess a Resident's ability to live independently.

Examples of issues of concern could be –

- A number of falls in quick succession
- Hoarding or uncleanliness within the home
- self-neglect in terms of not looking after themselves
- regularly setting smoke alarms off by misuse of kitchen appliances
- repeatedly locking themselves out of their flat

The Warden shares the "Notes of Significant Issues" document with the Chief Officer who will make the decision when the threshold for action has been reached.

In cases of increased frailty, where practical the Trust will organise the installation of additional grab rails within a flat/almshouse if possible, but it must be remembered that the accommodation that the Trust provides is already adapted with the older person in mind.

Once it becomes impossible for a Resident to continue to live independently, The Chief Officer will issue a "Letter of Concern" to the Resident following a full consultation with them and their relatives if appropriate. All relevant medical practitioners will be copied into the correspondence. The letter will state that the Resident must move to more appropriate accommodation. In cases where Residents do not have a next of kin, it is likely that a multi-disciplinary meeting organised through the local authority will need to be arranged.

If progress is slow and the Chief Officer considers the Trust is not exercising its duty of care over the Resident and other beneficiaries/members of Staff, Trustees will be advised to begin the legal process of "setting aside the appointment" of the Resident. This means revoking the licence to occupy the almshouse.