

In brief

The Hanover Housing Association has issued new guidelines for the protection of vulnerable adults.

The new guidelines advise sheltered, retirement and supported housing providers on how to improve their approach to adult protection. The document also recommends ways in which these organisations can meet the requirements of the Government's Supporting People programme, which requires providers to have procedures for avoiding and responding to actual and suspected abuse or neglect.

Help the Aged and Later Life Training Ltd have joined forces to create the Preventing Falls Exercise Bursary Scheme, which will launch the first ever National Falls Awareness Day on July 19th 2005.

The aim of this day is to raise awareness on staying fit, healthy and independent in the later stages of life as well as highlighting the range of positive activities older people can participate in without the fear of falling.

This comes after recent research from Help the Aged found that older people were unaware they could take steps to improve their balance and participate in certain exercises that can reduce the risk of falling.

Falling and the fear of falling are both serious issues for older people. Injury caused by falling has increased rapidly and every year a third of the people in the UK aged over 65 years falls. Falling is the leading cause of death in people over 75 years and costs the NHS £981 million for treatment on fractures alone.

Report by Davincia Daniel

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