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Independent team launches

A specialist one-stop-shop dedicated to helping the most vulnerable people in Coventry launched this week.

The Independent Living Team, run by Whitefriars Housing Group, aims to offer a range of services under one roof to tackle homelessness, care for the elderly, drug abuse and health issues.

Vulnerable residents who may struggle to keep a roof over their heads or live safely at home can now receive one-to-one help to enable them to live independently, increase their quality of life and boost their chances of playing a full role in society.

By bringing together a number of services, such as drug and alcohol support, falls prevention and occupational therapy, under one roof the team aims to ensure tenants get access all the services they need.

Two main groups the team will work with are first-time tenants who, due to lack of family support or traumatic backgrounds, may find it difficult to live on their own, and older residents who need extra support to allow them to remain in their homes.

If Whitefriars does not have a specialist within their team to deal with a particular issue, then they will link-up with local organisations including the Coventry Cyrenians, MIND, Coventry City Social Services and Coventry Teaching Primary Care Trust.

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Neil Evans, operations manager of the new project, said: "The new team is about bringing all the services together.

"We have found that new tenants, especially the young and those with traumatic backgrounds, often find moving into their own home a difficult step. Cooking, paying bills and keeping your home tidy are basic skills that most people take for granted, but if you've never had the support or been taught to do those things it can be tough knowing where to start.

"However, this type of support is only a small part of what the team offers. The crucial benefit is better communication and co-ordination. It means that problems are no longer dealt with in isolation, and that our specialist managers, who understand the needs of society's most vulnerable people, can work together to ensure tenants get the best service possible."

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