



**THORNER'S HOMES  
ALMSHOUSES**

FOUNDED IN 1690

**Thorner's Homes**  
Management Office  
135a Regents Park Road  
Southampton SO15 8NT

T: 023 8063 6772  
E: [enquiries@thorners.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thorners.org.uk)  
W: [www.thorners.org.uk](http://www.thorners.org.uk)

**Please reply to:**  
[enquiries@thorners.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thorners.org.uk)  
023 8063 6772

Ref: VJ/

26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

**Consultation on Updated Policy: Independent Living & Care Needs in Almshouse Accommodation**

Thorner's Homes CIO is reviewing and updating its policy on eligibility and care needs within almshouse accommodation, and we are writing to share this with you as a key stakeholder in discharge planning, referral pathways, or community support for older people.

*Why This Policy Update Matters*

Our policy outlines:

- The scope and limitations of almshouse accommodation, which is intended for individuals who can live independently or with low-level support
- Criteria under which a prospective or current resident may not be suitable for continued independent living
- Our obligations under the Care Act 2014, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, and local safeguarding arrangements
- The processes we follow for referral back to Adult Social Care, NHS discharge teams, or partner agencies when a placement is unsafe or inappropriate
- A clear boundary: Thorner's Homes is not a registered care home and does not provide personal care

We have included supporting documents such as:

- A policy summary for residents
- A flowchart for decision-making and escalation
- A referral template letter
- Key terms from our Letter of Appointment for transparency

*Your Input Is Welcome*



We are seeking feedback from partners involved in:

- Hospital discharge and reablement
- Social care assessment and commissioning
- Advocacy, safeguarding, or community support services

*Please let us know:*

- If the policy aligns with your expectations for placement or discharge
- If you would suggest any amendments to improve inter-agency working
- Whether any further joint training, guidance, or information sharing would help

The consultation period is open until 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Please send feedback to me on [vicky.joynes@thorners.org.uk](mailto:vicky.joynes@thorners.org.uk), or request a meeting if a fuller discussion is preferred.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring older people are placed in safe, appropriate housing settings.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs Vicky Joynes BSc (Hons) Est Man MRICS**

Chief Executive

Thorner's Homes