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Jenny Pannell, Caroline Thomas
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Almshouses date back nearly a thousand years, and currently house over 30,000 people in both urban and rural locations all over England. They are cited as the forerunners of housing associations and of sheltered housing for older people. But are they just an anachronism, or can they offer an effective alternative to other forms of social housing?This unique study examines and discusses the strengths and weaknesses of almshouses and the problems and opportunities that almshouse charities face as they enter the next millennium. It explores the role of the almshouse in housing provision and social policy, drawing on case studies to illustrate innovative solutions to tackle problems such as outdated design or inappropriate location. Examples are provided of almshouses using their housing for young people and families, and meeting the needs of frail older people.As well as providing a practical guide to working in partnership for almshouse trustees and staff, and for councillors, board members and staff of housing organisations, Almshouses into the next millennium also fills a gap in the material available to students of housing and social policy.

About the Author Jenny Pannell, Faculty of Health and Social Care, University of the West of England and Caroline Thomas