

Communities at threat of eviction protest at One Housing Group offices to demand open dialogue

A week after Islington Council unanimously approved an emergency motion demanding that One Housing Group (OHG) suspend the Notice to Quit served upon residents of Islington Park Street Community and enter into meaningful dialogue with them, Islington Park Street Community (and Crescent Road Community) residents are demonstrating outside One Housing Group offices. Residents are asking OHG board to withdraw their Notice to Quit and enter into dialogue with them.

Peter Kesurue of Islington Park Street Community states, "We have cross party support from every single one of our local councillors, our local MP and elected members of the Greater London Assembly. Everyone is calling on OHG to suspend the notice to quit and engage in dialogue. OHG's claim that they do not know who lives in the community is entirely disingenuous. OHG have the names of all residents. Today we are also publicly handing OHG copies of our identity documents. They can no longer attempt to discredit us by stating that they cannot verify who is in occupation. They must now listen to public and political opinion and talk to us."

One Housing Group recently asserted in The Islington Gazette, "If there are people with care needs, while it might on the surface sound lovely that their housemates are looking after them, care is regulated for a reason. We have a duty of care to make sure that the care that is being provided is appropriate."

Karen Grace of Islington Park Street Community resident says "I have worked professionally as a care worker for 17 years and page 1 of the 'text-book' of care provision is the personal choice of the vulnerable person. The only situation where this does not apply is when the person does not have capacity to make their own choices. All of our vulnerable residents have such capacity. OHG have a reputation for shunting around vulnerable people to meet targets and their own dubious ends. I will not allow this to happen to my fellow housemates."

The low-income, mixed needs, supportive community, which has been in existence for 39 years, has been served with a Notice to Quit which is due to expire on 5 July 2015. OHG has stated that its only interest is in "securing a satisfactory decant of the property." Some of the residents have been in occupation for over 3 decades and many are vulnerable.