

# INSIDIE HOUSING

50  
CATHY

AT



**FIVE DECADES ON FROM KEN LOACH'S HARD-HITTING FILM CATHY COME HOME, WHICH RAISED PUBLIC AWARENESS OF HOMELESSNESS, INSIDE HOUSING HAS LAUNCHED A CATHY AT 50 CAMPAIGN TO CARRY ON THE FIGHT IN THE 21ST CENTURY.**

**SEE NEWS ARTICLES (P2 AND P3), SPECIAL COMMENT PIECES (P14 AND P15), FEATURES (P16, P20, P24, P28 AND P32) AND DETAILS OF A FILM COMPETITION (P10) TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY.**

# INSIDE HOUSING

NEVER  
AGAIN

# INSIDE HOUSING

## Legal guardians

What does the future hold for property guardian companies and their stewards?  
*Feature, page 16*



## Waiting for the axe

A look at which areas will be worst hit by the housing benefit cut to young people  
*Feature, page 22*



# Revealed: fire spread linked to panels

■ **INVESTIGATION REVEALS CONCERNS OVER PANELS IN BLAZE WHICH SPREAD ACROSS FIVE FLOORS**

■ **FIRE SERVICE ISSUES WARNING TO ALL COUNCILS TO CHECK HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS**

**Fire safety** Documents reveal safety flaws in insulation panels

**Pete Apps**

Councils have been warned over the use of insulation panels on high-rise buildings, after tests revealed they “likely” caused a devastating fire to rip through a tower block last year.

Flames tore across five floors of the Shepherd’s Court building in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham last August in scenes reminiscent of the Lakanal House tragedy, after a faulty tumble dryer caught

fire on the seventh floor.

Documents released to *Inside Housing* under the Freedom of Information Act this week revealed that an investigation showed panels attached to the outside of the building came apart when burnt, exposing flammable insulation material and plywood to the blaze.

It concluded this “is likely to have assisted the fire in spreading up the outside of the building”, with the London Fire Brigade warning Hammersmith

and Fulham and all other London boroughs over use of the panels. No details about the cause of the fire’s spread had previously been released.

In 2009, six people - including three children - died when a fire spread through Lakanal House in south London. A coroner’s investigation later revealed panels attached to the building contributed to the spread of the blaze.

→ **Continued on page 2**



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

→ **Meet the sector’s future leaders. See page 10**