

# Old folk's homes get hotel stars

By **ALUN PALMER**

**OLD people's homes are to get hotel-style ratings in a bid to halt the abuse dished out to pensioners.**

The Star Rating System has been set up to rid the care industry of dodgy owners and callous staff.

The scheme, which works alongside local authorities, is already up and running in Brighton and Blackpool and is now set to go nationwide.

Former nurse Sue Brand, who organised the revolutionary project, said: "At last people will be able to make an informed choice and have peace of mind over the decision they make when selecting a home."

Homes will be graded following annual inspections on facilities, food and management.

The best care centres will receive the five-star accolade, while those which surpass basic standards receive two stars.

*Sue, who owns two care homes in Brighton, East Sussex, added: "Hopefully it will help drive the few bad homes out of business."*