

### Consultation on the Future Older Person's Provision by KCC

This information gives the background to the petition debate to be held by the County Council on 14 October 2010.

Petitions have been received concerning three of the KCC run homes, Manorbrooke in Dartford, Cornfields in Dover and Sampson Court in Deal, broadly requesting that KCC maintains the current service. The petitions have arisen due to the current consultation on future provision of these homes and 8 other ones which KCC runs.

On the 14 June 2010, KCC Cabinet agreed to start consultation on the following proposal for 11 of the 16 KCC run care homes.

Home	Proposal
Wayfarers, Sandwich	Proposing that it is sold to another organisation for them to run.
Blackburn Lodge, Sheerness Doubleday Lodge, Sittingbourne Kiln Court, Faversham	Proposing that these services could be run by another organisation, with terms set by Kent County Council.
Bowles Lodge, Hawkhurst Cornfields, Dover Manorbrooke, Dartford	Proposing to replace these with Extra Care Housing.
Ladesfield, Whitstable Sampson Court, Deal The Limes, Dartford	Proposing to close these completely within the next two years.
Dorothy Lucy Centre, Maidstone	Proposing to keep this as it is. A decision about its future will be taken at a later date.

The reasons behind the proposals are:

#### People

- More people are living longer and more are living with dementia. People rightly expect more choice in care. Developing future models of care, such as Extra Care Sheltered Housing, will facilitate these choices.

#### Care

- High quality care is a continuing priority. Dignity in care is crucial and more people want care at home.

#### Buildings

- Residential care should be in high quality buildings. Some of the current KCC buildings have reached the end of their useful life and don't meet expectations.

## **Cost**

- Good quality care can be commissioned for less money than it costs KCC to run its own homes. The private and voluntary sector is also set up to care for more people.

There is recognition that the uncertainty caused by the consultation will potentially be distressing for those who currently live in or use the homes, their families and the staff affected. As part of the proposal, a commitment has been given to work carefully with every older person affected and their families to ensure that any changes are suitable and provide the right care. This will cover all who use the homes, whether as permanent residents or for respite visits, for rehabilitation or for day care.

Further details on the proposals are available:

- By visiting [www.kent.gov.uk/opfutures](http://www.kent.gov.uk/opfutures)
- By calling 01732 525 477, or
- By writing to Older Persons Futures, Brenchley House, 123 -125 Week street, Maidstone, ME14 1RF

The consultation process has involved meetings with the current residents, their family carers, staff, district and borough councillors, the local KCC members, health professionals and potential future recipients of older people services. In response to requests, further meetings have been held and this offer remains open.

There has been significant feedback received from the meetings, by post, by the dedicated hotline and via KCC's website. This, along with input such as expressions of interest by other organisations, will all be collated for each of the homes affected, after the close of the consultation on the 1 November 2010. This will then inform the revised proposal for each of the homes.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services is expected to take a decision for each of the homes in January 2011.