



have  
**your**  
say...

# ...on Greenacre Older Persons Home

An update on the Greenacre consultation

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**Central  
Bedfordshire**



# Greenacre

## Consultation Update 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015

### What we have done so far

Following the approval by the Council's Executive Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 to consult on the future of Greenacre the consultation documents were sent out to residents, relatives and other interested parties. Since then the consultation team have been busy talking to residents, relatives and staff about the proposals and encouraging them to complete the consultation questionnaire.

Many residents and relatives have now spoken to or met Claire Blankenship, the social worker in the consultation team who has spent a lot of time in the home helping residents to contribute to the consultation.

### Who we have consulted with

Along with the residents, relatives and staff, we have sent consultation information to the organisations listed below that all have a role in relation to Greenacre.

**Local GP's** who have patients residing at Greenacre.

**East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT)** – part of the NHS that provides services to people with mental health needs including people with dementia.

**Healthwatch** – the national consumer champion in health and care. Healthwatch have significant statutory powers to ensure the voice of the consumer is strengthened and heard by those who commission, deliver and regulate health and care services.

**Dunstable Town Council** and **Houghton Regis Town Council** – Greenacre predominantly has residents from these two areas.

**Carers in Bedfordshire** – a registered charity existing to help family carers and former carers cope with the mental and physical stress arising from their role. They offer assistance such as practical help, advice, training, advocacy, support and information.

**Age UK Bedfordshire** – a local charity based in Bedford and operating through the whole of Bedfordshire and Luton for the benefit of all older people in the County.

**Alzheimer's Bedfordshire** – a charitable organisation providing information, support and services to people living with all types of dementia, their carers, family members, health professionals, and anyone else with concerns about their memory or that of someone else.

**Older Person's Reference Group (OPRG)** – an independent forum to improve the services Central Bedfordshire Council Provide for older people.

**POhWER** – a charity and membership organisation that provide information, advice, support and advocacy to people who experience disability, vulnerability, distress and social exclusion.



## Frequently Asked Questions

Below are some of the questions that we have been asked so far during the consultation by residents and their relatives.

### **If the decision is made to close the home, will everyone be moved out at the same time?**

No. In that situation we would work with residents, relatives and staff at Greenacre and at the homes people would be moving to, to coordinate the moves to ensure that everyone would receive the time and support they needed before, during and after the move.

### **How can I arrange a visit to view Dukeminster Court, Rosewood Court or another residential care home in Central Bedfordshire?**

If you are interested in looking at other homes you can contact them directly to arrange a visit. If you need help or advice on this please contact Mel in the first instance – see details at the end of the document.

Dukeminster Court is open and you can visit any time. There is no need to make an appointment but if you want to let them know you are coming or just find out more about the home you can call them on 01582 474700.

Rosewood Court will not be open to take customers until February 2016, however the home should be open for viewing before then. When we have more information about this we will let people know.

### **Are Dukeminster Court and Rosewood Court Nursing Homes?**

Like Greenacre, Dukeminster Court is a residential care home and any specialist nursing care needed will be provided by a Community Nurse. Rosewood Court is planning to offer both residential and nursing care.

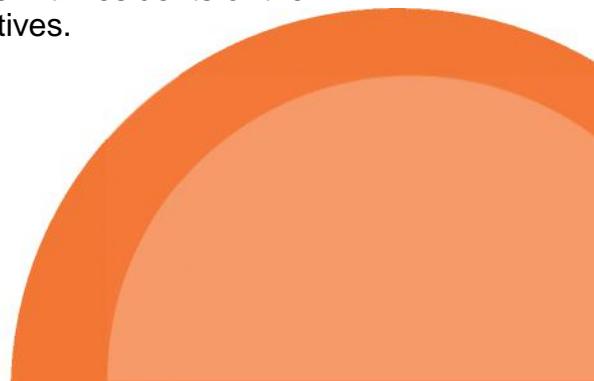
If Greenacre were to close, we would carry out individual assessments of resident's needs and if it is clear that a resident's needs would be better met in a nursing home then this would be discussed with the resident and their relatives.

### **Would I have to pay more if I were to move to Dukeminster Court, Rosewood Court or another residential care home within Central Bedfordshire?**

Those people who are not currently paying the full cost of their care would not have to pay any more than they do at Greenacre.

For those who are paying the full cost of their care (currently £477.16 per week) we have agreed with Dukeminster Court and Rosewood Court that the amount they will pay will be the same as the rate the Council would pay to the home for a person with similar needs who cannot afford to pay the full cost. For example, the amount we currently pay at Dukeminster Court is £489.87 per week. We would try to agree similar terms with other care homes that a person funding their own care was interested in, but cannot guarantee this.

We know that everyone's circumstances and preferences are unique and we will be happy to discuss the financial implications and options with residents or their representatives.



**Can I move my relative to Dukeminster Court, Rosewood Court or another home before the end of the consultation?**

The places available at Dukeminster Court and Rosewood Court have been reserved in the event that the Executive decides to close Greenacre. They are therefore not available to people who wish to move prior to any decision being made and implemented.

We are not encouraging residents to move until a decision has been made about the future of the home. If the conclusion is that the home will close then we will put in place the resources, plans and activities to support residents and relatives and help them move and settle in to a new home.

However, if you feel that an early move to an alternative care home would be beneficial for your relative, please contact Cheryl-Ann Edwards, Greenacre Home Manager, who will be able to discuss this with you.

**Will staff from Greenacre be moving to Dukeminster Court or Rosewood Court?**

TUPE refers to the "Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006". TUPE rules protect employees' rights when the organisation or service they work for *transfers* to a new employer. As the proposal is to allow residents to choose which home they move to rather than all moving to one home, it is not a transfer of service and TUPE would not apply.

That having been said, in the event of a closure Central Bedfordshire Council would support staff to find alternative employment and where possible, redeploy them to other homes or services run by the Council, where there are suitable vacancies.

We would also be happy to work with the organisations running Rosewood Court and Dukeminster Court to explore employment opportunities for staff.

**How will the homes be allocated to residents as there are limited places at Dukeminster Court?**

If the decision is made to close the home we will assess each resident's needs, discuss their preferences and look at how they can best be met. We will involve residents and their relatives or representatives in this process.

We would be able to offer all residents a place in a new home that meets their needs.

**Will both homes have the same criteria for determining if a resident requires a place in a dementia unit?**

Both homes will be able to meet the needs of people with dementia and both will have areas within the home that cater for people with different types of need. There are likely to be some differences in how each home decides where individual's needs are best met and also the needs of each individual resident would need to be considered.

This is an area that can be discussed in more detail with each home and individual residents and relatives should the decision be made to close Greenacre.



**If we move to a privately run home will we still be Council customers?**

Yes. Any permanent resident of Greenacre who is moved by the Council to a new home will be considered to have been placed by the Council.

**Would we still pay the Council or would we have to pay the new home?**

If you move to a private home, the Council would normally expect the home to invoice the resident or their representative directly for their contribution. This could be different if a resident moves outside Central Bedfordshire as practices may differ in different areas.

**What happens when my relative's savings fall below £23,250?**

If a resident has more than £23,250 in savings then they would pay the entire fee for the care home they are living in.

If a resident's savings fall below £23,250 they will require a financial assessment by

the Council. The assessment will allow the Council to determine the amount the resident can afford to pay, based on their income and capital.

We recommend that you contact the Customer Finance Team on 0300 300 8303, to request a financial assessment a few weeks before the resident's savings fall below the threshold.

**What will happen with the Day Centre at Greenacre?**

The future of the Day Centre at Greenacre is also being consulted on with our preferred option currently being to transfer the service to Houghton Regis Day Centre. The timescales for the consultation are the same as the home so the consultation finishes on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and a decision should be made on the future of the Day Centre on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

**What will happen with the Step Up Step Down unit at Greenacre?**

The Council is currently undertaking a review of the Step Up Step Down service to determine its future.

**Independent advice and support**

If you would like to speak to someone other than the Council, below are the contact details for two local independent organisations that would be happy to discuss the consultation with you.



Telephone: 0300 456 2370  
Email: [pohwer@pohwer.net](mailto:pohwer@pohwer.net)



Telephone: 0300 303 8554  
Email: [info@healthwatch-centralbedfordshire.org.uk](mailto:info@healthwatch-centralbedfordshire.org.uk)





## Consultation Period and Decision Making

No decision about the future of Greenacre has yet been made. Below is a timetable of the activity planned between now and a final decision being made. The earliest a decision would be made about the future of the home is 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

Dates	Activity	Notes
14 <sup>th</sup> October 2015 to 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	Consultation period	You can respond to the consultation on the future of the home at any time during this period by filling in the questionnaire by hand, which can be obtained from Greenacre or from Mel Alderton on the numbers at the end of this document. This can then be posted to us or handed in to the management at Greenacre. Alternatively the questionnaire can be filled in online at <a href="http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations">www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations</a> .
4 <sup>th</sup> January to 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	Preparing the report on the consultation	During this time we will be reviewing the consultation responses and producing a written report.
25 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	Meeting of the Council's Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the report on the consultation and recommendations in respect of the future of Greenacre.	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee provides an opportunity for elected, non-Executive councillors and local residents to discuss and comment on the Council's policies, plans and strategies before they are presented to the Council's Executive. The Committee encourages public engagement in the democratic process and is keen for people to attend its meetings. The report will be published on the Council's website ten days before this meeting takes place.
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	Meeting of the Council's Executive to consider the report on the consultation and recommendations in respect of the future of Greenacre.	This committee made up from elected local councillors will consider the report and the comments and recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and make a decision about the future of the home. This is a public meeting – anyone can attend. The report will be published on the Council's website about a week before this meeting takes place.
9 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	Call In period	The decisions made by Executive on the 9 <sup>th</sup> February will be published two days after the meeting. Decision made by the Executive can be 'called in' for reconsideration within five working days of the date they are published. In the event that the decision is not called in we would expect to be able to implement the recommendations from 18 <sup>th</sup> February.2016.

## What happens next?

Claire is continuing to meet with residents. She is undertaking assessments to ensure that all residents have their say in the consultation if at all possible and is encouraging relatives to be involved.

Alongside Claire, the other members of the consultation team will also continue to be available at Greenacre on a regular basis to answer any questions you have.

If you haven't completed the consultation questionnaire we would encourage you to do so. You can do this by filling in the questionnaire by hand and posting it to us at the address below or by leaving it with management at Greenacre. Alternatively the questionnaire can be filled in online at [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations). If you need copies of the consultation documents or the questionnaire you can get them from the website. There are also copies in the home. If you want to be sent any of the documents please contact Mel Alderton on the numbers below.

The closing date for consultation responses is 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016. All responses will be reviewed and included in a consultation report which will be shared with residents, relatives and staff before being published on the Council's website. The consultation report will accompany a report on the future of Greenacre which will be considered by the Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and at a meeting of the Executive on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

As soon as a decision is made by the Council's Executive we will inform residents, relatives and staff.

## Meet the consultation team

The consultation team consists of (left to right) Claire, Mel, Lorna, and Tim

You can expect to see them in the home and can contact any of them via Mel using the details below.

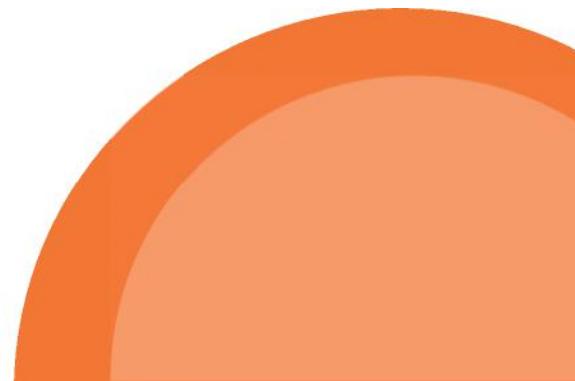


## Contact us...

by telephone: 0300 300 4371

by [email: mel.alderton@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mel.alderton@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Write to: Mel Alderton, Central Bedfordshire Council,  
Houghton Lodge, Houghton Close, Ampthill, MK45 2TG



# Central Bedfordshire in contact

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