

LOGO

Adult & Community Services
The Annexe
County Hall
Exeter
EX2 4QR

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL:

NO IMMEDIATE CHANGES TO CARE SERVICES

I am writing to update you on our negotiations with Shaw Healthcare, the preferred bidders for the proposed transfer and development of Devon County Council's residential and care services for older people.

The negotiations between Devon County Council and Shaw Healthcare in recent months have had to take account of the unprecedented changes in the financial climate. The County Council and Shaw Healthcare have been working hard to ensure that the benefits of the scheme as originally envisaged can be delivered.

The result of our negotiations is that I will be recommending in my report to Devon County Council's Executive on 16 December 2008 that we work towards reaching an agreement with Shaw Healthcare to deliver the beds that we, as a County Council, require to meet our strategic healthcare objectives - approximately 130 in total. Negotiations continue with Shaw Healthcare in respect of the provision of 'extra care' housing in the County. These negotiations are centred on the Council being assured that it is receiving value for money for the 'extra care' housing development.

We propose to invite other organisations, in a new tendering process, to submit proposals for the development of our remaining homes. Before we invite organisations to come forward with proposals, we will be working with residents, staff, carers and local community representatives to describe the kind of new services which need to be developed in each locality. We will be doing this in partnership with our health service colleagues. We would also want people involved in developing these proposals to continue to be involved as the new services are developed. This programme of community involvement in developing proposals will start early in the New Year and run through to Spring 2009.

Please be assured that, for the time being, the services that you or your relative receive will remain unchanged.

I will write to you when there is a further update but, in the meantime, please contact your Unit or Service Manager who will be able to help. You can also contact our MyDevon Customer Service Centre on 0845 1551 018. Regular updates will also be available on our website: www.devon.gov.uk/modernisation

David Johnstone
Executive Director, Adult & Community Services
9 December 2008