

Our ref: MW/CM/014  
Ask for: Councillor Muriel Weisz  
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Date: 24/07/15



**Councillor Muriel Weisz**  
County Hall  
West Bridgford  
Nottingham  
NG2 7QP

**Re: Question Under Procedure Rule 32**

Could the Chair please explain the reasoning for closing care homes like Kirkland's Care Home in my Division, whilst [not] closing others?

Dear Councillor Madden

Thank you for your question to Full Council.

Following wide consultation, phased closure of the Council's six remaining Care and Support Centres (Care Homes) over three years was agreed at the Feb 15 Full Council budget meeting.

The proposal is to develop extra care housing and alternative high quality care services in place of our current provision of Care and Support Centres. People will be offered choices so that they can continue to live in their local community. The purpose built, high quality extra care accommodation is designed to support people in later life and is a real alternative to residential care. Extra care services provide people with the option to remain living independently whilst having access to care and support as and where they are needed.

I am keenly aware of the concerns about the Care and Support Centre closures and colleagues will know that we listened to the feedback received in the budget consultation and amended the proposal in relation to the Centres to give a commitment to keep them open until we have developed Extra Care Housing within the area where the Centres are located.

We will support current residents and families by providing a support worker linked to individual families to discuss and assess the best possible option for the resident. Where people don't have family support we will ensure independent Advocacy is available. We will arrange visits to Extra Care schemes or Independent Sector homes, and give people the opportunity to try Extra Care for a short period. Where possible we will support people to move in small friendship groups, and we will ensure people receive support to ensure they settle into their new homes.

The Adult Social Care Strategy, approved by Full Council in April 2014, presents a different way of working for the council in the future which is focused on promoting independence and wellbeing, and ensuring those people with the most significant needs receive the services and support they need. The development of Extra Care Housing is a key part of this.

The Council has listened to local people and we continue to deliver our Extra Care Housing with a number of schemes being developed in partnership across the county. The accommodation is

designed to the Council's specification with input from service users and occupational therapists. The schemes all have onsite care staff that are available 24 hours a day to enable people to remain in the community, living as independently as possible with access to care and support when they need it. The service is a realistic alternative to traditional residential care with the aim of delivering better outcomes for individuals. In 2015 two new schemes have opened and a further scheme, that has bungalows designed specifically for people with dementia, is to open later this year.

**Yours sincerely**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Muriel Weisz". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Muriel" and the surname "Weisz" clearly distinguishable.

**Councillor Muriel Weisz**  
**(Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Health Committee)**