

SNP TO SEEK ALTERNATIVES TO CARE HOME CLOSURES

The SNP Administration on Stirling Council is to seek alternatives to closing two care homes, which were part of the recent budget passed. As a result, plans to close Beech and Wellgreen care homes will not proceed.

The administration will look again at the totality of care provision in the Stirling area, how future care needs for older people are delivered, and how best to manage the transition towards looking after more elderly people in their own homes for longer.

Commenting, Councillor Graham Houston said: *"We always realised that shifting the balance of care from care home provision to caring for elderly people in their own homes for longer would present difficulties and of course we have always wanted to keep disruption to vulnerable people during this process to a minimum. We are prepared to look again at this issue, and involve the other three parties in order to reach a consensus on the way forward. It is essential that we make progress on the requirements of the inspectors and the Scottish Government that we shift the balance of care towards more care at home, but are conscious that this has to be achieved in a sensitive way. Therefore, the closure of Beech and Wellgreen care homes announced on 19 February will not now proceed."*

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