

Information

for County Councillors

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From:	Mel Lock, Director of Adult Social Care
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Date:	10 August 2022
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To:	All County Councillors, Executive Members & SLT
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Almondsbury Care Ltd – Nursing Home Closures

Somerset County Council has been formally notified by Churchlake Care Group and Partners of their strategic decision to put Almondsbury Care Ltd into liquidation. Notice has been given for all residents living at The Ferns Nursing Home and Axbridge Court Nursing Home in Somerset, as well as Belmont Nursing Home which they operate in Cornwall.

We understand the impact and concern this news will have on affected residents, relatives and staff. However, we have a statutory duty under the Care Act 2014 to ensure the care and support needs of all service users can continue to be met in the event of an immediate business failure by a regulated care provider in Somerset. We have taken some immediate steps to support staffing in the short term.

In partnership with colleagues in NHS Somerset, we are now implementing our established business closure process; we will be working with the Care Quality Commission and other stakeholders as part of this work. The provider has pledged to work with us to ensure a smooth transfer to alternative, suitable accommodation for all residents, and we will be arranging a residents/relatives meeting for all those directly affected to outline next steps and options. We are also considering any options available to us to keep the Homes open. We understand Cornwall is also working on options to keep Belmont open and will be meeting with families before the end of the week.

Both Somerset Homes have recently been visited by the County Council and NHS Somerset's staff as part of wider quality assurance activity:

- The Ferns Nursing Home (Yeovil) is currently rated 'Requires Improvement' by the Care Quality Commission: [Ferns Nursing Home - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](https://www.cqc.org.uk)

- Axbridge Court Nursing Home (Axbridge) is currently rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission: [Axbridge Court Nursing Home - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](https://www.cqc.org.uk)

This is based on the latest information we have from the current provider. This is a fluid situation, and we will keep you updated as work progresses.

For more information, please contact:	Name: Chloe Cox – Service Manager (Quality & Contracts) Email: CCCox@somerset.gov.uk Telephone: 07890 580980
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