

PRESS INFORMATION**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 19 JANUARY 2011****WHAT COULD THE COALITION'S CARE COMMISSION HOLD FOR EXTRA CARE HOUSING?**

With the Coalition government having set itself the major task of revamping the country's social care system in order to meet the growing needs of an ageing population, among the many questions that are sure to arise will be 'where does extra care* development stand in any new policy?'

With that in mind, Laing & Buisson's fourteenth annual *Extra Care Housing Conference*, to be held in central London next month, will see many top professionals in the field debating the future of the housing model and commenting on its role in this changing landscape.

Having benefited from the Department of Health's Extra Care Housing Fund stream for a number of years, last year saw a significant refocus of central government support for the model. Speaking exclusively at last year's Laing & Buisson hosted event, the then Labour government Care Minister Phil Hope announced that there would be a significant shift away from multi-million pound grants to selected councils to a blanket £20,000 allocation to all authorities.

A year on, the 2011 conference is set to review the situation, looking at how extra care fared without a further injection along the lines of the huge financial support given by some £230m of government money since 2004, and asking how councils have fared with just £3.5m to split among them.

Speakers from a wide range of backgrounds including the Department of Health, local authorities, care sector think tanks, and independent providers will comment on topics such as expected trends in the commissioning of extra care in light of last autumn's spending review and the dramatic cuts imposed upon local authority spending.

Confirmed speakers include Jeremy Porteus of the Department of Health's Putting People First Programme, John Payne of The ExtraCare Charitable Trust and Bob Bessell of independent provider Retirement Security.

Topics up for discussion will include the impact of personal budgets on extra care, ways in which to integrate specialist care requirements such as those for people with learning disabilities or conditions on the autistic spectrum into extra care delivery and how the industry can go about boosting its profile.

Lead by the Chair of Hanover Housing, and the man who as the former House of Lords Audit Committee chair oversaw the MP expenses debacle, Lord Richard Best and the former Labour care minister, and outspoken supporter of extra care, Stephen Ladyman, this event promises to offer an important forum for anyone involved in this growing market and indeed to anyone who commissions care for the elderly or people with special needs.

The Laing & Buisson *Annual Extra Care Housing Conference 2011* is being held on 15 February at the America Square Conference Centre, London E3C.

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**Extra care housing is the preferred term for integrated housing with care. Other terms used for this service include care plus, assisted living and very sheltered housing. There is no universal definition of the model but it can be considered to be flats, bungalows or cottages which provide self-contained living facilities for older people or adults with specialist care needs. As a result of this loose criteria, official estimates of the UK's extra care housing capacity range from 25,000 units to as many as 44,000. Source: Laing & Buisson Extra Care Housing UK Market Report 2010*

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Founded by William Laing in 1986, Laing & Buisson is the UK's foremost and most highly regarded provider of information and market intelligence on the independent health, community care and childcare sectors.

Laing & Buisson offers a uniquely focused range of expert services to providers, purchasers and investors in the health and community care markets. Information about the range of products and services provided by Laing & Buisson is summarised below.

Consultancy and Market Intelligence:

Market intelligence and consultancy work, focusing on non-clinical aspects of health and social care markets, is tailor-made for companies with an active interest in the sector. Examples of recent work include a report on the future of the independent healthcare sector for the Healthcare Commission, the seminal work conducted by Laing & Buisson on 'A Fair Price for Care' for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and 'Improving Lives - Improving Life', a report on the key strategic issues facing the long term care sector. Laing & Buisson also frequently assists investors in market due diligence work in the health and care sectors. Laing & Buisson can also offer consultancy on the broader European market through its Healthcare Europa joint venture.

Annual Directories & Market Reports:

Laing & Buisson publishes a series of special market reports and directories on the health and community care sectors. Annual publications include Laing's Healthcare Market Review, Long Term Care: Directory of Major Providers, and the Care of Elderly People Market Survey. The research and conclusions within the reports are frequently cited in parliamentary questions and answers, official documents and company prospectuses, and are regularly drawn upon by the national media.

Healthcare Data in an Electronic Format:

CareSearch is Laing & Buisson's flagship data product, a 'one stop shop' with extremely flexible search facilities for those needing detailed, reliable and up-to-date information on care homes, independent hospitals, health and care commissioners and regulators in each neighbourhood in the UK, together with details of group operators, their holdings and financial information from statutory accounts. Alternatively, data can be selected specifically and supplied on disks or labels for mailing purposes.

Newsletters:

Laing & Buisson publishes three authoritative monthly newsletters - Community Care Market News, which covers the long-term care sector, Healthcare Market News, which covers the acute healthcare sector, and Healthcare Europa, which looks at the private care, healthcare and outsourcing sectors across Europe.

Conferences:

In addition to one-off conferences on subjects selected for their special interest or topicality, Laing & Buisson's annual programme features a series of 'annual' conferences - considered unmissable, definitive events, covering key developments and leading edge practice in specific areas including Homecare, Telecare and Assistive Technology, Children's Nurseries and Childcare, Extra Care, Long Term Care for Older People, Acute Healthcare, Private Healthcare Insurance and Investing in Healthcare. These annual conferences are followed by professionals who come to the events year after year.