

CARE HOME UPDATE

UNISON would like to thank you all for your support throughout the ongoing Care Home campaign. We promise to continue opposing any further closures that will affect the continued provision of high quality and publicly run residential care in Edinburgh.

Clovenstone, Ferrylee, Ford's Road & Jewel House

We continue to have regular discussions with Edinburgh's democratically elected councillors where the importance of ensuring the continuance of council run residential care has been acknowledged. We have also met with members of the Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board, sadly these meetings which have been few and far between, have been nothing more than box ticking exercises.

It is the understanding of UNISON that the proposed consultation on the closure of the 4 care homes is being pushed back until after the council elections in May 2022. There is a noticeable reluctance from City Chambers and the EIJB to confirm or deny this, but if this is the case, UNISON will make the care homes centre stage throughout the entire election. It is morally and ethically wrong for any administration to hide the disastrous effect these closures would have on Edinburgh's older people until after the election.

We have written to all councillors requesting that discussions around the closures are put back until at least mid 2023, when legislation pertaining to the National Care Service will be known and the pandemic will have hopefully receded.

This will give everyone time to consider plans for the replacement or refurbishment of the 4 care homes alongside the additional funding from the council and Scottish Government. UNISON is waiting for a response from the chair of the EIJB.

Drumrae Care Home

Despite the evidence put forward by UNISON for Drumrae to remain as a council run residential care facility it was the EIJB who chose to ignore the facts and the very real need for this highly valued service to continue.

UNISON are more than aware of the anxiety and stress caused by their decision but hope that staff and residents recognise that we did all that we could to have the EIJB decision overturned.

THE NURSING MODEL

The proposal is to put registered nurses into the 60 bed care homes in the first instance. This decision was based on the higher usage of District Nursing Services within these particular care homes.

The nursing model will be introduced in a phased manner beginning with Royston, then Inchview and then Marionville Court. This is apparently to ensure that the EHSCP can provide the right support to existing staff and to the new nurses coming in. The introduction of nursing staff is considered an addition to rather than a replacement of council staff.

There are no job losses as a result of this proposal. UNISON has been advised that the integrated managers post will only come into effect in the event of a future vacancy. This equally applies to the making of a new job description for said post.

As it is stated that the existing staff will need further training and a new skills base, it has been agreed that this opportunity will apply to all colleagues within the care home estate rather than just those employed within Royston, Inchview and Marionville Court.

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