



Improving
care for
older people

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bpha is delighted to be working in partnership with Luton Borough Council and Castleoak Care Partnerships to improve standards of care older people.

Two affordable housing schemes in the town will provide more than 100 new homes meeting 'extra care' standards, to support the council's Future Living Needs strategy.

Work began in February on the first scheme, which is to be known as Betty Dodd Court and will provide a mixture of 47 one and two-bedroom self contained apartments off Grange Avenue, Leagrave.

The three-storey building will offer 42 apartments for affordable rent, and five apartments for shared ownership. Communal facilities will include a hair salon, shop, activity room, dining room and kitchen, residents' lounges and courtyard garden.

Funding for the scheme, which is scheduled for completion in summer 2009, is from **bpha**, Luton Borough Council, the Housing Corporation and Supporting People.

The second scheme, to be known as Jill Jenkins Court, is being built at Whipperley Ring, in the Farley Hill area of Luton. Building is due to start in March 2008 and will provide the same communal facilities in addition to 60 one and two-bedroom extra care apartments, which will all be offered at affordable rents to those eligible on the housing waiting list.

Jill Jenkins Court will also include a self-contained day centre for older people with dementia, to be managed by Luton Borough Council, which will also be available for use by residents living outside the scheme.

Both extra care schemes have been designed to meet Ecohomes standards, to ensure that new buildings achieve high levels of environmental performance.

John Cross, Chief Executive of **bpha**, said: "The extra care homes being provided at Luton will offer the highest-quality accommodation for the town's older people.

"Extra care housing offers residents and their families security and peace of mind. As residents' care needs change, the services available on site are able to adapt accordingly, reducing the need for older people to move from place to place."

"The redevelopment of the former Elmtrees Elderly Persons' Home is an important and welcome step forward for the council in delivering its Future Living Needs strategy."

"The new flats will provide long-term homes for local older residents with support and care provided within the building allowing them to retain their independence."

CLlr Mahmood Hussain, Luton Borough Council Portfolio Holder for Adult Community Care Services

If you would like further information, please contact:



David Keeling,
Executive Director
(Development)

t: 01234 221230

e: davidk@bpha.org.uk

www.bpha.org.uk