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## Press Release

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# Sheltered care facility re-opens after extensive refurbishments

**Cotney House, Galleywood, owned by Chelmer Housing Partnership (CHP) was officially re-opened on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007 by Kimberley Hall, Deputy Head of Supporting People and Councillor Janette Potter, (former) Older People champion.**

CHP has extensively renovated the sheltered housing scheme providing additional communal facilities, light and airy self-contained flats and capacity to provide extra care to ten of the 36 flats. These ten flats are now wheelchair accessible and, with a new on-site care office, can receive 24-hour care should residents need it. 24-hour extra care packages, provided in partnership with Essex County Council and care providers, Care UK, offer a real alternative to residential care as it enables residents to stay in their own homes and remain independent. Two carers will be on site during both the day and the night. Additional on-site facilities include a therapy room and assisted bathing room.

Lynne Foster, CHP Operations Director, said: "It was part of our original transfer promises to alter a number of our sheltered schemes that had shared bathing facilities. We felt very strongly that no older person should have to share a bathroom. Cotney House residents are appreciative of the fact that we've been able to spend money on this refurbishment and now none of them have to walk down the corridor to the bathroom – there are still lots of places in Essex offering shared facilities. We took the opportunity to improve the facilities and provide an extra care service and we're delighted with the finished results."

The 29 residents were provided with alternative accommodation in another of CHP's sheltered schemes whilst the work was going on. The move back to Cotney House took place in phases and allowed the residents to choose their own flat.

Cotney House is now part sheltered and part extra care and is one of 25 sheltered housing schemes managed by CHP. The building was erected in 1970 by the Rural District Council and was officially opened in 1972.

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**Editors Notes:**

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