

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **New team brings better standard of care to St John's Court**

A celebration event to introduce four new team members will take place at 2:15pm on 7<sup>th</sup> December at St John's Court, a First Wessex older persons enhanced supported living scheme in Farnborough.

Earlier this year, following reports from residents and their families regarding inconsistencies in the services provided at St John's Court, Louise Cumberland, Head of Care and Support at First Wessex met with Rushmoor Borough Council and other representatives to make a plan of action to improve things.

In response to the concerns and following consultation with residents, Councillors and Hampshire County Council, First Wessex Older Persons Services devised a new way of providing the support services at St John's Court, and has just appointed the new members of staff to take on this responsibility.

All 40 residents have been invited to attend the celebration event, which will also be attended by representatives from Hampshire County Council, local Councillors and First Wessex staff who have been involved in designing and implementing the new support service. Peter Walters, First Wessex Chief Executive will be in attendance to officially open the new service.

Pat Fowler, Head of Older Persons Services at First Wessex said: "I'm very pleased to see such a positive outcome at St John's. The team has been very proactive and has responded to the needs of our residents by coming together to make substantial changes and improve the way we provide support. This event is a perfect opportunity for everyone to meet the new staff, celebrate the beginning of the new service offering and toast the future of the scheme."

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**For further information, please contact:**

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**Notes to Editors**

First Wessex manages around 17,000 affordable homes primarily in Hampshire and with some activity in Surrey.

The Group comprises Atlantic Housing Limited, First Atlantic Housing Limited, Pavilion Housing Association, Portsmouth Housing Association, Fernhill Care Limited and Wessex Property Limited.

**Portsmouth Housing Association:** provides homes in Portsmouth, Fareham, Gosport and Havant. It also provides a wide range of community regeneration services across South East Hampshire.

**Atlantic Housing and First Atlantic Housing:** provide a full range of affordable housing including rented, supported, shared ownership and key worker housing. A large support portfolio includes housing for older people, extra-care housing, dementia care housing, housing for people with learning disabilities, people recovering from mental illness and some specialist accommodation. They cover a geographic area spanning Eastleigh, Southampton, Winchester and the New Forest.

**Pavilion Housing Association:** the largest provider of housing association homes for rent in the Aldershot, Farnborough, Ash and Farnham areas.

**Fernhill Care:** provides care services for tenants of First Wessex Housing Group and other landlords and for individuals in the community with support needs. It specialises in domiciliary, extra- and dementia care.

**First Wessex Property Limited:** the Group's in-house repairs and maintenance organisation.

[www.firstwessex.org](http://www.firstwessex.org)