

**Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care**

25 June 2024

**TITLE: Save Jutland Place**

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to prevent the Jutland Place care home in Egham from closure and to provide insitu care for the residents of Jutland Place from 9th June 2024 onwards, OR to tender a third party to provide care services from 9th June onwards.

**Justification:**

In the event that this petition cannot be heard until it is too late to save Jutland Place from closure, we petition the Council to launch a formal enquiry to establish why it was not possible to provide continued care and support to the residents of Jutland Place via a 'supported living' arrangement, and to consider what steps it can take to increase the accommodation available to adults with learning disabilities within the Runnymede area.

Submitted by: Sam – 339 signatures

**RESPONSE:**

Thank you for your petition to save Jutland Place. Hopefully, you will appreciate that this decision has not been taken by Surrey County Council and, for some time following Mencap's decision to withdraw from the service, we have been discussing the future of Jutland Place, both with them as the tenant, and with Runnymede Borough Council as the landlord of the property, with the aim of finding a way to continue the service.

Surrey County Council officers have approached several providers of support and care and of housing management, including those put forward by families of residents currently living at Jutland Place. Unfortunately, discussion with the landlord, Runnymede Borough Council, has confirmed that no appropriate business cases proposing that the current service be retained, either as a supported living setting or a residential care home, have been received.

I appreciate this will be disappointing for the residents, but by way of explanation, in our experience this is not unexpected as people with a learning disability who are looking for residential care are typically opting for homes that can offer a choice of communal spaces, with larger and accessible bedrooms and bathroom facilities: homes that can continue to support them as their needs change over time. This will have been a key consideration for providers considering whether to add Jutland Place to their portfolio, and Runnymede District Council have advised the County Council that Jutland Place cannot be refurbished to meet the criteria which prospective residents assess their options against. Mencap have advised the County Council that the vacancies have been challenging to fill over the past two years and can be expected to continue to be so.

It is regrettable that Mencap have taken the decision to withdraw providing services at Jutland place and that no other provider approached by SCC has indicated they are able to provide sustainable services. As a result, it is not possible for the current provision to be kept open: there is neither a property nor a care and support provider. In these circumstances it is Surrey County Council's responsibility to protect the best interests of the individuals residing in the property and therefore to make appropriate alternative arrangements for their accommodation, support, and care.

To this end, officers have undertaken Care Act Assessments and Mental Capacity Assessments. These assessments inform how the decisions regarding the most appropriate future accommodation, support, and care, in respect to each individual are best taken.

The overriding priority being reported from the residents of Jutland Place and their families, is that they remain together, and do not necessarily mind if this is in one place or two places, as long as their new homes are located near to each other to enable them to maintain their long-established relationships and meet up in their local community.

Our priority is the wellbeing of the residents at Jutland Place and helping them settle into new homes which meet their individual needs, and we have stuck to our commitment to providing open and honest communication with the residents of Jutland and keeping them informed of progress every step of the way.

I do understand how difficult change can be, including for the carers, family and friends of the individuals who currently live at Jutland Place, and would like to reassure you that officers continue to provide ongoing support and reassurance from experienced staff throughout the transition to new homes.

**Councillor Sinead Mooney**  
**Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care**  
**25 June 2024**