

# ***London Borough of Bexley***

## ***News Release***

**For Immediate Release**

**18 September 2015] / PR 6223**

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE APPROVES TEMPORARY USE OF FORMER CARE HOME**

Bexley's Planning Committee has approved the temporary use of the former Homeleigh Care Home in Avenue Road, Erith as temporary housing accommodation for a maximum period of two years.

The Committee made the decision at its meeting last week (10 September). It means that the empty building can be used to help the increasing number of homeless households who qualify for help from the Council.

When it re-opens after refurbishment Homeleigh will provide temporary accommodation for up to 15 families and 10 individuals. The accommodation will be managed by a registered provider with experience across many London boroughs.

Homelessness is on the increase and the Council currently makes use of more than 700 units of temporary accommodation. Homeleigh will help save Council Taxpayers' money by avoiding the need to rent costly temporary accommodation in the private sector.

Homeleigh was previously used as a residential nursing home. It was no longer suitable for this use because of changes in the legal requirements for care homes that provide accommodation for elderly people and people with dementia.

The Council is in the process of reviewing the most suitable long-term use for the building and has reaffirmed that using Homeleigh for housing accommodation is a temporary measure.

**'ENDS'**

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