

**WITHAM, BRAINTREE & HALSTEAD CARE TRUST  
INTERIM PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH MID ESSEX PCT AND ESSEX COUNTY  
COUNCIL - UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS**

**Agenda Item 6a.**

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**Background Papers:-** Delegated Decision to the Cabinet 6<sup>th</sup> February 06 – Minute 77 (3)  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Care Trust Partnership 11<sup>th</sup> August 06, Cabinet 25<sup>th</sup> September  
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**Financial Implications:** - None at this stage

**Equalities Implications:** - None at this stage

**Legal Implications:** - None at this stage

**Options:** None at this stage

**Risks:** None at this stage

(Issues regarding above will be addressed in a future report)

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A report was considered by the Cabinet on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 06 and delegated authority granted to enter into an Interim Partnership Agreement in view of the dissolution of the Witham, Braintree and Halstead Care Trust on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 06. Members will recall that in October 2003 the Council transferred its Housing Elderly Services Team into the newly established Witham, Braintree and Halstead Care Trust. Thirty- eight members of staff from the service, including sheltered housing scheme managers and cleaners, Carecall officers and service managers were transferred into the new organisation. The Mid Essex PCT currently employs these staff.

## **DECISION**

That the Cabinet Member for Housing and Customer Services in consultation with the Lead Member for Health and Children and Young People, is given delegated authority to enter into the required agreement to extend the current working arrangements until 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007.

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A verbal update from the meeting of the Interim Partnership Board to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 07 will be given at this meeting.

Officers are also now in the detailed process of assessing the implications for the Council and Greenfields Community Housing (GCH) of the Partnership arrangements.

The council sheltered housing schemes will transfer to GCH and a new partnership would need to involve GCH as a partner, as the sheltered housing support service to GCH tenants would be part of the agreement. The Carecall part of the service has always been very closely linked with the Sheltered Housing Service, as staff provide cover and out of hours support to the service and both services have been viewed as one.

GCH Shadow Board has been advised of the partnership arrangements.

It is envisaged that a more detailed report on the future of the partnership will need to be considered by the Cabinet on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 07. Pragmatically, the Interim Agreement is likely to need to operate beyond the 31st March 07 and therefore authority is sought to extend the agreement for a further 7 months.