



SOUTH DEVON RURAL

HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Press Release

Methodist Homes Housing Association. (MHHA) and South Devon Rural Housing Association (SDR) are pleased to announce the transfer of four sheltered housing schemes, totalling 22 homes from MHHA to SDR.

Built in the early 1990's by MHHA, part of the nationwide charity for older people, MHA, with the assistance of local and national donations, the schemes were specifically designed to support people in rural communities. Whilst the schemes have been well-supported, their size and remoteness make it difficult for MHHA to fulfil its strategy to develop and offer a range of additional services to support higher level needs.

MHHA consulted with tenants on how to deliver a more local housing management service. The South Devon-based SDR had previously contacted MHHA offering a local management service, in line with its business objectives and was invited by MHHA to present a management proposal to the tenants. SDR already delivers care, support and other services both to older people and families across South Devon, so it was felt to be a good fit with existing operations. Following the consultation, which resulted in 100% positive feedback from tenants in favour of the transfer, MHHA obtained consent from the Tenant Services Authority and the transfer took place on 12 March 2010.

A Thanksgiving event to mark MHHA's involvement, local contributions and celebrate the transfer will take place at 11.00 am on 28 April at the Methodist Church in Ipplepen to which local community stakeholders will be invited.

Steve Prime, Chief Executive of South Devon Rural Housing said, 'I am delighted that this transfer has taken place and look forward to providing a quality local management service to our new tenants. Small rural schemes like these fit naturally in our business.'

Lorelei Jarvis, MHA's Director of Housing and Care said, 'We are pleased that the quality service which has been established and successfully delivered to local older people for nearly 20 years will be continued into the future by SDR.'

End

Any questions regarding this press release should be directed to Steven Prime, Chief Executive of South Devon Rural Housing Association on 01803 863550 or Anna Marshall-Day, Director of People and Corporate Affairs, MHA by email anna.marshall-day@mha.org.uk or telephone 01332 22 1901.

Notes to editors

Facts about MHA

MHA Care Group comprises the charities Methodist Homes and MHA Auchlochan as well as a Housing Association – collectively known as MHA.

MHA is a charity providing Care Homes, housing and support services for older people throughout Britain.

Established 65 years ago, MHA now delivers a range of services to over 12,500 individuals. We serve approximately:

- 3,000 older people in residential, nursing and specialist dementia care homes;
- 1,500 older people in sheltered housing and housing with care;
- 8,000 older people in community projects

Our services are delivered by 5,000 dedicated staff and 5,000 committed volunteers.

MHA's services are independently assessed for quality by the English care sector's regulator, the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Over 90% of our care services have been classed as 'good' or 'excellent'.

Facts about SDR can be found at:

www.southdevonrural.com