

← continued from page 1

WHAT CUTS DO

Care in care homes or through home care visits is doubly crippled. Local authorities, who pay for much social care, have had their budgets cut and they will be cut more. To cut costs SCC sold its care homes

We understand that much staff training is now carried out online.

Of CareUK's large new care homes (Britten Court takes 80 residents) in Suffolk four aren't up to standard and one of these is Britten Court. After a delayed start because of staff shortages and only open for a year the home "requires improvement" in four out of five areas. To the credit of the staff, one area is rated as good, that is in being "caring". There was no registered manager in place.



Britten Court care home, Lowestoft

The point of private care

homes is to make a profit either for their, often absentee, owners or, in the case of Care UK, for dealers in the City of London. Care UK did this by building bigger homes and by cutting the pay and worsening the conditions of already poorly paid care workers. That is a recipe for high turnover of staff, instability or, as we have seen too often, even worse.

and outsourced its home care. At the same time it has cut what it pays for those services. This is what "austerity" means. Residents and staff, the sick and the elderly are the victims. Now the government has declared a new, higher minimum wage and NICE (the care watchdog) has issued guidance that home visits must be at for at least

half an hour. Tory SCC, advocates of austerity, doesn't have the money. Social care is on the brink of breakdown.

Elderly people are not commodities and their care is a social responsibility not an investment opportunity. Care homes should be in the ownership and control of the local community located close to the families and friends of the residents and run by properly paid and trained staff. That isn't the case now.

We didn't vote for these cuts and this is our alternative*...

End tax dodging believed to cost £150 billion a year

Tax the rich

Stop the disastrous foreign wars, expenditure on weapons of mass destruction and invest in green jobs

Stop the bankers paying themselves obscene bonuses

Levy a Robin Hood tax on bank turnover

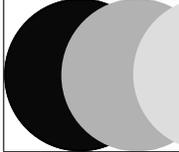
WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- Support LCAC by joining our leafleting every Saturday, 11-1pm, in the town centre precinct, outside the Britten Centre.
- Join our email list - keep up to date with activity in your area.
- Forward this leaflet and pass it onto friends and workmates.
- Want to know more? We can supply a speaker for your group or trade union branch.

Contact us

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*Resolution passed at LCAC launch rally - 2 March, 2011



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AGAINST THE CUTS

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CRISIS IN CARE HOMES: CUTS BRING SOCIAL CARE TO BRINK OF BREAKDOWN

The Lowestoft Journal recently reported on the failings at a Lowestoft care home, High Dene in Park Road, after an inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). These included no registered manager (a legal requirement), insufficient staff and residents being left alone for long periods. The report concluded that "people's health, welfare and safety was compromised". The home was rated as inadequate in every criteria having failed to make any improvements after two previous inspections.

A little over a month later, the owners of High Dene have decided to close the business and gave the elderly and vulnerable residents three days notice to get out. High Dene will be done up, the owner says, and will now only take private residents. The Journal posted the news on its website but it didn't appear in the printed edition.

According to the CQC High Dene is not the only one. Nine care homes in Lowestoft have failed to meet at least one of its five criteria with one, Highcliffe Nursing Home, rated as "overall inadequate".

The Dell Residential Care Home in Oulton Broad has a history of numerous inspections, of numerous managers and years of failure. This didn't stop the Mayor of Lowestoft, Stephen Ardley, visiting The Dell to open its Christmas party and the

Journal giving the event prominent coverage. It didn't mention that The Dell was the subject of an enforcement order.



Colin Noble, Tory leader of Suffolk County Council

Lowestoft Coalition Against the Cuts also visited The Dell after disclosing what the Journal had failed to report. We were impressed by the determination of the then manager, an ex-Suffolk County Council (SCC) employee, to put things right and by the friendliness of the staff. We weren't impressed by its history. Our fears were well-founded. That manager, the fourth in months, has now left. The latest CQC report is as bad as ever but The Dell remains open.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL SELLS OUT TO THE CITY

In 2013 Suffolk County Council (SCC) turned over its relatively new and well-run care homes to private equity company, Care UK, which built Britten Court to replace Blyford and Stradbroke Court in Lowestoft and The Dell in Beccles. Private equity firms buy and sell companies aiming to make a profit on the transaction. As Lowestoft Coalition Against the Cuts predicted at the time, many experienced staff left and a reorganisation meant that CareUK got around TUPE regulations, regulations intended to safeguard workers' rights. Pay was cut and conditions worsened.

Continued overleaf →

www.lowestoftagainstthecuts.org.uk