



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

Ref:

### **Mission Care announces closure of Morton House nursing home**

It is with regret that Mission Care is announcing today that it is planning to close Morton House nursing home in Lewisham.

Mission Care is a Christian charity established in 1904 and currently provides residential and nursing care for more than 250 residents across its six homes. Morton House is currently home to 22 older people.

“This has been a very difficult decision for the Board of Mission Care given the legacy of care that has been provided in Lewisham by Morton House; however its financial situation is no longer sustainable for the charity. The Board and senior management have spent several months considering alternative solutions but unfortunately continuing to operate the home in the current economical climate is no longer tenable,” explains Jonathan Crisp, Executive Director of Mission Care.

Mission Care recognises the impact this announcement will have for the residents and families of those for whom we currently provide care at Morton House. Every provision will be made to assist our current residents in preparing for their future care needs, as well as continuing to provide care at Morton House for the next few months.

It is anticipated that the period of closure for the home will, if necessary, continue up to the end of March 2012, however the home will not formally close as a provider of nursing care until the future needs of all our current residents are satisfactorily resolved. This could include moving to another Mission Care home where possible and if desired.

“Morton House has provided 20 years of care in Lewisham since 1991 and celebrated this milestone earlier this year. It has been a privilege to serve the local community in Lewisham in this way during this time, and this has made the decision to close Morton House considerably harder. The Board of Mission Care has considered this question for a number of months, and has only recently taken this difficult decision,” said Jonathan Crisp.

Mission Care will work very closely with families and friends of residents to ensure we provide the best possible help that we can during this difficult time. We will also be consulting with the current staff team at Morton House during the coming months. Every effort will be made to support them and to consult in

a meaningful way, and to assist them in preparing for their career after the closure of Morton House. We will seek to avoid redundancies where possible, but do anticipate that some may be unavoidable.

Residents and relatives are being informed about the closure of Morton House today. Members of the public who have enquiries can contact Mission Care on [admin@missioncare.org.uk](mailto:admin@missioncare.org.uk) or visit [missioncare.org.uk](http://missioncare.org.uk).

## **ENDS**

**Press contact:** for more information please contact Adams Creative, PR agency for Mission Care. Enquiries should be directed to Amanda Goodchild, Karen Danson or Lynsey Walker on 01622 687 729 or [lynsey@adamscreative.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@adamscreative.co.uk)

### Editor's Notes:

- Morton House provides nursing care for up to 27 older people and currently employs over 30 staff.
- Mission Care is a Christian charity with a long history of caring for vulnerable people in South East London. Established as the Bermondsey Medical Mission in 1904, the charity has always adapted its charitable activities to best suit changing social needs and was renamed Mission Care in 1991.
- Mission Care serves over two hundred and fifty residents and their families and friends in our six care homes, located in the London Boroughs of Bromley, Lewisham and Southwark.
- All of our homes are committed to delivering a high standard of person centred care that serves our residents' social, physical, clinical and emotional needs.
- Currently 17 of the 22 residents at Morton House have a funding relationship with Lewisham Council. The remainder are funded privately or by other local authorities.