

Press Release  
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### **Birmingham Jewish Community Care announce cost-saving changes**

Birmingham Jewish Community Care (BJCC) have announced cost saving changes in response to increasing financial pressures and a significant decline in Jewish occupancy who now make up less than a quarter of Andrew Cohen House's residents with only 13 of the home's 59 residents being Jewish. The biggest inflationary crisis the country has seen in 4 decades, a cost-of-living crisis, lower Jewish occupancy, lower numbers of self-funders, a significant price gap between funded care placements and the real cost of care, combined with soaring energy prices challenge the financial viability of the charity.

The Board of Trustees have recently taken the very difficult decision to sell Andrew Cohen House. This decision was not taken lightly; however, it is the only way to ensure that BJCC can survive in the long term where its social work team and drop in community services will continue supporting the Jewish community within the West Midlands.

The decrease in Jewish residents at Andrew Cohen House and the significantly rising Kosher supply and food costs have meant that it is no longer financially viable to continue supplying Kosher food to all our residents. The home will now offer Kosher food to those Jewish residents requesting it, and though the ingredients will be Kosher and produced in a supervised Kosher kitchen, the home will no longer be supervised. We do however have long standing catering staff who are well versed in Kosher practices and will competently produce Kosher meals as required.

BJCC's dedicated social care team will continue to support all members of the local community who currently rely on them each week or may need to do so in the future. This will absolutely remain the case. The team, together with Birmingham's local synagogues and other communal organisations will continue to have a strong presence in the local Birmingham Jewish community.

We are pleased to confirm that Andrew Cohen House has had a great deal of interest from other care providers, and we are already considering offers from some very reputable providers. We have every reason to feel confident it should continue as a thriving care home, provided by someone else.

Staff, residents, and relatives were all updated about the changes in meetings at the home yesterday with many residents expressing that they would continue to live there under new ownership once sold.

We remain committed to putting in place new services ensuring those in the local community receive support and care that is Jewish, providing access to drop-in community centre-based events and activities.