

Press Release

30 September 2009

A first for Melin and Monmouthshire



Resident Maria enjoys a chat with her carer Nivia and Extra-Care Coordinator at Lavender Gardens Kate Pope-Makowski.

Lavender Gardens, Monmouthshire's first Extra Care scheme, was officially opened on Friday 25 September.

Housing association Melin Homes built the £1 million development in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council. Staff from Melin were joined by colleagues, partners, local councillors, key stakeholders and residents at the official opening event.

Maria Findley, age 83, was the first resident to move in when the doors opened in July. Prior to this she lived in her own home but needed daily visits from carers due to mobility problems. She is delighted with her new home and the security and independence it has given her.

She said: "I can now get up and make myself a cup of tea in the morning, whereas before I had to wait for carers to call and help me downstairs. It's lovely to have my independence, but also to know that there is help on-hand should I need it. I've already made friends and you couldn't find fault with the staff or the carers here even if you tried."

Maria's carer Nivia has already seen a big difference in Maria in the short time she has been at Lavender Gardens. She said: "Maria's confidence has really improved and her care needs have reduced by 50% in just four weeks. She's regained her independence and it's made a noticeable difference to her well-being"

Chief Executive of Melin Homes Mark Gardner said: "We are very proud of our first Extra Care scheme. It's very rewarding to know that by, providing high quality homes coupled with excellent support services residents will be able to live independently in their own homes for longer."

The 21 modern one and two-bedroom apartments will provide accommodation for people over 55 who need care and support to help them continue to live independently. Shared facilities include a communal lounge, hairdressing salon, laundry, scooter store and visitor accommodation. Support workers are available on site to deliver individual care packages for residents.

Llantillio Pertholley Community Council kindly donated a bench to the scheme which was unveiled at the opening.

Ends

For further information and to register your interest in applying for a home at Lavender Gardens, please contact Andrew Burford, Abergavenny Community Care Team on 01873 735900.

For more information please contact Helen Ball, Head of Marketing, Culture & Performance, on 01495 745920.

Notes to editors:

- Melin Homes is a not for profit landlord providing quality homes and services across Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, Newport, Powys and Torfaen. For further information please visit www.melinhomes.co.uk