

EXETER HOMES TRUST BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2026

Compassion, Companionship and Community

CULVERLAND ROAD DEFIBRILLATOR

Residents of Culverland Road now have access to a community defibrillator, after Exeter Homes Trust received funding from Devon County Council to install the lifesaving device at its property on the Exeter street.

The installation of the defibrillator came after a request from Michaela Bennett, daughter of resident, Michael Bennett who died at the site in 2025, and who wanted to provide a legacy for her father and hope to help others should the unthinkable occur.

Following the request, Ethan from Exeter Homes Trust, approached the County Councillor for St Sidwells and St James, Councillor Thomas Richardson, for grant funding from the locality budget scheme towards the cost of the defibrillator and a storage unit.



Ethan said: "We would like to thank Councillor Richardson and Devon County Council for helping to secure the funding for this lifesaving community asset which will be available to all in the local area and the wider community of Exeter"

Speaking at the official launch of the defibrillator in July, Mr Bennett's daughter, Michaela said:

> *"Today, seeing this AED in place is an incredibly proud and emotional moment for me. While we all hope it is never used, we know that having access to life-saving equipment can make all the difference in an emergency. If this defibrillator helps save even one life in the future, it will represent something truly special."*

The defibrillator is one commonly found at events and in publicly accessible units, it can be easily operated by anyone even if they have not received any training as it provides an audio step by step guide once activated.

CAN YOU HELP?

EXETER HOMES TRUST LAUNCH DONATION DRIVE IN AID OF CARDIAC CARE UNIT

We don't often plan our hospital stays and when we do we make sure we have the essentials for our stay like basic hygiene items. But as EHT General Manager, Ethan Watts, found out in May, an unexpected visit to the Cardiac Care Unit at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital left him without much needed personal care items.

After speaking with staff at the unit, it quickly became clear this was a common issue for patients and that staff relied on donations from the public or families to provide the most basic products for a hospital stay.

Out of this conversation, Ethan made the decision that Exeter Homes Trust should become a collection hub for personal hygiene items which will be donated to the Cardiac Care Unit at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital so that future patients can have a more comfortable stay as they recover.

Ethan said: "Since my cardiac rehabilitation and thankfully my full recovery, I have been thinking about how I can give back to the community of Exeter and thank our wonderful doctors and nurses who looked after me during my hospital stay'

"Having also spoken to patients on the Cardiac Ward at the RD&E Hospital, it was further highlighted not everybody has the support network of family close by to help"

We kindly ask if you can, to donate **small miniature (or travel size) toiletry items** such as:

- ☑ **Toothpaste and Toothbrushes**
- ☑ **Mouthwash**
- ☑ **Hand soap (bars)**
- ☑ **Shampoo**
- ☑ **Conditioner**
- ☑ **Unscented body wash**

If you would like to donate, items can be dropped off at the Exeter Homes Trust office at 6 Southernhay West, Exeter. If you are unable to get to the office but would still like to donate, please call us on 01392 421162 to arrange a pickup.



WINTER FUEL PAYMENT SCAM

Devon County Council are warning residents of fake Winter Fuel Payment messages circulating in the county.

The messages, received by text, may ask the recipient to click a link, confirm details or to act urgently.

Winter Fuel Payments are an annual payment for households that include someone born on or before 27th June 1960 and usually living in England, Wales or Northern Ireland during the qualifying week of 21st to 27th September 2026. Those who qualify could receive £200 towards their bills, or if they are over 80 could receive £300.

Crucially payments are made automatically if eligible and made directly to the beneficiaries and the DWP will not ask for bank details by text.

If you receive a message the advice from Trading Standards is:

1. **Do not click links in any unexpected messages**
2. **Never share personal or financial information**
3. **Forward suspicious text messages to 7726 to help stop scams spreading**

You can find more information on the Winter Fuel Payment at: **https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment**

DEVON CRISIS AND RESILIENCE FUND

As energy bills are set to rise again this autumn, households in Devon are being reminded that help is available through the county's Crisis and Resilience Fund.

With the energy regulator, Ofgem, announcing the energy price cap will increase by four percent from October, households on a standard variable tariff could see an additional £60 per year added to their bills.

The Government funded Crisis and Resilience Fund is available to low-income households across Devon who experience a sudden financial shock including help for paying for essentials including food, energy, water and housing costs. It can also provide support and advice to help people improve their financial resilience in future.



Councillor Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin, Devon County Council cabinet member for Rural Affairs and Broadband said:

> *"We know that a sudden increase in household costs, an unexpected bill or a change in circumstances can quickly push people into financial difficulty.*
>
> *The Crisis and Resilience Fund is there to help people though these moments. It can provide practical support with essential costs, including energy bills, while also helping people access advice and services that can improve their long-term financial wellbeing."*

You do not have to be in receipt of benefits to qualify for support as eligibility depends on individual circumstances.

If you think you are eligible, more information you can contact Exeter City Council or find further information at: **https://exeter.gov.uk/benefits-and-welfare/help-managing-your-money/crisis-and-resilience-fund/**

WHAT'S ON IN EXETER...

EXETER CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS MARKET

Dates: Friday 13th November to Sunday 13th December 2026

Returning once more, the ever-popular Exeter Cathedral Christmas Market will be back on the Cathedral Green in the run up to the Festive season offering locals and visitors alike a range of gift ideas and seasonal food and drink from local, national and international suppliers.

Free Admission

LORD MAYOR'S CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

Location: Exeter Guildhall, High Street, Exeter

Dates: 31st October 28th November and 12th December 2026

Times: 10:00am to 12noon

Come along with friends or just enjoy a solo morning with a tempting selection of cakes, pastries and refreshments in aid of the mayor's chosen charity.

Free Admission

FORE STREET FLEA

Location: Fore Street, Exeter

Date: 22nd November 2026

Time: 12noon to 4:00pm

It's the final Fore Street Flea street market of 2026, giving everyone the chance to grab unique Christmas presents or a treat for yourself from some of the city's best known indie businesses.

Free Admission



ETHAN INTRODUCTION

Exeter Homes Trust would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ethan formally to our extended family here at Exeter Homes Trust as the new General Manager for the office. For those who have not yet met Ethan, Ethan joined us in February 2026 and brings with him a wealth of experience within the housing industry spanning a career of over 20 years in the industry.

"I would like to thank the residents I have met so far for their warm welcome since joining the team here at Exeter Homes Trust and look forward to establishing a long working relationship with you all. I shall be visiting more of our estates over the next few months, where I hope to show compassion, dedication, and look forward to listening to your needs as residents as well as upholding the Trusts core values. If in the meantime the team and I can be of any assistance, please do call our office during our normal business hours."



You will appreciate the amount of adverse weather Exeter has experienced recently. Please take care in your everyday lives.



Please remember to take your Almshouse keys with you. A callout for the locksmith is costly.

IMPORTANT NOTE

As a Resident of Exeter Homes Trust, if you encounter an emergency situation or what you perceive to be an unlawful incident in or around your home or Almshouse estate, please phone 999 in the first instance.

Exeter Homes Trust does not provide support or extra care services.

EXETER HOMES TRUST

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