

7th January 2013

Agenda Item: 11

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR PERSONAL CARE AND SUPPORT, OLDER ADULTS

CARE AND SUPPORT CENTRE INDEPENDENT LIVING ACCOMMODATION

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to approve the further development of independent living accommodation within the Woods Court Care and Support Centre, Newark as part of the Living at Home Programme.

Information and Advice

2. This report follows the report to the Adult Social Care and Health Committee in July 2012 which proposed alternative ways of using the Care and Support Centres to support older adults.
3. This report also follows the report to Full Council on the 22nd September 2011 where the Council agreed that the Council's remaining six homes would continue to operate as residential care homes as well as providing short-term and respite care services that will provide support to carers and that the existing Council Policy relating to non-closure of Care Homes would remain unchanged.
4. Each of the six Care and Support Centres are considering how they can develop more responsive and flexible ways of supporting older people and their carers to enable them to live in their own home environment.
5. Some of the new services developed are to be trialled and include a carers support service and a bathing service.
6. Community Link Assistants have also been identified at each home who will work with local communities, groups and individuals to profile local need and identify new ways of providing flexible services.
7. A proposal has been developed to create two Independent Living apartments at the Care and Support Centre, Woods Court, in Newark. Woods Court has been identified as there is sufficient space that is vacant because of the relocation of the Day Service and the apartments will be able to have separate access.
8. It is anticipated that if successful this type of service could be offered at other homes that are suitable where the need is identified.

9. Each apartment will be self-contained with its own front door and will include a bedroom, bathroom, lounge and kitchen area but will retain a physical link to the main Care and Support Centre.
10. The Independent Living apartments will provide transitional support to older people during their transfer from a hospital setting or will provide a period of intensive short-term care in the Care and Support Centre before returning to their own home.
11. The apartments will also be utilised as a facility for people where a short period of monitored care is required in order to prevent an admission into hospital or a residential care setting.
12. The Independent Living apartments will be supported by the use of existing Assistive Technology and, where appropriate, can also be used in the person's own home when they return.
13. The individuals will live independently from the Care and Support Centre, receiving the agreed level of care as outlined in the individual's care plan. They will also benefit from the reassurance afforded by living within the Care and Support Centre which they can visit or seek support from as required.
14. The Independent Living apartments will provide the opportunity for continued assessment and contact with the service user during the transitional period from a higher level of care to a reduced level of care as appropriate.
15. The Independent Living apartments can also be used to reassure carers that their relatives have reached a stage when they are able to return home thereby supporting the carer to continue caring for longer.
16. Criteria for eligibility to access the Independent Living apartments will be developed.
17. The aim of the Independent Living apartments is to divert older people from long-term residential care by assessing the risk and enabling them to have time to reach a level of independence enabling them to have the confidence to return home.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

19. Following an initial desktop exercise the cost of the adaptations required is estimated to be in the region of £150,000. It is proposed that this is funded from slippage from the planned expenditure from the NHS Support to Social Care from Health (s256) funding. Once a final plan is agreed the detailed costings of the plans will be drawn up by external

providers utilising the existing Framework Agreements. The construction works will be delivered by the Council's own property services team.

Human Resources Implications

20. Staffing for the transitional units will be met by existing staff employed within the Care and Support Centre.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

21. All Health and Safety requirements will be met as part of Woods Court Care and Support Centre.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 1) the development of the two Independent Living apartments at Woods Court, Newark be approved
- 2) the necessary Capital funding is met from slippage from the planned expenditure from the NHS Support to Social Care from Health (s256) funding
- 3) the apartments be evaluated after a six month period to assess their effectiveness as a model that could be used in other centres in the future.

DAVID HAMILTON

Service Director for Personal Care and Support – Older Adults

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (to go to Legal Service is necessary)

22. xxx

Financial Implications (NDR 20/12/2012)

23. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 19 of the report.

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Division(s) Affected

Newark East – Councillor Stuart Wallace.

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