

Building For The Future - Residential Services for Older People in Gwynedd



“Making it easier for older people to live
full and independent lives”

Newsletter 1
March 2007

Welcome to the first issue of the Gwynedd Council newsletter which discusses plans to develop suitable residential services for older people living in Gwynedd. In the first issue we aim to introduce you to the work being done and future issues will include information on the latest developments.

We hope that you find the newsletter interesting and useful and we would welcome any comments or enquiries.

Gwynedd Council has been considering ways of updating and improving our residential services for older people. This work programme is called: Building For The Future - Residential Services for Older People in Gwynedd.

Project Aim

The aim is to develop residential choices for the older people of Gwynedd which

- promote the independence of service users,
- and enable people to live full and independent lives where this is possible, and according to their wishes

In order to do this, we will be developing a network of services in the shape of Resource Centres and a series of Extra Care Housing, responding to the need for standard, suitable accommodation for the County's older residents.

Work will focus initially on four areas, namely:

- Bala
- Bangor
- Ffestiniog
- Porthmadog



Why is change necessary?

There are two specific reasons why these changes are necessary:

- Changing needs
- The need for quality assurance

The schemes developed in all four areas will be flexible and respond to local needs and the challenges facing us locally, such as

- an increase in the population of older people
- changes as regards health needs and the need for support for older people and their carers
- people's expectations and their desire to live full and independent lives with support available as necessary
- a wider choice of suitable and convenient living accommodation
- financial constraints on public budgets

2. Quality Assurance

Care must also be taken to ensure that any provision meets the statutory registration requirements in terms of the suitability of properties and the nature of care. It is crucial that the Council ensures that plans for the future are suitable in terms of the standard of properties and plans to train and qualify staff.

What will the future provision consist of?

- intermediate care needs, thus saving a bed in a general hospital and reducing dependence,
- respite care,
- care for older people with more intensive needs due to dementia
- beds with nursing care for older people over 65 years old with memory problems.

We also propose to consider centres which will contribute more generally to the community providing a resource for other services such as health care workers and the field of social care. They could also offer community resources e.g. post office, cafe or a location to hold leisure activities and for lifelong learning.

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Project Board What is Extra Care Housing?

A Project Board was established by Gwynedd Council in December 2006. The Board is responsible for managing the project, developing solutions and implementing guidelines to ensure a choice of suitable residential provisions for older people in the county.

The principal elements of Extra Care Housing are ...

- The opportunity to live at home - not in a residential home
- Everyone will have their own front door - with the right to choose who comes in through that door
- Couples and friends can stay together
- A mixture of older people, some living independently and others less independently
- 24 hour care services available - as necessary
- Support to safeguard independence
- The opportunity to join in social activities - or to be as private as one wishes
- Safety - the aim is to provide a safe home. Telecare support will be available as a means of promoting independent living

What are Resource Centres?

The principal elements of Resource Centres are ...

- a combination of intensive social care provision and some aspects of health provision
- Residential Care which could also include nursing care beds, day care service, and residential care for people with memory problems or dementia, intermediate care beds with an intensive support service and hospice care beds
- Services for the management of chronic diseases.

The next steps

Detailed discussions will take place over the coming months in all four areas [Bala, Bangor, Ffestiniog and Porthmadog] in order to identify the local needs. This will include discussions and collaboration with the health service, and private and voluntary agencies to identify opportunities for joint working.

The aim is to identify local needs by the summer of 2007 and to develop a business plan for each location. This will lead to co-ordinating a funding package for the proposed developments.

Statement by the Senior Portfolio Leader for Care, Gwynedd Council who has responsibility for realisation of the project

Councillor John Wyn Williams said "This is the main priority over the next months and we will do everything possible to ensure that the work is progressed."

Progress of the project will be reported on in the next edition of the newsletter in July 2007.

Further Information

If you have any queries or require further information please contact:

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The newsletter is available in alternative formats. Please contact the Project Manager (see above).