

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Cabinet****10 September 2013****Report of the Strategic Director Adult Care and the Director of Property****Dementia Environment Fund: Improvement works to
four homes for older people****1. Purpose of the Report**

To seek approval to a programme of work to improve the environment in four homes for older people, Thomas Colledge at Bolsover, The Grange at Eckington, Whitestones at Chapel en le Frith, and Castle Court at Castle Gresley to ensure that they are suitable for people with dementia.

2 . Information and Analysis

Four of the Council's homes for older people were identified within the Accommodation Care and Support Strategy for Older People (20 February 2012) as having three star environmental ratings, which made them suitable to provide residential care to physically and mentally frail residents. A budget of £2,750,000 was set aside to contribute towards the refurbishment of Thomas Colledge and The Grange to provide them with en-suite facilities and other associated costs. Whitestones and Castle Court already have all en-suite facilities.

On 30th November 2012, the Department of Health published guidance for capital funding applications, building on the King's Fund 'Enhancing the Healing Environment' (EHE) programme to improve the environment of care for people with dementia, their families and carers within care homes and hospital wards together with more general environments. Expressions of interest were invited by 16th January 2013 from Social Care authorities and the NHS for part of a £50 million dementia-friendly environment investment.

The programme aims to develop value for money tangible physical improvements, and to show how these contribute to improved care provision.

The key aims of this project are to:

- Increase older people's choice and control over the way they live and are supported.
- Remove some of the identified barriers to providing personalized and dignified care for people with dementia.

- Create enabling and supportive environments where residents feel valued and understood.
- Develop an environment that promotes a person centred culture and where staff are enabled to provide support to individuals without resorting to anti-psychotic medication.
- Develop and share good practice.

The Council submitted a successful expression of interest and subsequent bid for funding to improve the environments within the four Homes for Older People to provide specialist care for people with dementia. The Council was notified on 27 June 2013 that it had been successful in its funding application for £623,000. The Council will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health to enable the Council to access the funding.

The Secretary of State for Health stated that he they would announce the national pilot programme towards the end of July 2013, and until that stage the Council was not able to make any public announcement of the approval of funding or the Council as a national pilot organisation. In their email communication of 27 June 2013 the Department of Health confirmed that the Council should commence planning and delivery of our schemes without delay as the projects need to be completed by 31 March 2014. The Secretary of State for Health subsequently announced on 25 July that Derbyshire was one of the successful local authorities to be given funding to be one of the pioneering dementia care pilot projects.

The Council's bid project involves:

Dignified washing and bathing

The current bathroom style, design and layout at the Grange and Thomas Colledge create significant problems for residents with dementia, especially for those who require some assistance, resulting in reduced levels of independence, choice and dignity. New enabling and homely en-suites will be less confusing for residents and increase their choice about how they are supported. More easily identifiable toilets will help improve continence. Thomas Colledge has 16 en suites without level access showers and The Grange has 25, which will be refurbished to significantly improve residents' quality of life.

Signage and way finding

Experience in the Council's existing dementia friendly Specialist Community Care Centres has confirmed the benefits of improved dementia friendly signage and visual prompts such as art work to improve orientation and movement around the buildings. Art work will be commissioned by an artist or organisation willing to work alongside the staff team and residents in the four homes to ensure it is meaningful to the communities and reflects their interests.

Outdoor areas

The lives of the residents of Whitestones were enhanced last year by discretely securing and redesigning an outdoor space. The landscape design supports way-finding and orientation, enabling a range of additional activities which encourages independence and social interaction. The outdoor space at the other three Homes for Older People will be similarly improved to offer greater choice and independence to residents.

Improved Lighting Levels

To improve accessibility for residents, Thomas Colledge and the Grange will significantly benefit from improved lighting levels in the corridors.

Staff, residents and their families will be encouraged to engage in the detailed design of all the improvements where possible including product choice, with the aim of creating a sense of belonging and acting as a catalyst to improve practice which focuses around individuals. The project bid identified that use of voluntary sector partners or specialist organisations would be encouraged to facilitate service user involvement within the delivery of the programme, for example through intergenerational work and gardening works.

The project will require completion by 31 March 2014.

3. Financial Considerations

Estimated Cost Breakdown:

| Establishment | Estimated Cost |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | £ |
| Thomas Colledge | 247,271 |
| The Grange | 363,426 |
| Whitestones | 5,000 |
| Castle Court | 13,000 |
| Total Cost | 628,697 |

The bid for dementia design fund totaled £623,000. The balance of £5,697 required over the £623,000 from the Department of Health Dementia Bid will be met from the refurbishment allocation set out in the 20th February 2012 Cabinet report.

4. Property Considerations

In response to the tight timescale for submission of the project proposal as part of the bidding process, the specification for the building works was developed with the Council's Property Services Department. They have subsequently quoted to deliver the required building works, and the quote has been benchmarked against other recent building projects within Adult Care to ensure it delivers best value for the Council.

5. Human Resource Considerations

Each of the homes has a workforce training plan for its staff team. As part of this dementia environment pilot additional training will be provided by the Adult Care Department's Staff Education and Training Centre to enhance the core skills of the staff team. It will focus primarily on developing an organisational culture that promotes independence within a safe environment for people with dementia.

6. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, legal, environmental, health and transport considerations.

7. Key Decision

Yes

8. Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report?

No

9. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

9.1 notes the Department of Health approval of the Council's funding bid for £623,000 and inclusion of Derbyshire County Council as a national pilot organisation within the Improving the Environment of Care for People with Dementia Initiative;

9.2 approves the works to be carried out at four homes, Thomas Colledge (Bolsover), The Grange (Eckington), Whitestones (Chapel-en-le-frith), and Castle Court (Castle Gresley) by the Council to fulfill its commitment as a pilot organisation to improve the environment in each home to ensure they are suitable for people with dementia.

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