

PRESS RELEASE

**Outline planning permission granted for dementia care centre**

Released: Friday August 6, 2010

Wolverhampton City Council has been granted outline planning permission for a new £30m Dementia Care Centre in the city.

The 60-bed facility, on land adjacent to Waitrose, Graiseley Hill, will help meet a rising demand for services for people with dementia, with the number of older people in Wolverhampton set to increase by 30% in the next 20 years.



It will offer a range of services and, although these are still to be determined following consultation with service users and other stakeholders, they are likely to include respite care beds, enabling carers of people with dementia to take a break, rehabilitation care beds for people recovering from time spent in hospital, as well as expert advice information and support for carers.

There will also be day care facilities, which will allow service users to get specialist support and enjoy social activities, therapy rooms, meeting areas for use by carers' groups and community organisations and an on-site restaurant.

The proposals were granted outline planning permission on Tuesday July 27, 2010 by members of the city council's planning committee and Brian O'Leary, Wolverhampton City Council's Chief Officer for Transformation, said: "We are delighted that the proposals are progressing as planned, which is great news for people with dementia and their families in Wolverhampton.

"The help and support which we will be able to provide from this new centre is extensive, and will include everything from short stay beds and day care for people with dementia to dedicated facilities for carers.

“We already provide a wide range of services for people with dementia, but we are keen to develop these further – and this state-of-the-art centre will transform the lives of sufferers.”

Councillor Les Pugh, Wolverhampton City Council’s Cabinet Member for Adults, added: “Dementia affects not just those with the illness but also partners and family members who care for their loved ones whilst under extreme stress.

“This new facility will further improve the services in Wolverhampton for people with dementia, their family members and carers.”

An Outline Business Case will go before Members of Wolverhampton City Council before it is formally submitted to the Department of Health, while a full planning application will follow in due course. Detailed design work will begin early next year and it is hoped that work will begin on site in early 2012, with the service opening to the public for the first time in the autumn of 2013.

The plans form a key part of the Dementia Strategy Forward Plan, which sets out how the city council and its partners will meet the requirements of the National Dementia Strategy.

The centre is being developed by the Wolverhampton and Walsall LIFTCo, a company set up to design, develop and construct the building to the city council’s specification.

LIFTCo will lease the dementia care centre back to the city council over a 25-year period, with the cost of the rent met through the PFI credits. LIFTCo will also be working in partnership with Ashley House Plc, one of the UK’s leading health and social care infrastructure companies.



## ENDS

### Notes to editors:

1/ Artists impressions of the new dementia care centre accompany this media release. They include an aerial view from the north, and a view from Graiseley Hill. Please can you stress that these impressions are only indicative and therefore show how the new development could, rather than will, look.

2/ If you would like further artists impressions, would like to arrange a photo opportunity or require further information, please contact Paul Brown, Principal Communications Officer, on 01902 555497 or email [paul.brown@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:paul.brown@wolverhampton.gov.uk).

3/ Outline planning consent means the city council has received planning approval for the outline proposals and proposed use for the site based on the initial design information produced. The planning approval was given 'with all matters reserved' which means that the city council will have to submit the detailed design to planners for full approval at a later date.

**Issued by Wolverhampton City Council press office. Contact 01902 554077, 554076 or 551959. More information about the council can be found on the [www.wolverhampton.gov.uk](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk) website.**



Ashley House is one of the UK's leading health & social care infrastructure companies, with 19 years experience in delivering projects efficiently and cost effectively. Our approach is based on building active partnerships with our clients and their communities.



Healthcare Improvement Partnership (Wolverhampton City & Walsall) Ltd is a Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFTCo) established as a public private partnership in 2004 under the government initiative to bring new investment into primary and community care services.