

Work starts on multi-million pound dementia centre



Following demolition work, building is about to commence on a multi-million pound centre designed to give the very best care to people living with dementia.

The Burton Centre of Excellence will provide specialist accommodation in a domestic style environment for people with dementia, providing high quality care and support in an innovative, purpose built environment.

It is being built on the site of the former Margaret Stanhope Centre in Outwoods, Burton at a cost of £6.4m with £945,000 of funding from the Homes & Communities Agency.

The centre, which has been designed to the University of Stirling 'gold' standard for dementia care, will provide domestic scale living arrangements in 'clusters' and will also include communal areas and facilities such as a café and leisure and wellbeing space.

Representatives from Staffordshire County Council and Symphony a consortium made up of Accord and Keepmoat Regeneration, part of the ENGIE Group will be celebrating the commencement of construction of this flagship centre in Burton with a ceremony which will include a tour of the site that will eventually become home to 45 people living with dementia.

County Councillor Alan White, Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing at Staffordshire County Council said: "As a county council we very much recognise the devastating impact dementia can have not only on individuals, but on their family and friends. Working closely with our partners, we are ensuring people will get access to a whole range of services to help them live the life that they want for as long as possible. Dementia is one of the biggest challenges facing the whole county over the next few years. This new centre, will transform the way people with the condition can access the care and support they need."

Maxine Espley, Executive Director of Care and Support, Accord, on behalf of the Symphony consortium, said "We are delighted that this scheme is now under construction and the completed building will be designed to specifically meet the needs of people with dementia. It incorporates the latest management techniques to ensure that our customers are able to maintain their independence whilst living in a really supportive environment and receiving the care they require."

Caroline Cormack, Head of Home Ownership and Supply in the Midlands for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) attended the event. She said: "We are pleased to be supporting the Burton dementia centre of excellence, which is an important part of the HCA's work to support older people through high quality specialist housing."

The centre is expected to open in September 2018, and Staffordshire County Council and Symphony will continue to work closely with existing customers, families and staff to allow the smooth transfer of residents from Hillfield House in Stretton during 2018 to this new facility.
