

Design & Access Statement

Extensions and Alterations to:

**Whitefield House Residential Care Home
Church Lane.
Whitefield**

Introduction:

Whitefield House Residential Care Home, like many other Care Homes, has been significantly affected by the current pandemic.

However, the Home has taken this time as an opportunity to review their care provision and at how they could adapt their current layout to react to the challenge of Covid-19. We believe that with a series of relatively small-scale alterations and internal alterations the Home will be able to significantly improve their day-to-day operations.

The Home current provides residential care for a total of thirty eight residents.

The scale of the proposals is relatively modest but the Home believe that these interventions will provide a much improved and safer experience for the residents, their visitors and the staff.

Overall, the proposals will increase the general social area provision, provide a small uplift in the number of residents' rooms, improve the security of the home, whilst improving the general circulation and access arrangements.

Use:

Whitefield House are seeking to make a number of internal alterations and small extensions which will enable them to make significant improvements to the general day-to-day operations of the home. In particular, these improvements will assist them in improving their infection control.

The works consist of four main areas, these are:

- The conversion of two existing ground floor Bedrooms and the Hairdressing Salon to provide a large Day Room space. Relocating the day rooms to the ground floor reduces the need for visitors to travel to the first floor. The Day Room will open onto a large south-facing external Patio space through a large sliding glass opening, from where the residents will be able to overlook Church Lane and the general comings and goings. This area also links with an existing, smaller Day Room and will provide a variety in the scale of the social spaces. In addition, it will provide better provision of external socially-distanced visitor space. The works to this area will also include the relocation of the existing Laundry and the creation of a new centrally located Reception and Office area. This will be in close proximity to the main entrance to the home, allowing visual contact with the main public areas.
- An extension to the rear of the Home will provide a Garden Room, again an additional social space to the ground floor. It is believed this will also provide a more attractive link to the currently under-used Garden area.
- A further additional new stairwell extension will allow for the creation of a new Utility to the rear of the Home. This will allow much improved infection control, be better

located for general day-to-day cleaning operations and be in close proximity to the external storage facility.

- The space created by the relocation of the first floor Day Rooms will allow for the creation of a number of new Bedrooms; some of which will be generous enough to provide double Bedrooms.

Access:

Improving the general access throughout the Home is one of the main criteria for the works.

The alterations will relocate all the existing first floor day room accommodation to the ground floor. This will, the home believes, increase the usage of the spaces and will make them more directly and more safely accessible to visitors.

Another feature will include the improved access to the rear Garden area by using a series of more welcoming spaces, the refreshment space and the Garden Room.

Overall the alterations will also provide improved W.C. and storage provision throughout the home.

Appearance & Scale:

The external alterations are primarily restricted to the provision of two new replacement stairwells and a Garden Room to the rear of Whitefield House.

At present the Laundry is located to the front of the Home, with the associated flue extracts being located to the front elevation. Relocating the Utility to the rear of the home will mean the removal of these unsightly flues, vastly improving the main elevation onto Church Lane.

The newly created Day Room will also benefit from a front patio area, which will be partially covered by a canopy which has been designed to closely reflect the architecture of the original property.

The proposed Garden Room is single storey in height, mirroring the neighbouring properties single storey extension. Both the Garden Room and stairwell extensions will replicate the detailing and materials of the existing extension and are modest in scale to minimise any impact on the neighbouring properties.

In addition, the works will provide additional Bedrooms, a number of which will be large enough to cater for couples, a facility the Home cannot provide at this time.

Landscaping:

The Home currently benefits from a mature Garden space to the rear. Whilst some garden will be lost to the new Garden Room it is intended that it was also improve the usage of the space.

No further landscaping works are envisaged or are required.

Conclusion:

The current pandemic has given Whitefield House an opportunity to review and consider how best to improve their facilities. These modest proposals are the result of this review and will enhance the home and its operations significantly.

The proposals described above will significantly improve both the residents and staff's facilities whilst improving the security of their future health.