

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting: Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing & Social Care Decision Meeting

Subject: Use of the Victory Unit

Date of meeting: 5th December 2022

Report by: Mark Stables, Head of Market Development & Community Engagement

Wards affected: All

1. Requested by

Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing & Social Care

2. Purpose

To update the Cabinet Member and Spokespeople on the plans for the Victory Unit.

3. Information Requested

The planning that has taken place to make the best use of the Victory Unit capacity for the residents of Portsmouth with care and support needs.

4. Context

The Victory Unit adjoins Maritime House, which is an 80-person Extra Care unit leased by Housing 21 with care and support provided by Radis Care, in Hilsea. The Victory Unit has discrete laundry, kitchen and lounge facilities.

The Victory Unit was used as a reablement facility until January 2021. Reablement is a type of care that helps people relearn how to do daily activities, like cooking meals and washing. Reablement support is most often used after a hospital stay. In January 2021, adult social care, (ASC) agreed to open the Southsea Unit, a temporary discharge to assess, (D2A) unit in Harry Sotnick House in Portsmouth. This agreement was part of the work to support more people to leave hospital in a timely way, in order to support the NHS to care for Portsmouth residents at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. The staffing capacity at the Victory Unit was transferred to the D2A unit.

In July 2022 the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing & Social Care agreed to Portsmouth City Council, (PCC) and the NHS working together to establish a permanent D2A unit in Portsmouth with PCC and NHS staff working together and this was accomplished in September 2022.

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Since January 2021, the Victory Unit site has been largely unoccupied, being briefly stood up as additional 'Discharge to Assess' capacity in the winter of 2021-22.

5. Future Planning

In order to be able to properly plan for the accommodation and support Portsmouth residents with care and support needs require, ASC are working to produce a Housing and Support Strategy. The direction of travel is away from a reliance on residential care with care at home and Extra Care options providing greater independence and more cost-effective models for residents. In an Extra Care scheme people have their own flats with support that can flex according to an individuals' changing needs over time. A key aspect of the Extra Care model is an emphasis on socialisation and independence. With residential care, the costs of both accommodation and care support need to be met by the Council; with Extra Care, accommodation costs are covered by rent.

The company Housing 21, who manage Maritime House, have offered to take back the lease of the Victory Unit from PCC and to adapt the previous 19 rooms to create 10 ground floor flats. Work regarding the lease is current. ASC will retain 100% nomination rights to the flats - none will be privately leased - so that use of the service to address ASC need will be maximised. A nomination agreement is being drawn up. The cost of the adaptations will be covered by Housing 21 and any grants they access. Ongoing the buildings will be maintained by Housing 21 at no cost to the Council.

H21 anticipate that adaptations can begin in January 2023 and will take approximately 6 months. This gives ASC the opportunity to consider which Portsmouth residents would have their needs most appropriately met by this accommodation and support. Maritime House supports mostly older people but also some younger people with a physical disability. Some of the older people have complex needs, including living with dementia. ASC will review the needs of residents in other Portsmouth extra care provision and those living in residential care.

The adaptation of the Victory unit ensures that the building continues to be used for residents of Portsmouth with health and care needs. This intended development also provides additional Extra Care capacity and time to develop a clear long-term strategy that will be more specific about anticipated demand for Extra Care and the plans to meet it.

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Signed by (Director)

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

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Title of document	Location