

What is New4Old?

Croydon Council and its partners have undertaken a range of analyses and investigations to produce an Outline Business Case (OBC) to support the implementation of their strategy for modernising and improving care of older people locally.

The specific focus of New4Old is to ensure greater independence and support for people living in a home and people living at home. It builds in the potential to improve the capacity of individuals – whether service users, carers or staff – to engage more fully in managing their own health and well being and that of local communities.

It is based on principles of active citizenship and Wanless scenarios (*Derek Wanless was commissioned by the Treasury to undertake a review of the long term trends affecting the health service in the UK. Based on a range of research his analysis listed three scenarios for 2022 impacting on health and social care expenditure and outcomes. Scenario three posits a fully engaged public, where life expectancy increases beyond current forecasts, health status improves dramatically and people are confident in the health system and demand high quality care. This proposal is based on moving toward scenario 3 in Croydon.*) It aims to create sustainable solutions to meet the demands of the current older generation, living out their lives from post World War 1 and to meet the future needs of those described as the New Old, born after the Second World War, into relative affluence and choice.

Current services: the case for change

The Council currently operate seven homes and a further resource centre for dementia care jointly with South London and Maudsley NHS Mental Health Trust (SLaM). All buildings were first constructed in the late 1960's and early '70s and are nearing the end of their lifecycle.

Services have been repaired and patched but cannot continue long into the 21st century. If services are to continue to offer appropriate and acceptable care to older people they need replacement in a modern guise. This means expanding into service options such as extra care sheltered housing which offer greater opportunities for independence and self expression with more space and greater privacy.

At the same time the Council needs to be able to access good quality modern nursing care to meet the needs of the most dependent, at a value for money price. This is difficult in the current market in Croydon and is projected to become even more so.

The facilities must be designed to maximise support for people at home, for black and minority ethnic communities and for people whose needs are sufficient to warrant nursing care for their physical and cognitive needs or both.

Current services comprise 251 long stay residential places and 123 day places and a total expenditure of some £6.1m net of income, departmental and corporate overheads. This expenditure will be committed to the Project, in addition to transitional funding to smooth cash flow as the project proceeds and funding of external support fees, budgeted at £0.475m over the next two years.

Making the changes: the new services and their objectives

The proposal is to move from seven existing premises to four new efficient and effective facilities, with a further unit outside the scope of this scheme. Care is outside the scope of the planned PFI.

The four units will comprise:

- 40 Extra Care Sheltered Housing units at New Coleby Court, with an attached mainstream day activities centre. Two of the flats are designated for rehabilitation and intermediate care purposes. There are currently eight 2 bedroom units, 20% of the social rented dwellings;
- A 50 place physically frail elderly resource centre with 34 nursing beds, 10 rehabilitation residential places and 6 short stay residential places for respite care at New Addington, replacing Addington Heights Home, with an attached 36 place day activities centre;
- A 40 place elderly mentally frail resource centre at Langley Oaks, built on the site of the former home, with 20 nursing places, 20 residential, including respite places, with an attached 16 place day activities centre offering mainstream support and support to those with early onset dementia or a functional illness;
- A 60 place elderly mentally frail resource centre at Heaven's Farm. This will be the centre piece of dementia care for the future, offering integrated health and social care, private and voluntary input. On site services will be developed as a One Stop Dementia Centre, offering early assessment, clinical treatment, counselling and support for carers and a range of day activities and long stay care with 40 day places, 30 nursing beds, 30 residential beds including intermediate care places and respite care places. The centre will offer a base for the new Memory Service, the Community Mental Health Team for older adults for Central Croydon and the local Alzheimer Society, plus access for a range of others, including the local Older People's Network (OPeN) and space for 'surgeries' for a range of functions.