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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am the Commissioning Manager (Learning Disabilities) for Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group (Integrated Commissioning Unit).

The Integrated Commissioning Unit (ICU) is a joint commissioning team for NHS Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group and Southampton City Council. It was established in November 2013 and is based across both organisations.

The ICU aims to deliver efficiencies across departments and improve outcomes for vulnerable adults, children and families in Southampton by considering the clients' needs first and designing services around them rather than around organisations. We do this by joining up the delivery of services and adopting a strategic approach to the wider determinants of health and wellbeing.

Engagement with clients, carers and their families is a key priority for the ICU. The ICU delivers commissioning and contracting functions across a range of areas including:

- Community services
- Public Health
- Physical disabilities
- Learning disabilities
- Children and family's services
- Carers
- Older persons mental health
- Adult mental health
- Substance misuse
- Continuing healthcare
- Supporting people
- Equipment and wheelchair services

My area of commissioning is specific for clients with learning disabilities, but this may also include physical disabilities and / or dementia. A specific work stream is to support the development of alternative housing options that lessen the reliance on Residential Care settings. This is clearly set out in our Market Position statement.

We have done extensive work on scoping the need for additional Support Living accommodation in the City over the next 10 years and estimate that we require between 250 to 300 new units to meet projected demand, including children transitioning to adults services and adults who have traditionally lived within a family home but require a Supported Living option as their carers age.

We require additional units to replace existing stock that is unsuitable for the needs of our individuals as they age.

Supported Living is preferred over Residential Care settings due to the greater tenancy rights afforded to an individual through their tenancy agreements. This means they have greater stability in their accommodation than other models.

At the present time there is a shortage within Southampton of accessible, adaptable, purpose-built accommodation with extensive communal areas and open space for clients who require a medium to high level of care. As a result, many of the residents have had to be housed outside of Southampton, leading to increased housing costs and isolation from family members. Covid-19 restrictions have been shown to add to a range of issues for some people impacting upon mental health and physical well-being (through increased loneliness and isolation, and lack of physical activity).

It is our aim to continue to work towards supporting clients to live more independently with a clear separation between the care and support needs and tenancy rights.

Purpose Social Homes Ltd is a specialist developer of supported living accommodation and is a delivery partner for Westmoreland Housing, a health and social care landlord, and Southampton City Council who will fund and procure/provide a care provider to provide onsite care and support.

I have reviewed the plans developed by Purpose Homes for the proposed development at the **49 The Drove West End**. The proposed development will involve the internal alteration of a bungalow to provide two supported living units where care is provided. I have considered whether the proposed scheme would be suitable for adults with learning disabilities that have complex care needs, autism and/or challenge behaviors or other health and social care needs and I can confirm that the proposed development will meet their housing needs and this has also been confirmed by other members of the multidisciplinary ICU team. I can confirm there is a shortage of this type of specific housing in the city to meet those housing needs.

The proposed bespoke high-quality community based independent housing for residents with disabilities is likely to support Southampton City Council in meeting its budget proposal, in delivering more effective and efficient care.

Yours faithfully,

Carrie-Ann Mills  
Commissioning Manager