

Mullan Mews Change of Purpose

FAQs regarding the Change of Purpose

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (Belfast Trust) & Clanmil Housing Association (Clanmil) Partnership

Belfast Trust, working with Clanmil Housing Association, will undertake a period of engagement to inform and provide an opportunity for identified stakeholders to find out more information about the proposed change in purpose for Mullan Mews.

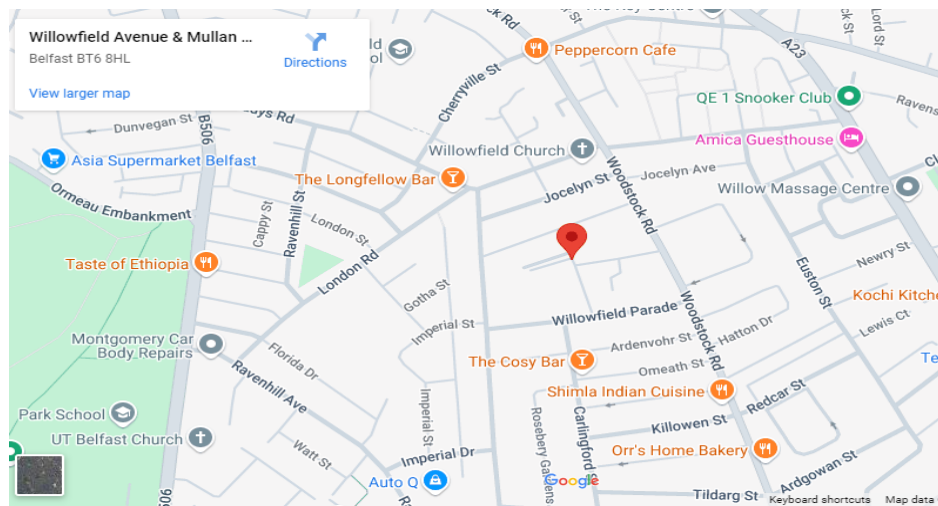
This document has been developed to provide background information in relation to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which may be raised during the engagement phase.

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Location of Mullan Mews

Mullan Mews is located in a residential area of east Belfast; off Willowfield Avenue, along the Woodstock Road.



What is Supported Living?

Supported living is a service designed to provide a flexible, person-centred approach to enable people with a range of support needs to retain as much independence as possible through support in their own home.

People in supported living have their own tenancy agreements, which gives them more control over their living arrangements. If a person does not have the mental capacity to sign their tenancy, this is completed by a family member or carer on their behalf.

Each person/tenant is provided with tailored support plans to allow them to live as independently as possible in the housing environment. Some may have physical, psychological, sensory and mental care and support needs, all of which will be detailed in their individual care plan

Supported living in Northern Ireland is generally funded through a combination of housing benefits and personal care funding from the Health and Social Care Trusts; additional support may come from individual budgets or direct payments.

Supported Living is intended for individuals with intellectual/learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health needs or older people.

Why is the Trust proposing a change of purpose for Mullan Mews?

Until now, the Trust has managed Mullan Mews as a supported housing scheme for people living with dementia. Since the onset of COVID-19, the Trust has seen a decline in uptake for this type of shared accommodation. In response to this, the Trust and Clanmil Housing Association have worked in partnership to identify demand for accommodation, which could be addressed through an alternative use of Mullan Mews. Other supported housing developments for people living with dementia are available in east Belfast and other areas of Belfast.

Who and how many people will live in Mullan Mews?

The Trust and Clanmil are proposing to provide supported living homes in renovated premises in east Belfast for people with an intellectual or learning disability. The current accommodation for people living with dementia offered five shared houses for six service users – a total of 30 occupants. The Trust and Clanmil are now proposing that each of the five houses will be developed into two separate apartments for two individual service users. The scheme will have 10 single occupancy apartments when renovations are complete, and will provide a long term home.

From where will the tenants come?

The Trust has a high and ongoing demand for a range of accommodation for adults with an intellectual/learning disability in and around Belfast. Individuals will be offered accommodation that meets their support needs and accordingly, the Trust offers a variety of options including nursing homes, residential homes and supported living facilities dependent on their ability. All prospective tenants for Mullan Mews will be assessed to ensure they meet the criteria of a supporting living environment and have the necessary care plans and support they require to live a fulfilled life in the community setting.

What support will the new tenants have in Mullan Mews?

There will be 24/7 staffing onsite in Mullan Mews and each of the ten tenants will have their own daily schedule and care package, which will cater to their specific needs. Some of the tenants will also be in receipt of 1:1 care and support, which means a member of staff will accompany them all day. All the new tenants at Mullan

Mews will be encouraged to remain independent and stay actively involved in all decisions about their health and wellbeing.

Will this change in purpose have an impact in terms of traffic?

The Belfast Trust and Clanmil do not envisage that there will be any negative impact in terms of traffic, given that there will be a reduction in the number of people living there from a potential 30 occupants to 10 and therefore a decrease in the number of families visiting the location.

Staff will avail of the on-street parking right outside the facility in the same way previous cohorts of staff would have done. Additionally, the Trust will encourage staff to utilise the convenient public transport links as we work towards reducing the Trust's carbon footprint.

Trust Transport to day centres and day opportunities will come to this location in the same way it would have for the previous occupants.

As with any building scheme, there will be construction vehicles in the area during the renovations stage. There are no plans for external works so no street closures or diversion of traffic due to heavy machinery are envisaged.

What specific building works are being undertaken to facilitate this change of purpose?

There are currently six houses in the Mullan Mews scheme; five supported living houses with 6 bedrooms, two shared lounges, one kitchen and dining area and garden, and the one house for staff.



Subject to Planning Permission being approved, the approval process can range from 3 to 6 months, each house will be converted into two distinct apartments for two individual tenants.

- Each apartment will consist of a bedroom with ensuite, living area, activity space, kitchen and dining room in the internal layout.
- Each house has a large outdoor space, which will be divided into two for each tenant.
- A range of assistive technology will be available to maintain tenant safety within each home.
- The exterior of the properties will remain unchanged.

The Trust will work with the new tenants and their loved ones to input into the interior decoration of their individual home.

What is the project timescale?

The feedback from this engagement exercise will inform the way forward for both The Trust and Clanmil. Both parties will provide a timeline and milestones once they are confirmed through this engagement and planning permission process.

Who are we engaging with regarding this project?

The Trust is undertaking a programme of engagement to inform Belfast Councillors and MLAs of the proposed change in purpose. We will also inform local residents of the proposed change in purpose. This engagement process commences 21 October for a 4 week period closing 29 November 2024. If you have any queries from yourselves or the local community please contact Billie Hughes Co Director billie.hughes@belfasttrust.hscni.net