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CARE PRINCIPLES

Oaks Lodge, Fordham Road
Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7XN
Telephone: (01638) 606300
Facsimile: (01638) 606301

CARE PRINCIPLES - OUR PROPOSALS FOR BRIGSTOCK CAMP

Introduction

Care Principles is planning to submit a planning application to East Northamptonshire District Council for a hospital outside Brigstock. The site of the proposed hospital is located at the former Brigstock Camp site, off the A6116. This is a new application, and has been extensively changed from the proposals Care Principles submitted in 2002.

We have amended our proposals in the light of the views and comments of local people and their elected representatives, and to meet the very latest National Care Standards. The size and height of the proposed hospital has been significantly reduced, and the facility is now designed to cater for around half as many patients as originally proposed. We have also removed plans for a rehabilitation unit, revising the size of the proposed scheme still further.

We have made major improvements to the landscaping to the entire site area. We have also undertaken a full Environmental Impact Assessment, the results of which have fully informed the design development of our revised application design, siting and specification including our comprehensive proposals to preserve and enhance the environmental and ecological setting of the site.

It is intended that the hospital will cater for young people with learning disabilities, some of whom may present challenging behaviour. It is especially needed given the increasing local, regional and national demand for residential treatment of these patients. It is intended that the hospital will cater for 54 patients.

About Care Principles

Care Principles is the largest independent provider of specialist learning disabilities services in the UK. Founded in 1997, it now has over 1,000 employees, and assesses and treats over 200 patients in five hospitals throughout England. Care Principles works exclusively for the NHS, and is the first choice provider for over 50 Primary Care Trusts.

Our aims are simple - to provide a high quality, safe, secure and appropriate environment which encourages the development of skills, competencies, confidence and independence for people with learning disabilities.

Medical care

Anyone can have a child with a learning disability. However, there remains much misunderstanding about our patients and their needs.

Care Principles was founded by professionals experienced in this field of care in response to a lack of appropriate provision for this very marginalised patient group. There are around 5,000 people in the UK of the type cared for by Care Principles, yet only 700 beds are

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available nationally. There is a significant national and regional need for the services that Care Principles offer.

All of our patients suffer from a learning disability. All have been detained for assessment and treatment under the Mental Health Act 1983. All of them are vulnerable people, who have a right to, and yet are frequently denied, the best medical care and clinical treatment available.

Some patients may also present with challenging behaviour - this means that, as a consequence of their learning disability, they may respond in certain circumstances by being verbally or physically aggressive to those directly responsible for their care.

Because people with learning disabilities often have communication difficulties they can find it very difficult to appropriately challenge things verbally. In addition they may not have the confidence to challenge people they see as authority figures. Furthermore, people with profound and multiple disabilities may frequently be unable to remove themselves from situations they dislike or may be unable to make themselves understood. Care Principles' aim is to address all of these issues by providing our patients with the skills and confidence to cope more effectively and independently in every day society and to return our patients to their homes and families whenever appropriate.

People with learning disability and challenging behaviour are familiar to local health services, which already provide for them in a range of Community and Residential services which are often in similar secure facilities managed by NHS Trusts.

Care Principles provides specialist treatment to vulnerable people who have, in many cases, been in the mental healthcare system without having been given the opportunity to undergo the kind of comprehensive and constructive treatment we provide.

Security

At Care Principles, we take security very seriously. Our hospitals are secure and our patients do not have free access to the local community.

Our hospitals are very specifically designed to support the needs of our client group only. Security occurs at a number of levels:

- Building design and master planning – the house and hospital layout provides excellent line of sight, encourages interaction and provides a safe, secure and crucially a homely environment – for the first time in their lives many of our patients have their own bedroom in their own house (as opposed to a ward) in a very pleasant rural environment. This is an excellent environment for them to be cared within.
- Houses are locked and have specially designed windows and doors to maintain the security at house level.
- Staffing – our staff ratio is very high – one member of staff to every two patients on all houses. This ratio, and the operational policies and procedures we have developed, ensure our patients are under continual care and supervision.

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- Site security – the site is protected by a 5 metre high anti climb fence. The fence is also fitted with movement sensors and is covered by CCTV – all monitored 24 hours. Why such a high fence?:
 - The National Care Standards Commission (NCSC) and our referring agencies require this level of fencing to be provided
 - Because our patients are detained under the Mental Health Act we are required by law to provide an appropriate safe and secure environment for them in order for us to deliver our care and treatment programmes
 - Finally – and importantly – the fence makes our patients feel very safe and secure. In wider society our patients are vulnerable, victimised and marginalised because of their learning disability. Our hospitals provide them with a safe haven from these threats. If they feel safe and secure then they are far more likely to respond far more effectively to our care and treatment

It is important to stress that no patient has ever absconded from the type of hospital we are proposing for Brigstock – we have operated similar facilities at two other hospitals for almost four years without incident. However, in the unlikely event that one of our patients manages to leave without supervision, their instincts would be, like most of us, to head for home. In those circumstances, our detailed policies and procedures – which are required by the NCSC and agreed with the local police - would be implemented.

We have fostered very positive relationships with the local police constabulary at all our existing hospital sites. In the case of the proposed hospital at Brigstock Camp, the Police Inspector responsible for the area did not have professional concerns about the design and location of the facility or the patient group in respect of our original application. As we have reduced the scale of the development and improved the security for our revised proposals we would expect this stance to be maintained and will shortly be meeting with representatives of the local constabulary to confirm their support for our proposals.

Design

All Care Principles' sites are in rural locations. This is a clinically-driven decision - a quiet, low stimulus environment is the best place for our patients at this stage of their treatment.

We have a strong track record in terms of design. Our Norfolk Hospital has won a regional design award, and Care Principles has also won an award from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England in recognition of its environmental credentials and work.

We are unique in this sector for directly employing both an architect and a landscape architect in-house, to ensure that all our facilities fully take in to account their environmental settings as well as the needs of our patients. Our proposals for the Brigstock Camp site have been painstakingly designed with both the environmental and visual impact of the scheme in mind.

We have carefully selected a palette of materials of muted colours and local materials based upon the Rockingham Design Guide. The character and layout of the proposed buildings have been designed to give the appearance of a rural farm complex, in line with local

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surroundings. Moreover, the footprint of the proposed development will actually be less than that of the existing buildings on the site. Buildings will be a maximum height of two storeys although the vast majority will be single storey.

In addition, landscaping and planted screening will ensure that any visual impact is kept to a minimum. Planting will also provide an ecological link to the ancient woodlands and regions of Forestry Commission plantation to the north of the site.

Environmental impact

Care Principles takes its responsibilities to the environment very seriously. We are acutely aware of the environmental and ecological importance of the area surrounding the Brigstock Camp site. Our proposals have been carefully developed with this in mind.

Under our proposals, existing pillboxes found on-site and two underground chambers will be retained as archaeological features and converted to bat hibernacula. Artificial bat boxes will also be constructed on the site. The pond to the northeast of the site will be extended and restored to provide habitat for amphibians and other species, and woodland and scrub on the edge of the site will be enhanced. The planting of native broadleaved trees and shrubs will provide additional habitat for reptiles, and will create foraging habitat for barn owls and badgers as well as additional nesting habitat for songbirds. In addition we will be controlling the discharge of surface water from the site by introducing a water attenuation pond in the adjacent east field.

Care Principles will also implement an ecological management plan to ensure that habitats are managed positively for conservation and to enhance the biodiversity interest of the site.

For further information contact Richard Broughton at Care Principles

Telephone 01638 606300 / 07795 394250
Email richard.broughton@careprinciples.com
Website <http://www.careprinciples.com/>

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14 April 2004

Mr N Searle
Clerk
Brigstock Parish Council
7 Church Street
Brigstock
Ketting
Northants
NN14 3EX

Dear Mr Searle

Care Principles proposed hospital at Brigstock Camp

I am writing to you as the Clerk of Brigstock Parish Council regarding Care Principles' proposals to develop a hospital for young people with learning disabilities on the site of Brigstock Camp.

We have learnt a great deal from our experience of the previous application for the site and acknowledge that there was regrettably a breakdown in communication between Care Principles and the local community, we now hope to rectify this. We would like to emphasise our commitment to consulting with local people and their elected representatives on our proposals.

We are currently planning to submit a much revised application for a hospital on Brigstock Camp taking into account the comments made by the local community, councillors and planning officers. The proposed rural setting of the hospital for those with learning disabilities was chosen for the benefit of patients and is the most appropriate environment for them at this stage of their treatment. By delivering our services at the former Brigstock Camp, our aim is to provide our patients with the skills and confidence to cope more effectively and independently in every day society, and to return patients to their homes and families whenever appropriate.

Our new proposals will:

- treat 54 patients, not 94 as originally proposed;
- be developed in response to a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment;
- bring over 200 jobs to the area;
- present excellent vocational and degree level training opportunities for our staff;
- bring around £6 million into the local economy every year;
- meet the very latest National Care Standards requirements.

Moreover, as we outsource all GP services, our hospitals have the potential to contribute significant funds to local medical practices.



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It is intended that the hospital will cater for young people with learning disabilities aged between 13 and 19 years old. These are vulnerable children and young adults who we believe deserve the best medical care and clinical treatment available.

We spoke with local police when we submitted our previous application, and they expressed no concerns about the hospital. We will again be liaising closely with them about our new proposals for Brigstock Camp.

I enclose a more detailed briefing paper on our plans, with more details on Care Principles, for your consideration.

We would very much welcome the opportunity to meet with you before we finalise our proposals to provide you with more information about our new plans and to answer any questions you may have. I hope that you will not object if I contact you shortly with a view to arranging a suitable time.

If, in the meantime, you have any questions then please feel free to call me directly.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Broughton
Projects Manager
Care Principles
Tel 07795 394250 (out of hours)

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