THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

WORKSHOP 15th October 2009

Sue Osborn

Chief Executive

Workshop Agenda

- Introduction
- The story of 2 buildings
- Meet John
- Breakout Session

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Introduction

- Our mission is to pioneer Best Practice
- Which acknowledges and promotes the potential of people with Autism
- And influences the National Agenda.

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About Kingwood

- A Registered Charity since 1994
- Supporting 52 Adults with ASD
- In ordinary houses, close to shops and services
- Using a person centred approach

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Current Projects

Two Post Action Reviews looking at the experience of two buildings housing people we look after

A collaboration between a Design Management Consultancy, the. Helen Hamlyn Centre, and the Royal College of Art
To review the worldwide literature on designing homes for people with Autism and fieldwork to develop housing standards for England

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The Story of Two Buildings

- In July Kingwood invited all local stakeholders including parent representation to undertake a post action review of 2 facilities
- One housing 8 people in individual flats (A)
- One housing 4 people (B).
- Both were owned by housing associations
- Both developed in the last 3 years

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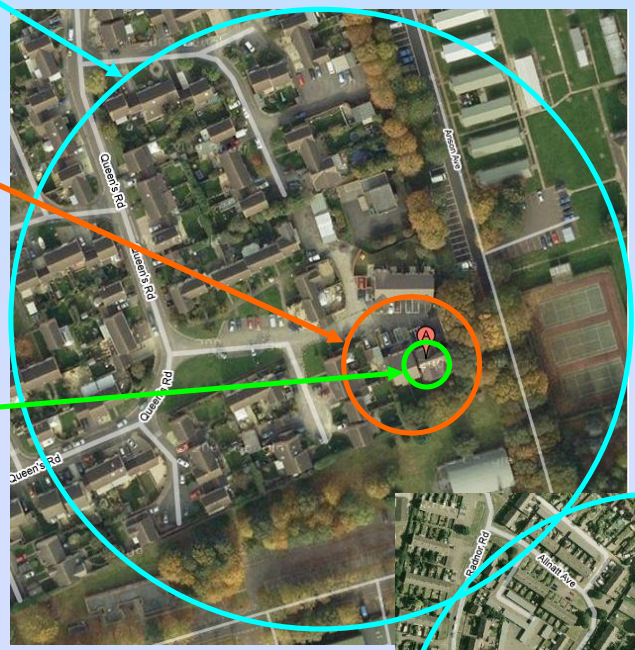
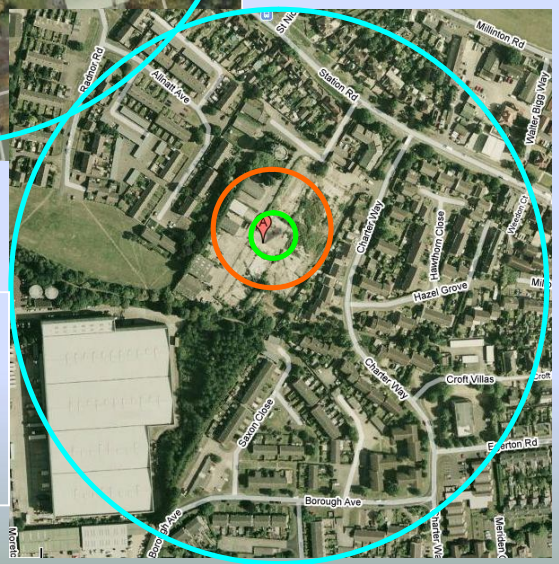
Perspectives

- The surrounding environment and facility location
- The immediate surroundings and neighbours
- The internal and external communal areas including equipment and facilities
- The individual flats including equipment and facilities
- Staff areas including equipment and facilities





Mindset: What is it like for the tenants?
(Step into their shoes).
What is it like for staff and visitors?

The Story of Two Buildings

- What has gone well
- What could have gone better
- Improvement Ideas

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Results

Building A was purpose built, the result of a planned strategy by the local authority social services commissioning team, working in collaboration with property services , a specialist housing association, and a specialist service provider over several years

- Wide stakeholder engagement including parent representation which continues to meet to monitor and troubleshoot issues

- An identified group of people whose needs were assessed by the local disabilities team.

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Results

Building B was an opportunistic pre existing building commissioned by the local authority to bring back into county a group of individuals to offer an improved quality of care at a lower cost.

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A successful external design involved

- Being located in a community where the tenants could become familiar with their surroundings and be known and accepted by their local community
- A quiet road with no stressors such as aircraft noise, yet near transport links,local shops and leisure facilities e.g. gym, pool
- The building looking like its neighbours
- Sufficient car parking to avoid neighbour disputes
- Ensuring privacy for neighbours (to avoid misunderstandings)

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A successful internal design involved

- Investment up front to enable the needs of the individuals to be met e.g. underfloor heating, shower, hidden sockets and a contingency sum to make changes in the light of experience
- Design to support the management of challenging behaviours such as wander space, pacing space,2 staircases to minimise conflict
- Calming lighting and colours
- Communal space for activities and social opportunities
- A non institutional look and feel to furnishings, tenants choices
- Separate sleep in and office space to avoid infringing tenants own space

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Meet John

Break out session

From your experience, using real examples, what are the top 5 issues that need to be addressed to improve the built environment for people with autism?

Appoint a recorder

Voting

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