



Full steam ahead for supported housing conversion in Kensington, Liverpool

Local residents and potential service users had a chance this week to see how the planned conversion of a derelict grade II listed building in Kensington will provide much needed accommodation for people with physical and learning disabilities.

Cosmopolitan Housing Association has been granted planning permission to redevelop the former old people's home on Holly Road, Kensington, in partnership with L'Arche, a Christian based support provider. Plans, drawings and a 3D scale model were produced and went on show this week at the L'Arche Liverpool head office on Lockerby Road, directly across the road from the development site.

Work will commence in January 2011 on the building at 12 Holly Road, adjacent to St Sebastian's Catholic Primary School, which has been empty for five years.

Wellcare Construction will convert the property into supported living units for up to nine adults with learning and physical disabilities. Day to day support will be provided by L'Arche Liverpool, with Cosmopolitan managing the property itself.

The £1.3m project is being delivered without grant subsidy and will take around 12 months to complete.

Angela Dodson, Supported Living Programme Manager for Cosmopolitan Housing Association, said: "Cosmopolitan are very excited about this project. It has taken a while to become a reality but through continued partnership working with L'Arche, Liverpool City Council, Hardcastle & Hogarth and Wellcare Construction, we can now bring this building back to life and deliver quality housing for vulnerable people."

Ron Fuller at L'Arche Liverpool, said: "We are delighted that this project is about to take off and provide quality housing for the people in our community. We have to thank all those involved in bringing the project to this point. The next 12 months are going to be exciting times in seeing the building development take place, as well as the work involved in the detailed process of placing residents into the house and flats."

Wellcare Construction and consultant surveyors Hardcastle and Hogarth are working closely with Cosmopolitan Housing Association on the project.