

### Step-by-step – how we developed Foundations for Living

- Foundations for Living started in 2001 as a response to local need and national policy. 'Improving the Life Chance of Disabled People' clearly identified the multiple barriers experienced by disabled people; including a lack of suitable housing, high levels of unemployment, local skills, poverty, poor health and difficulties in accessing transport.
- Through consultation the Papworth Trust found that many disabled people were keen for an opportunity to live in an urban location with better access to shops, community facilities, volunteering and employment opportunities. As a result - Foundations for Living took shape.
- By working in partnership with Hill Residential, a commercial developer, the Papworth Trust was able to create a scheme that fully integrates affordable rented with private sale flats. Hill Residential reports that sales of the private flats benefited from increased accessibility standards and lifts.
- Foundations for Living includes:
  - 24 affordable rented wheelchair accessible properties across three sites in Huntingdon town centre, Cambridgeshire
  - 22 private flats for sale
  - Saxongate Community Learning Centre, which provides an inspiring and fully accessible space for the whole community including local businesses, community groups and Huntingdon Regional College.
- The scheme fully completed in 2007 when the last of the tenants moved to their new homes:
  - 24 disabled people have moved from rural residential care, parental homes or unsuitable housing into accessible homes with Assured Tenancies.
  - Tenants report being much more independent, happier with life and say it has exceeded their expectations.
  - Tenants find it easy to access town-centre facilities including shops, cafes and pubs.
- Foundations for Living promotes community cohesion by supporting disabled people to live independently.
- Bruce Wall has seen his life transformed over the last year thanks to Foundations for Living. Bruce, who uses a wheelchair after a motorbike crash, said: "I've now got my own front door for the first time since my accident and I've gone from living in a residential care home in a rural area through to living independently. "I am able to go into town for coffee and look around the shops also to visit Sainsbury's as they are only 5 minutes away. It's brilliant."
- The success of Foundations for Living has inspired the Papworth Trust to develop a 'Guide to Developing Inclusive Communities'.
- Foundations for Living illustrates how developing inclusive communities goes beyond accessibility and includes the way services are delivered and attitudes changed through cohesion and integration.

## FOUNDATIONS FOR LIVING TIMELINE: KEY DATES

- Mar 2000 Policy drivers and building standards lead to a review of residential care and daytime progression programmes in Papworth Everard, affecting 97 service users living in Papworth Trust properties
- Jan 2001 Interviews take place with all 97 service users about personal wishes and aspirations. Of the 36 living in residential care, 21 said they wanted to live independently in a nearby town with 12 wishing to stay in Papworth Everard (6 in residential care, 6 living independently)
- 2002/03 Search for suitable sites in Cambridge, Huntingdon and St Neots
- Nov 2003 Site purchased in Huntingdon
- April 2004 Start on site
- April 2005 8 tenants move into first residential phase
- Aug 2006 8 tenants move into second residential phase, along with owner occupiers.
- Sep 2006 Saxongate Community Learning Centre opens for business
- Feb 2007 Third residential phase is completed. Four tenants move in
- July 2007 Final 4 tenants move into Temple Place once local authority care packages are in place