**Great Ormond Street Hospital Children’s Charity**

**Supporting information for Application to use 7 and 8 Sandwich Street as ‘hostel accommodation’ for parents and carers of patients at Great Ormond Street Hospital**

1. **Urgent need for additional parent and carer accommodation**

At Great Ormond Street Hospital, we recognise that the health of our patients not only benefit from the specialist treatment provided by our staff but also the critical support provided by parents, carers and families. There is growing evidence to suggest that a parent being close to their child when they are ill has a significant impact on their ability to recover from complex and sometimes traumatic treatments.

Providing free-of-charge accommodation is an essential way for the Charity to support patients and families from across the country (50% of patients come from outside of London). It also helps to alleviate some of the emotional and financial strains families face at a very stressful time.

The Hospital and Charity place the ability to provide accommodation, close to the hospital for parents of children undergoing treatment, as a high priority. The Charity’s current provision of accommodation is already oversubscribed and will significantly fall behind when the new Premier Inn Clinical building (PICB) is opened in 2017. The PICB will add 17 more intensive care unit (ICU) beds (from 37 to 54, an increase of 45%) and there are plans to increase capacity further to 60 (up 62% on current beds) by 2022. Non ICU beds will also increase by 9% by 2017 and 18% by 2022, adding further pressure on the Hospital’s and Charity’s parent accommodation.

**Table 1: Planned physical bed capacity at GOSH**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hospital Beds** |  |  |  | % growth |
| **Current** | **2017** | **2022** | **2017** | **2022** |
| **Intensive Care Unit (ICU)**  | 37 | 54 | 60 | 45% | 62% |
| **Non-ICU** | 259 | 283 | 305 | 9% | 18% |

**Table 2: Projected demand for parent accommodation**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Parent Accommodation** | **Current** | **2017** | **2022** |
| **Intensive Care Unit - ICU** | 74 | 107 | 120 |
| **Non-ICU** | 43 | 47 | 51 |
| **Total** | **117** | **154** | **171** |
| **Increase** |  | **37** | **54** |

The Hospital and charity propose to meet this significant increase in demand through two projects, both of which are the subject of planning applications to Camden:

* Tybalds Estate – proposal to acquire two units on the Tybalds estate originally identified for private ownership. These two units would provide 21 units of accommodation.
* 7 and 8 Sandwich Street – proposal to convert current use and create 13 units of accommodation

Combined these two proposals would provide an additional 34 units of accommodation and go a long way to meeting the increased demand, and current shortfall in supply.

Currently when accommodation is oversubscribed the only alternative is to try to secure hotel accommodation. Some parents have to stay in temporary accommodation for several months and feel isolated and unsettled by the restrictions of hotel living.

The Sandwich Street accommodation would provide a ‘home away from home’ for parents and their families. We propose creating 11 private rooms where parents can sleep, two family suites to house parents and other siblings and 2 communal living and shared kitchen areas. Offering this accommodation exclusively to parents/carers (with limited space to accommodate siblings when required in the family suites) means they will be staying alongside others going through a similar experience who can support each other but also respect the need for privacy during such a difficult time.

The Sandwich Street properties are a short walk from the Hospital and allow parents to take respite from caring from their children in the knowledge that they can be quickly back by their children’s bedside if required.

1. **Proposed layout to support parent and carer usage**

The proposed layout of 7 and 8 Sandwich street is designed to provide support for parents and carers while at the same time recognising the need to respect planning requirements associated with a listed building. We have therefore tried to limit the number of additions to the layout to those we consider essential to meet parents and carers needs.

Our priorities are to provide:

* Double Bedrooms for parents with either ensuite or dedicated bathroom facilities
* Kitchen and dining/lounge facilities to give parents the opportunity to meet with other parents in a similar position and share their experiences / offer support to each other
* Family rooms – a small number of family rooms to allow parents who need to have a patients sibling with them.

The proposed layout requests 4 pod bathrooms but also, where possible, uses existing bathrooms outside of bedrooms that can be designated for use by occupants of a specified nearby bedroom.

We have also provided for a kitchen and lounge/dining area on the ground floor of each building which will encourage parents to mix and meet each other as they go back and forth to their accommodation.

A small laundry has been included to allow parents to do some washing of their clothes. Storage has been spread around the building to provide service space to store cleaning equipment, bedding etc.

**All of our accommodation is provided free of charge. The purchase and ongoing servicing and maintenance of this accommodation is supported entirely by charitable donations.**

1. **Operational and management proposals**

The Management and operation of the two units will be performed by the Hospital:

* Bookings for use of the accommodation will be made through the Trust’s Accommodation Services Department as and when Hospital treatment is arranged. Priority will be given to parents with Children in intensive care.
* Parents will collect swipe card and keys for the houses and rooms (we propose Swipe card for access to external doors and keys for individual room locks) from the Accommodation Services Reception at Weston House, 63-71 Great Ormond Street. There will be no public access to either 7 or 8 Sandwich Street.
* Ongoing servicing and usage will be monitored and arranged through the Trust’s Estates & Facilities Directorate.
* Parents may stay for short periods (up to 3 days) or much longer periods (several weeks) depending on the severity and length of a child’s care.
* The Trust will be responsible for the estates and facilities management of the two blocks including security, cleaning, laundry, waste management, day-to day response maintenance, planned maintenance and statutory compliance.
1. **Refurbishment**

It is the Charity’s intention to carry out a thorough refurbishment of the decoration and services in the two building to ensure that they are of an appropriate standard and reflect well the character of these two listed buildings. We would be happy to work with Camden officers to develop and agree the work required.

**Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions on the above or need information on any other aspects of our proposals.**

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