

# PEARL HOUSE ADAMSDOWN SUPPORTED LIVING, CARDIFF



<b>LOCATION:</b> CARDIFF
<b>CLIENT:</b> CARDIFF COUNCIL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
<b>COMPLETION:</b> ONGOING
<b>VALUE:</b> £1.8M
<b>SIZE:</b> 10 STUDIO FLATS, 2 STEP-UP FLATS, COMMUNITY AND STAFF AREAS
<b>SERVICE:</b> ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
<b>LANDSCAPE:</b> AUSTIN-SMITH:LORD
<b>SECTOR:</b> RESIDENTIAL
<b>STRUCTURES:</b> QUAD CONSULT
<b>SERVICES:</b> DRAC CONSULTING
<b>PLANNING CONSULTANT:</b> LRM

The scheme will provide new homes for young people between the ages of 16 and 21. The key objective is that through the combination of high quality housing, and dedicated round the clock support, the scheme will help residents to progress to live independent lives in permanent accommodation.

The design of Pearl House adopted from the outset a palette of materials that convey a sense of familiarity and home comfort; traditional materials such as brick on the exterior, timber and warm colour interior finishes.

Each flat of the 10 studio flats will be self-contained with ample storage for personal belongings including a bicycle. Generously sized openings will provide plentiful natural light and views out. Internally, the location of the windows is aligned with the flats' entrance doors with living spaces arranged along an uninterrupted visual line to enable natural light penetration throughout the interior.

Two independent *Step Up* one bed room homes on Pearl Place will share a private garden. The flats are designed with open-plan living space and generously sized fenestration.

A double height communal lounge, in the main building, will open directly into a shared garden with southern aspect. Together both spaces will offer variety of areas for social interaction and quiet activities. The garden will also provide opportunities for horticulture, bicycle repair workshops and other outdoor projects for residents.

The design promotes the sense of openness and social inclusion. The main building stair core will be lit by large openings offering views out as well as in. This visual relationship with the street will be further animated by convivially coloured staircase and the residents moving through the space.

The scheme received planning approval in May 2021.



## Key Objectives

**New accommodation:** the scheme should deliver 8 to 10 single bed en-suite rooms for residents with high support needs and 2 double bed flats for residents who would benefit from semi-independent living, seeking to increase the space provision to include storage aspects such as white goods and bicycles, where possible.

**Community Safety:** to provide a safe development for all; local community, residents and staff. The design should strike a careful balance between providing physical security with a psychological sense of comfort and 'homeliness' within the scheme.

**A domestic sense of wellbeing:** the scheme should promote physical and mental wellbeing, with emphasis, where possible, on natural light and ventilation, external views and quiet spaces.

**Social interaction:** the scheme should promote social inclusion, with emphasis on high quality communal facilities, recreational spaces (including an outdoor area) and shared experiences.

**Staff areas:** staff will be present at all times of the night and day, so the scheme needs to provide high quality staff facilities which allow them to be visible, whilst providing for privacy and twenty four hour comfort.

**Responds positively to its context:** set on a prominent corner within a residential area and adjacent to a rail line, the scheme should develop the land efficiently, achieving a strong identity that addresses privacy, change in levels, noise and air quality.

**Addresses the dual fronted character of the site:** the need for car parking and refuse bins to serve the new development runs the risk of creating a lifeless, inhospitable frontage to Pearl Place. This is to be avoided and a design solution developed to ensure streets are fronted by buildings and car parking and refuse thoughtfully integrated.

**Sustainability and Maintenance:** the scheme should reflect the Council's Fabric First approach to minimise environmental impact and reduce ongoing running costs. Simple and low cost maintenance should be considered as part of the design process.



## Landscape

The intention with the landscape is to support the aims and project objectives for Pearl House, by creating a domestic scale, usable outdoor garden space, visually and physically extending the internal ground floor communal rooms. This is particularly true of the courtyard garden, where the patio doors of the lounge/dining room enable an easy indoor/outdoor connection. The garden spaces are also south-facing.