

Independent Living Modernisation News

A newsletter for independent living residents

Issue 12 • 2025

Welcome to the 2025 edition of the **Independent Living Modernisation newsletter**. The team have been hard at work since the last edition, and we hope you enjoy reading about our recent improvements.



Up next...

IL+

The Corriett, Cam

The Corriett will be the eighth Independent Living Plus scheme to be modernised. The first consultation was well attended with residents discussing their wish list and voting for the 'Aqua' mood board, previously chosen at George Pearce House and Dryleaze House.

Independent Living Sites

Locations throughout the Stroud district. Below is a summary of the progress made so far...

	Scheme	Category	Status
1	Sherborne House	IL HUB	Complete
2	Concord	IL HUB	Complete
3	George Pearce House	IL HUB	Complete
4	Springfields Court	IL HUB	Complete
5	Grange View	IL HUB	Complete
6	Walter Preston Court	IL HUB	Complete
7	Dryleaze House	IL HUB	In progress
8	Vizard Close	IL+	Complete
9	Willow Road	IL+	Complete
10	Jenner Court	IL+	Complete
11	Burdett House	IL+	Complete
12	Hamfallow Court	IL+	Complete
13	The Beeches	IL+	Complete
14	Archway Gardens	IL+	Complete
15	St Nicholas Court	IL+	Scheduled
16	Ashwell House	IL+	Scheduled
17	Hazelwood	IL+	Scheduled
18	The Corriett	IL+	Will be completed in 2025
19	Tanners Piece	IL	Complete
20	Broadfield Road	IL	Complete
21	Glebelands	IL	N/A (No communal facilities)
22	Malvern Gardens	TBC	Not yet complete
23	Chapel Lane	TBC	Not yet complete
24	Grove Park Road	TBC	Not yet complete
25	Draycott	TBC	Not yet complete
26	Ashcroft House	TBC	Not yet complete

Independent Living categories

A brief reminder of the three types of Independent Living schemes:

HUB

Independent Living Hub

The Hubs have a communal lounge that can be used for activities, open to visitors from other schemes as well as the wider community. The Hubs provide a place for partners in the community to come together and address issues that matter to them.

IL+

Independent Living Plus

These schemes have a smaller communal lounge for residents, their family, friends and support network. They can be used as ‘Satellite Hubs’, whereby activities from the Hubs can take place, allowing more people to benefit.

IL

Independent Living

These schemes do not have their own communal lounge, however residents can use the facilities at Hubs and Independent Living Plus schemes, with the opportunity to socialise and access various activities. This allows residents to live independently with as much or as little support as needed.

Completed Schemes



Hamfallow Court, Berkeley IL+

Hamfallow Court, completed in August 2023, was the fifth Independent Living Plus scheme to be modernised.

The project included removing an unused office space, creating a large open area by removing the wall between the kitchen and lounge, refurbishing the laundry and converting an unused communal shower into a Wellbeing Room.



Walter Preston Court, Cashes Green HUB

Walter Preston Court, completed in March 2024, was the sixth Hub to be modernised.

The lounge and kitchen were opened up to create a large space, with access to a games room featuring a dart board and pool table, kindly provided by our contractors. It was the first scheme to use the ‘Wildflower Common’ mood board, chosen by residents.

Outside space was an important addition for residents, so a large canopy was added for year-round outdoor use, along with scooter and bin stores at the front. The corridors received new ceilings, flooring and decoration, with each floor assigned a colour theme for easier navigation. The guest rooms and Wellbeing Room were also refurbished.

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Archway Gardens, Paganhill

Completed in April 2024, Archway Gardens was the sixth Independent Living Plus scheme to be modernised. Despite its small size, the impact was significant. The wall between the kitchen and lounge couldn't be removed, but the doorway was widened to create an opening. An unused office was removed, creating a larger entrance hall with access to the communal toilet and a reconfigured, ensuite guest room.



IL+



IL+

The Beeches, Kings Stanley

Completed in September 2024, The Beeches was the seventh Independent Living Plus scheme to be modernised. The kitchen and lounge wall were removed to create an open space. The entrance corridor was redesigned for better access to the communal toilet. The guest room is now ensuite and externally accessed. Corridors received new ceilings, flooring, heating, and lighting.

In progress



Drylease House, Wotton-under-Edge

HUB

Work is ongoing at Drylease House, the seventh Hub to be modernised. Structural work is complex, especially for removing the kitchen-lounge wall. A canopy will be added off the lounge for year-round garden use. The laundry, guest rooms, door entry system and fire alarm system are being upgraded. Residents are kept informed about the progress through coffee mornings with our contractor.

Laundry at Sherborne House, Stonehouse



Sherborne House, the first scheme modernised, has now had its laundry upgraded.

The laundry now features new units, lighting, flooring and has been redecorated to match the rest of the modernised scheme.

Unexpected works



You never know what you might find during the 'strip out', and we often come across unexpected extra work.

For example, we knew the kitchen floor at Drylease House needed some work but weren't expecting a full replacement.

Other surprises we've had in the past include leaking pipes, damp patches in roof voids, the need for enhanced fire stopping and a large wasp nest that nearly delayed the grand opening of one of our hubs!



Future work

After completing The Corriett, we will modernise a further three Independent Living Plus schemes: Ashwell House in Painswick, Hazelwood in Stonehouse and St Nicholas Court in Hardwicke.

We will start the consultation process with residents over the next few months, asking for their 'wish list.' While we can't promise to fulfil every request, we prioritise incorporating residents' ideas into our designs.

New homes on former sheltered sites



We are pleased to announce that the contract for the building work at Cambridge House and Glebelands has now been awarded. Building will start in the spring of 2025 and will be completed in the spring/summer of 2026.

We look forward to updating you in a future issue of the newsletter.

Social Value



We are always looking at getting some ‘extra value’ from our contractors. We have a great record of our contractor, Beard Construction, providing those important extra considerations, such as:

- Providing smart TVs for the refurbished lounges
- Providing materials for craft projects with primary schools, used to make bird boxes



- Supporting local scouts, primary schools and a donkey sanctuary
- Providing spare timber and paint to residents
- Helping residents to carry shopping upstairs when a lift was out of action
- Donating items like patio furniture, dart boards and pool tables
- Helping a resident change a flat tyre
- Extra coffee mornings during the works, to give updates and have a chat about how things are going.

These personal touches have had a really positive effect on the lives of residents while we’ve been working on site.



Activities at the Hubs

We offer a variety of activities at our Hub sites: Sherborne House, Concord, George Peace House, Springfields Court, Grange View and Walter Preston Court. With Dryleaze House becoming our 7th Hub in the new year, there will be even more happening!

Activities include:

- Lunch clubs
- Community Café
- Invisible Illnesses Support Group
- Day centres
- Arts and crafts
- Crochet
- Seated exercise
- Meditation
- Coffee mornings
- Bingo and more



Would you like to set up a social activity at one of our Hubs, have a suggestion for an event, or know any groups that might be interested in using the Hubs? If so, please get in touch with our Hub Facilitator, Katherine Allen on 07792420069 or katherine.allen@stroud.gov.uk



Independent Living Modernisation News

'Best Older People's Landlord' award nomination

Stroud District Council's Independent Living team was shortlisted for Best Older People's Landlord in the UK Housing Awards 2024.

After listening to residents, extra activities such as inter-generational events with local Cubs and Beavers creating a Tree of Hands, Engage Now weekly lunch clubs, creative writing, Care for Carers, and a hops to beer activity have been laid on, alongside more traditional activities.



"We have moved away from a 'one size fits all' approach, allowing tenants to enjoy as little or as much support as they need"

**SDC Independent Living Manager,
Lynne Mansell**



Although we did not win, the sense of pride within the Hubs was immense.

Being one of only seven landlords to make the final in the category of Best Older People's Landlord was a significant achievement.



If you do not have access to the internet and would like more information, please contact us **01453 766321**



NEXT ISSUE COMING EARLY 2026