

George Pearson Residents Provide Feedback on Phase 1 Plan

Several sessions were held with George Pearson Centre (GPC) residents and family members in February. The purpose of these meetings was to provide an update on planning to-date and receive feedback from GPC residents and families regarding the Phase 1 Plan that will go forward to Vancouver City Council, as part of the Pearson Dogwood Redevelopment Project rezoning application.

The feedback provided by residents and families will be summarized in a report to Vancouver City Council, as a way of ensuring residents' concerns and priorities are clearly communicated and considered as part of the rezoning process. A summary report has been drafted by Katie Hume, Facilitator, and submitted to the GPC Residents' Council for review. Feedback from the Resident's Council will be included in the final report that will be submitted to Vancouver City Council.

The following provides a summary of the questions and answers from the February sessions with GPC residents and family members. If you have additional questions that are not covered below, please submit them to one of the Rec Therapy Staff, who will forward them to the Project Team. These will be included in future updates to GPC Staff and Family. Or, if you would like to submit a question directly for response, please email:

Michelle.Perrault@vch.ca and she will ensure the appropriate Project Team Lead responds.



Questions & Answers from George Pearson Centre Resident Info Sessions

Will there be free parking in the new development?

It is too early in the planning process to confirm what the parking arrangements will be for residents and family/visitors. Although, it is unlikely the parking will be free. The current GPC site is one of the few health care facilities in the Lower Mainland that has free parking.

Will the parking accommodate oversize vehicles and hospital transfer vans?

Yes. Parking will be designed to accommodate all types of vehicles.

Will the new development be wheelchair accessible, including all buildings, housing units and the surrounding grounds?

Yes. The entire site is being developed as a fully accessible community. All buildings and housing units will meet or exceed building codes for accessibility. Pathways on the grounds will be wide and graded to accommodate wheelchairs.

Will the housing units be big enough to accommodate residents' needs?

Yes. Each resident will have their own room and their own private bathroom with an accessible shower. All bedroom and bathroom areas will be equipped to support resident needs, including lifts if required.

Will there be a central kitchen to provide meals to residents?

No. The housing with supports model means that residents will have their own kitchens in their homes. If living in a group housing arrangement, residents can plan meals together and pool their resources (money and support staff) or make their own plans with their care worker to ensure meals are to their liking.

I can't cook, who will make my meals?

All residents will have staff to support them – how exactly this will work is still in the planning stages. However, staff will be on site/available to do the shopping and meal preparation if needed. All residents will have nutritious meals, based on their preferences.

Will the kitchen and living space in the group home be big enough to handle 4-6 residents and their support staff?

Yes. All units exceed standards for design in terms of space/accessibility. They accommodate wheelchairs, staff and visitors.



Living well.

Will there be a laundry service in the new housing units?

Each home will have in-house laundry facilities, which staff will use to do resident laundry.

What if I prefer residential care and don't want to live in one of the new units?

All residents will have a choice in where and how they want to live. Some residents may want to live in a residential care facility and this option is available in Vancouver, although not necessarily on the current GPC site.

Can I move into the new Dogwood Complex Care Facility?

GPC residents will not have preferred access to rooms in the new Dogwood Complex Care Facility, which is intended to support individuals who are frail and elderly. They will be considered for these units along with others in VCH that require this type of complex residential care.

Will I have access to Occupational and Recreational Therapists?

Yes. Therapy and Recreation services will be defined in the resident's individual care plan. These services could be provided in the residents' rooms, in other facilities located on the site such as Dogwood Complex Care Facility, the Community Health Center or in other community spaces.

Will I have the same level of care in the new housing units as I do at GPC?

Yes. All of the units are being designed for people with a variety of care needs. Detailed planning for how services will be provided is underway and the care model has not been finalized yet. Individual care plans will be developed for each and every resident and through this planning, we will make sure that everyone's needs are being met.

Will residents have to find their own doctor or will doctors make regular rounds?

Residents will be supported to see the physician of their choice. This could be their own GP, or a physician based in the Community Health Centre, located on the Pearson Dogwood site. Depending on the physician and the situation, the doctor might visit the resident in their home, but in most cases the resident will go to the physician office as required, with the support of a Total Support Worker.



How will care be provided?

The model we are considering is for Total Support Workers who can assist with a multitude of activities. The Total Support Worker will receive support and supervision from a comprehensive interdisciplinary team (doctors, nurses, social workers, etc.). There will also be a house coordinator to help residents access the services/supports they require.

What is a total support worker?

A total support worker is an attendant who provides care, assists with activities of daily living, assists with home management tasks and supports residents to participate in community activities. The total support worker is a key member of the interdisciplinary care team as they are most closely associated with the residents. Total support workers are responsible for ensuring that day to day activities set out in the care plan are completed as required. They are also the first resource to notice changes in the residents that may require support or additional professional assistance.

What if I have a problem with a staff member or housemate?

The house coordinator is available to residents to help solve any problems they may be experiencing. A resident can speak with the house coordinator if they have concerns about a housemate or a staff member. Or, residents can turn to another staff member for assistance solving a problem.

What if I need help in the night?

There will be housing options that will provide a call system and staff available around the clock to support resident needs. In some cases, the staff will be onsite in the unit, in others, they might be located in a room down the hall or on another floor. No matter what time of day, residents will have access to all the supports and services they need.

Will there be a nursing unit?

No. The new housing is more like a home, with nursing and other supports brought in as/if needed. Group housing arrangements will have some dedicated staff. For single units staff will be available nearby so they can respond when needed. There will be staff available 24/7 if that is what a resident needs.



Will there still be Recreational Therapy for residents?

All residents will have access to recreation and activities they choose as a part of their detailed care plan. This will be coordinated by their support worker, based on personal preferences. For example, if they want to go swimming, their support worker will take them to the pool or coordinate with volunteers. If they want to go on a group outing, this will be coordinated through their support worker. There will be activity rooms in the Community Health Centre and in the new Dogwood Lodge and residents can plan events together with each other, with help from their support workers. Some residents may choose activities in their homes and have the required staff come to them – they might even invite other residents to join in their activities, such as parties, movies, dinners or games.

How will you encourage those who need it, to participate in recreational activities?

Support workers will proactively encourage residents to participate in recreational activities. Resident choice will be a factor and families may be consulted.

Who will do the cleaning?

Support workers will ensure all housing units meet standards for cleanliness and infection control. This will be part of the activities of daily living typical in a home environment, as will cooking and recreational activities. Additional cleaning staff may assist as needed with more thorough cleaning activities.

How will you determine who moves out of GPC in the first phase?

Residents will have the opportunity to put their names forward for phase one (the first 50 units) and several have already done this. Resident choice is a priority for all planning activities.

Can I choose my housemates?

Resident choice – in everything – is a priority for all planning activities. If residents agree that they want to move into the same group housing unit, this will be accommodated.

How will you make sure residents continue to receive the supports they need?

Individual care plans will be developed for/with each resident. This is the focus of planning over the next two years. All residents will receive the same level of care – or better – as they have now. Ongoing care planning reviews will be completed for all residents to ensure they are achieving their care and community inclusion goals.



When will Phase 1 be ready?

We hope to start construction in 2018. The new units will not be ready for residents until 2021/22. We have a lot of planning to do between now and then.

What will happen to residents during construction – will we have to move?

No. GPC will continue to operate as it does now, during the construction period. No residents will be relocated until the first 50 units are available in Phase 1, unless they specifically ask to move sooner.

Will the elevators be large enough to accommodate gurneys and wheelchairs?

Yes. All elevators will meet or exceed building code, and will accommodate gurneys (*stretchers*) and wheelchairs. They will also have technology to support improved independence and access.

Who is involved in the planning process?

There is a planning team that includes clinical staff, home health representatives, VCH leaders and people from Lower Mainland Facilities. This group consults/receives input from a variety of other committees and groups, including the George Pearson Centre Steering Committee, which includes representatives from residents, CARMA, DABC and the City of Vancouver Persons With Disabilities Advisory Committee.

Can my loved one stay overnight if I need them?

Yes. Individual bedrooms will be large enough to accommodate a mattress on the floor, or a chair that folds into a bed. Some of the group housing units may also have wall beds that can be used by guests.

Can my loved one live with me?

The first 50 units in Phase 1 are only for current GPC residents. We are aware that some of our residents would like a living arrangement that includes a loved one. This will be accommodated through other social housing on the site. The City of Vancouver is leading this planning process. Regardless of where they choose to live all GPC residents will continue to receive the supports and services they require.



Living well.

If I move into independent living now can I still have priority for one of the new housing units with support when they are available?

The process to determine who has access to the new units is still in development. Pearson Residents remaining at the current GPC site will have priority for the new units as they are developed.

What is happening with the Therapy Pool?

The YMCA has decided to withdraw as a partner in the Pearson Dogwood Project and will pursue other development options. VCH remains committed to working with Onni to replace the Stan Stronge Therapy Pool. The Project Team and the Therapy Pool Working Group are considering options for moving forward with planning for a fully accessible, therapy pool on the Pearson Dogwood site. More information will be provided as the planning progresses.