



Castle Court Extra Care

EQUANS redeveloped Castle Court into a modern Extra Care facility for Derwentside Homes after the existing facilities were deemed no longer suitable for prospective residents and needed major renovations.

Originally opened in 1985 with 32 bedsits, Castle Court became disused as the demand for that type of accommodation declined.

It was determined that the £3.7million development was cheaper to deliver than a new-build scheme but, more importantly, it allowed future residents to move into their new homes earlier – giving them access to the care they require without unnecessary delays.

Working with Blake Hopkinson Architecture to remodel the buildings, the site team – specifically chosen for their expertise in both new build and refurbishment of sheltered accommodations – were quickly on-site to carry out the full programme of works.

This included comprehensive structural and remodelling works – which was dealt with quickly and efficiently when services were being moved throughout the building – as well as completely modernising the site as and when needed.

After the 14-month construction process was completed, tenants were able to move into modern homes fit for their needs. Six of the original Castle Court tenants moved back into the new building, with one moving into a fully adapted apartment which allowed him to live independently and prevented him from having to go into long-term care.

Another tenant with dementia moved into an apartment with an open-plan kitchen, with a layout designed to remind them to eat and drink.

In the wider development, the courtyard area has become a social hub for the building, with residents able to meet up, get to better know their neighbours and enjoy the open space.

