

SPRINGFIELD HEALTHCARE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Archbishop of York Opens The Chocolate Works Care Village

Harrogate, Thursday 15th June 2019. Springfield Healthcare welcomed the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu to The Chocolate Works Care Village on Bishopthorpe Road, York to perform the official opening ceremony of the newly restored, iconic building.

The £10M restoration of the practically derelict site was the brainchild of Springfield Group CEO, Graeme Lee whose vision of a Care Village for the citizens of York and the surrounding area has become an awe-inspiring reality.

Setting new standards for elderly care in the heart of the community the vast central double height glazed atrium has been preserved and transformed into a unique 'marketplace' setting for the residents and visitors, complete with café, restaurant, spa, hairdresser, gym and even its own pub The Duke of York! A large roof terrace allows residents to enjoy uninterrupted views across York towards the Minster, adjoining race course and across the rest of the chocolate works site.

The prominent position of The Chocolate Works Care Village places the predominantly elderly residents at the forefront of the whole site rather than traditionally lower profile sites and will become the new home for over 100 local citizens in the 82 care suites and 8 luxury care apartments.

The Care Village will be providing around 120 new jobs in York with a range of skills required and with the aim of providing training on site wherever possible. In addition Springfield plan to create specific apprenticeships for the young people of York across the range of services that a Care Village of this scale needs to provide.

After blessing the building, the Archbishop unveiled a plaque inscribed with the words “May those who reside here do so with dignity and grace”.

Graeme Lee, Group CEO said “Today was simply a marvellous day, to be able to welcome The Archbishop of York here to this iconic York building and to share our vision for the future of elderly care in our communities was inspiring and humbling. We are so grateful to him and to Mrs Sentamu and hope that they will visit us many more times in the future”

The Archbishop said “The health of any society is measured by how we care for our most vulnerable people. What I have seen here demonstrates that our society has the potential for the wellbeing and flourishing of all older people. This care home is a beacon of hope for all those who are getting older and a re-assurance for their families.”

Notes to the editor:

Springfield Healthcare is a Yorkshire based, family run social care provider who operate existing Care Villages & Care Homes in Seacroft (Seacroft Grange Care Village and Seacroft Green Care Centre) and Garforth. Springfield also has a homecare division employing over 750 people across Yorkshire, Humberside and the North East.

The Chocolate Works Care Village is part of a multi-million pound expansion programme by Springfield Healthcare Group, one of Yorkshire’s oldest care providers, which is set to establish four further care villages providing wide ranging, compassionate care in the heart of communities.