



# Access Statement

Chester House is managed by the Guy Chester Centre. The Guy Chester Centre is the trading name of the Trustees of the North Bank Estate.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this statement is to detail the accessibility of the Guy Chester Centre (GCC).
- 1.2. This statement will inform staff, residents and potential residents of the accessibility features of the building and grounds.
- 1.3. This statement does not contain opinions as to the suitability of GCC for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities.

## 2. Pre-arrival

- 2.1. For details of how to reach GCC by car or by public transport please see the 'How to Get Here' section of the Chester House website.
- 2.2. If using public transport, a bus or taxi will be needed to reach GCC from the nearest rail and underground stations (see website for more details). The nearest bus stops are approximately 200m away from the main entrance. All buses can accommodate one wheelchair.
- 2.3. GCC is located on the corner of Pages Lane and Colney Hatch Lane, which is part of the junction with Alexandra Park Road. This is a large junction and there is no controlled pedestrian crossing at some points of the junction.

## 3. Arrival

- 3.1. There is a car park at GCC with two blue badge spaces immediately next to the main entrance.
- 3.2. The surface of the car park is tarmac and it is reasonably lit at night from security lights and street lights. The car park is flat from the blue badge spaces to the entrance ramp.
- 3.3. The entrance ramp finishes at the same level as the main entrance. The main entrance is an automatic door with an opening 1100mm wide. The external sensor is active during the day when the office is open. At all other times a security fob is required (given with room key) or the entrance bell will need to be rung. The security fob reader and bell are 1000mm from the ground. There is a slight ramp at the threshold of door and a drop of 20mm, 450mm past the threshold of the entrance (this results in a 20mm rise in the floor when exiting the building).
- 3.4. The reception is on the ground floor located immediately through the main entrance. The surface of the reception is carpet. The area is well-lit by LED light fittings.
- 3.5. The reception hatch is 1100mm from the floor. A member of staff will come into the reception area upon request. A member of staff will show a new resident to their room and provide a tour of the facilities.

#### **4. Accommodation**

- 4.1. There is one accessible bedrooms, which is en-suite. It is located on the first floor. The bedroom can used as a single or a twin room. There is step-free access available using a passenger lift. The lift door opening is 880mm.
- 4.2. The bedroom, en-suite bathroom and 1<sup>st</sup> floor corridor door openings are all between 880mm and 900mm wide. The corridor door to reach the passenger lift is 880mm wide. Door handles and locks are 900mm from the floor.
- 4.3. All furniture is standard size and height, and is fixed in place except for the beds in the twin room, which can be rearranged. The height of the beds from the floor to the top of the mattress is 500m.
- 4.4. The rooms are bright receiving good natural light. There is a mixture of wall and ceiling lights in the room. There are also desk lamps.
- 4.5. The en-suite bathroom has level entry shower cubicles. The toilet height is 480mm (including seat). The wash basin is 720mm from the floor. Grab rails, horizontal and vertical, are located around the shower and toilet. Lever mixer taps are fitted on the wash basin. The bathrooms have an emergency alarm pull cord.
- 4.6. The bedroom floor is carpeted and the en-suite bathroom floor is non-slip vinyl flooring.

#### **5. Stairs, landings and corridors**

- 5.1. All areas are well-lit, with LED fittings throughout the building. Corridors are at least 1200mm wide and the stairs are 2000mm wide.
- 5.2. The corridors are carpeted. The stair treads are carpeted with non-slip stair edging installed. The stair landings are carpeted.

#### **6. The Hub (social & leisure facilities)**

- 6.1. The hub is located on the ground floor with access through a door from the reception area. The door opening is 710mm wide.
- 6.2. The facilities in the hub include a laundry, TV rooms, lounge and gym. All the door openings to the rooms are 800mm wide. The corridor is lit by LED fittings. The rooms are all well-lit and most have natural daylight.
- 6.3. All areas are carpeted except for the laundry which has non-slip vinyl flooring and the dance studio which has a laminated wood floor.
- 6.4. All furniture is standard size and height.
- 6.5. There is an accessible toilet in the hub. The toilet height is 465mm (including seat). The wash basin is 720mm from the floor. Grab rails, horizontal and vertical, are located around toilet. Lever mixer taps are fitted on the wash basin. The toilet has an emergency alarm pull cord.

#### **7. Dining room & kitchen facilities**

- 7.1. The dining room is located on the first floor. There is step-free access available using a passenger lift (the dining room is immediately opposite the lift). The dining room door opening is 880mm wide and is open during meal times.

- 7.2. Meals are served from a counter with a tray shelf 855mm high. Meal extras such as soup, drinks, etc. are self-service from a counter 845mm high. Assistance with serving and collecting meals will be given upon request.
- 7.3. Dining tables are either 740mm or 760mm high and the tables around the entrance and serving counters have sufficient room for a wheelchair.
- 7.4. The dining room is well-lit with plenty of natural light. The flooring is mostly carpet with non-slip vinyl flooring immediately around the serving counter.
- 7.5. The accessible bedrooms is one of the nearest bedrooms to the dining room.
- 7.6. There is a kitchenette located on the first floor and in the hub. Access is the same as access to the accommodation and the hub.
- 7.7. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor kitchenette has a door opening of 670mm and the counter is 925mm high. The kitchenette in the hub is in an open space and the counter is 905mm high.

## **8. Grounds**

- 8.1. GCC is situated within several acres of grounds including lawns, woodland and a courtyard. Step-free access is available into the grounds.
- 8.2. The main paths within the grounds undulate with gentle inclines and are a mixture of hard, man-made surfaces and natural surfaces. The path leading to the grounds has an incline. At one of the points of access there is a gate at the top of the path with an opening of 1000mm.
- 8.3. There is seating available around the grounds except for the woodland section.

## **9. Additional information**

- 9.1. A fire safety briefing will be given by a member of staff upon arrival to familiarise persons with the location of refuge points.
- 9.2. A buddy can be appointed for assistance in the event of a fire alarm.
- 9.3. There is a phone in main reception to reach a member of staff when the office is closed. Staff are on-site 24 hours.

## **10. Other information**

- 10.1. Further information or clarification can be obtained by emailing [office@chesterhouse.org.uk](mailto:office@chesterhouse.org.uk)

## **11. Review date**

- 11.1. This policy was last reviewed in March 2017 and will be next reviewed in March 2018.