One year ago ‘In Focus’ shared the design model for BCM’s flagship project—Copelands Dementia, Nursing and Residential Care. One year on and we are excited to announce that we are even closer to the dream becoming a reality!

Gloria Hunniford was the guest of honour at a special event in Grosvenor House on 11 May 2018 where we shared the latest update on our progress so far. We hope you enjoy reading our special feature on the event and seeing photos of the evening.

We can now share that we have secured planning permission for the new Copelands design, gone out to tender and received construction bids. Subject to due diligence and some further negotiation we will soon be in a position to sign the contract for the build and aim to start construction before the end of this year with completion by the end of 2019 and accepting our first residents in early 2020.

We have created a brand new Copelands website on which you will be able to read about and see updates on progress being made on the site. You can find this at www.copelands.org.uk

There is a special walkthrough video which brings the vision of Copelands to life and will allow you to really understand how we are creating a genuine home from home where people can enjoy fulfilling and spontaneous lives.

Thank you for being a part of the journey so far.
Gloria Hunniford was the guest of honour at a special event on 11 May at 6.30 pm at Grosvenor Hall to announce the launch of Belfast Central Mission's (BCM) new flagship project, Copelands Dementia, Nursing and Residential Care between Donaghadee and Millisle.

Gloria graciously gave of her time to support BCM and share her experience of having a sibling, Lena, with dementia. She told us:

“She would do things absent-mindedly like leaving the gas on, leaving the water running all the time or leaving the front door open, or worse trying to get out in the middle of the night. Sometimes we deal with it incorrectly—we don’t understand so everybody has to learn in a way how to deal with dementia.”

Gloria is backing Copelands to support patients with the condition in Northern Ireland.

Guests at the event were informed of the latest updates and treated to an audio visual walkthrough of the new facility.

Nicky Conway, Head of Development at BCM said: “After years of planning I am delighted that Copelands is now coming close to fruition. This is a flagship project for BCM and one which we believe will be market leading in both its care model and design. Copelands is based on the Household Model of Care,
a model first developed in America which aims to break down the traditional care home into familial households of 10 residents. Each household has its own front door, domestic style kitchen and dining room, living room and the cosy spaces found in any home.

Each household is really like a large house and our aim is to create as home-like an environment as possible. Overall the focus is on person-centred care and giving residents more choice about how they spend their day. We are also planning to provide a new volunteer role of home-maker in each household who will engage residents in meaningful activities such as cooking, baking and housework.

Andrea Selby, Manager of Kirk House, described the model of care that will be implemented in Copelands and invited residents from Kirk House, (which has a specialist dementia wing, ‘Memory Lane’) to share their own experience of living in care. They described their initial anxiety of moving in, to their relief and joy at how welcome they felt and the great difference it has made to their lives.

The evening was a huge success. As Gloria stated: “It’s a great concept and I think it really brings us closer to having an environment in the latter part of your life that is more like home. If you can create that kind of environment, I think that’s very exciting.”
KIRK HOUSE WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD!

It was a night of celebration as the Kirk House staff team joined others in the Titanic Conference Centre to celebrate excellence in the care profession.

Kirk House had been shortlisted in three categories: Excellence in Dementia Care, Home Manager of the Year and Senior Healthcare Assistant of the Year.

We were delighted when Kirk House was announced as the winner in the Dementia Care category, with Andrea Selby being Highly Commended as Home Manager of the Year.

We were also pleased that our Senior Healthcare Assistant had been shortlisted as this recognised the brilliant progress she has made in her career and also the value placed on her by her colleagues and the residents at Kirk House. Well done to everyone!

NEW DATA PROTECTION LAWS

In May 2018 new Data Protection laws (GDPR) will come into effect in the UK. At BCM, good communication with our supporters has always been a priority for us as has protecting your personal information. We never share your personal details with another organisation (unless given permission by you to do so). We endeavour to make it very clear how to withdraw from our mailing list on any correspondence.

In order to further comply with the new laws, we have made some changes to our systems. One of these will be to change the options available on a donation reply slip. You will now be given the options to be contacted by us (or not) by various means e.g. post or email. You will also be able to change these options at any time or withdraw completely from our mailing list.

We very much value your interest in and commitment to our work and are keen to be able to continue to share with you news about the amazing people we work with and support. Thank you for your patience as we strive to continue our work with vulnerable local people while maintaining an open and honest relationship with those who support us.

NEWS FLASH

Our Supported Housing Projects provide support to vulnerable young people aged 16-21 to develop the skills to live independently in the community.

Due to its continued success and growth we now look forward to moving to our new premises in Bangor. Based on Donaghadee Road this new facility will enhance this positive work and provide excellent accommodation for twelve young people. This will include a mix of emergency, LAC (Leaving and Aftercare) and homeless young people.

BCM is one of N Ireland’s oldest charities. Founded in 1889 as part of the Methodist church’s response to problems inherent in inner-city life, BCM is involved with all sectors of the community, irrespective of religious or political affiliation or ethnicity. Our aim is to support those most in need in our society and enable them to reach their full potential. We do this through our diverse social care projects, cross-community programme and our two congregations.