The following is a summary of questions and answers from George Pearson 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.

**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 4 or 6 bedroom 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 4 & 6 bedroom homes 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.
**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.

**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 have adopted 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. Some staff will be dedicated to the 4 & 6 bedroom homes. 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 individualized care plan. This will be coordinated by their total support worker, based on personal preferences. For example, if they want to go swimming, their total 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 total 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 help from their total support workers. Some residents may choose activities in their homes and have the 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?
Total 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?
Total 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 work.

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 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 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.

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 will it cost for me to live in the new housing units with supports?
Details of the funding model have not yet been confirmed. At this time we believe that residents who move into individual apartments will pay a portion of their income towards rent (PWD rent portion or 30% of income). Residents will need to budget the rest of their monthly income for all other necessities.

For residents choosing communal living arrangements (in one of the four or six unit residences), we are unable to confirm the funding model at this time. There are still decisions to be made with regards to licensing requirements and Ministry of Health expectations.

What if I don’t want to live in one of the new units?
Through the individual planning process, a team will give residents a full overview of the new unit options. If through this process a resident determines that they don’t want to live in one of the new units, the team will work with the resident to ensure the resident’s setting of choice can manage their care needs, and support the resident to transition into that setting.

Can I move into the new Dogwood Complex Residential Care Facility?
Yes. If care needs can be managed in a residential care setting, a resident can choose the new Dogwood Lodge as their preferred care home.