

Vacant daycare centre could be replaced with 'more useful' Reading GP surgery

A public consultation has opened

NEWS

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The current site has been vacant since 2019 (Image: Google Street View)

A former adult day care centre in Reading could be converted into a GP

surgery. The day centre is located at 2-4 Alexandra Road, near [Reading](#) town centre, and team ArchDezine have applied for a change of use.

If approved, the new surgery will become the new home of one branch Melrose Surgery which has been looking for larger premises for some. Their existing practice, at 10 Eldon Road, has issues with accessibility, including the absence of a lift, and limited parking facilities.

The other branch of Melrose Surgery at 73 London Road will be unaffected by the proposals. A consultation period began on August 8 and allows residents to leave their feedback on the proposals.

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The existing daycare centre provided facilities, including one four-bed respite flat, for adults with learning disabilities and autism since being converted to this use in 2009. The new use would require some modifications including the addition of a reception, waiting room and consultation area on the ground floor.

There is also a need for additional rooms for storage, minor surgery, sluice room, conference room and admin rooms on the first and second floors. A staircase will also be demolished and a lift will be added

The new GP would employ 15 staff if approved: four doctors, one pharmacist, two GP assistants, one nurse, one practice manager, two receptionists, three admin staff and 1 primary care network (PCN) station. In total, 16 parking spaces have also been proposed to meet the needs of staff and patients, with street parking also available.

ArchDezine highlighted that, as the existing building has been vacant since 2019, demand for the adult day care centre is low. It was further noted that the increasing population density "requires healthcare infrastructure" and a new GP will be "more useful" than the current daycare centre. While no decision has yet been made, it was added that, if planners meet requirements with regard to the nature and intensity of the use, parking, layout, waste and recycling storage and air quality, the application "should be considered acceptable."