

# Rushcliffe Care Group

Founded in 1989, the Radcliffe Care Group provide residential and rest bite care for wide variety of clients. The Radcliffe philosophy is clear – their homes are for living in. They aim to provide a homely and therapeutic environment whilst giving the highest quality standard of social care to deliver meaningful outcomes for all of their residents.

With over 23 care facilities across the UK, the Rushcliffe Group invests in a continual programme of building maintenance and improvement. As part of this on-going commitment, the group is improving its facility at Highfield Court in Uttoxeter, a 23 bungalow village complex providing 59 learning disability placements.

Within the complex, the facility has a number of en suite bathrooms that are located in the centre of the building meaning that they have no access to natural light. Following a meeting with one of Highfield's partners, the Moorland Charitable Trust, it was agreed that the bathrooms should be improved with the installation of a tubular daylight system.

The group contacted Andrew Booton at Norflo Services, the West Midlands installer for Solarspot® Daylighting Systems, who advised them the most appropriate units for the building. 'The system, simply put, is just a highly reflect pipe that runs from the roof, through the attic and down to the windowless room below' commented Andrew. 'The Solarspot system has a series of clever, patented, technologies that ensure that the maximum amount of light is delivered to the room – guaranteeing more light than any equivalent sized system available'.

The Solarspot® systems installed in Highfield Court are around 2.5 meters long but still deliver natural light in abundance due to the superior RIR™ light capture technology and 99.7% reflectivity of the Vegalux® tubing. 'I've installed a number of different systems in the past' said Andrew, 'but the performance of the Solarspot is outstanding. It's not just the amount of daylight that is delivered; it's the quality and purity of the light'

Whilst there are obvious economic and environmental advantages to using a natural light source rather than relying solely on electric light, the biggest winners are the residents and staff. 'The difference this has made to the bathrooms is incredible' said Sue Emery, Highfield Court's Care Manager. 'The light levels are fantastic, even on an



*The dark, unwelcoming internal bathrooms have been transformed into bright spaces for residents to enjoy and relax in.*

overcast day, and the residents have responded very positively to the changes'.

'We all feel better when the sun is out, and it's bright outside' commented Sue 'and it's the same inside as well. When you walk into a room and it's disconnected from what's happening outside, you also feel disconnected. We all crave natural light, it's instinctive, but up until now that just wasn't possible within the layout of the building – the Solarspots have changed that. It's really important for our residents that we encourage a sense of well-being in every aspect of our care and their time with us, and these additions to Highfield's have really helped with that.'

## System specification

### Solarspot D-38 daylighting system

Installation distance (from roof to ceiling) - 2.5m.

Perlato Diffuser.

Versatile flashing with parallel up-stand for shallow and south-facing roofs.