

Progress in Practice

Newham University Hospital NHS Trust's sustainable Gateway Surgical Centre
The 2006 Health Service Journal Good Corporate Citizenship Award winning project to build a sustainable NHS treatment centre that provides maximum benefit, and minimum harm, to the local community, economy and environment.

Summary

Newham University Hospital NHS Trust's Gateway Surgical Centre opened on 3 October, 2005, being completed in just 53 weeks. The facility is a 65-bed standalone NHS Treatment Centre for planned day case and short stay surgery with the capacity to deliver up to 9,500 planned operations annually.

Constructing the facility, the Newham University Hospital NHS Trust wanted the Gateway Surgical Centre (GSC) to be an innovative and responsive centre that used sustainable development ideas to improve overall healthcare. Along with being one of the first NHS ProCure21 projects in the UK, the project incorporated user input from patients and staff into the many design features of the building.

The main idea behind the £18m GSC design is flexibility and functionality built around the patient journey, therefore streamlining patient time spent in the centre and resources expended. The centre is built in an aesthetically appealing and environmentally conscious manner that provides the community with top-notch service and facilities. This has been accomplished using an array of techniques and resources.

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Key Physical Features:

- Rain water harvesting for toilet flush water.
- Linoleum Flooring chosen for its biodegradable and non-toxic properties.
- Use of motion activated light switches and natural light through large window design to decrease energy use.
- Car park light energy augmented by solar panels and wind turbines.
- Wood products from sustainable sources.

Key Aesthetic Features:

- Recycled blue glass and resin pavement acts as way finding path and an under-surface 'river' artistically guides people into the reception.
- Windows provide panoramic view of London.
- Over 2,000 plants and trees planted around the Centre.
- Art work around centre provided by local schools.
- Non-clinical atmosphere specifically designed to reduce patient stress.

Links and organisations involved: Gateway Surgical Centre (www.gatewaysurgicalcentre.nhs.uk). Newham University Hospitals NHS Trust (www.newhamuniversityhospital.nhs.uk). ProCure21 (www.nhs-procure21.gov.uk).

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(Summary Continued)

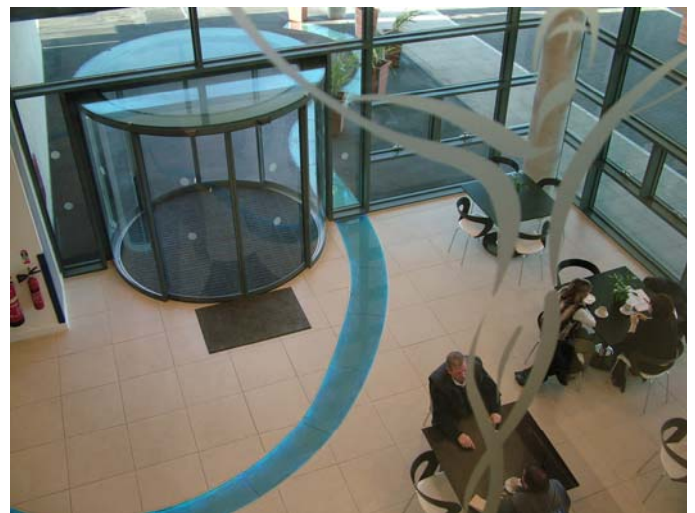
Several features focused on the physical aspects of the building. The parking area lighting is powered by solar panels and wind turbines. Rain water is harvested to be cleansed and used for toilet flushing. The site is accessed by 5 bus routes and the the Trust promotes a green travel plan.

The building was designed to be innovative, support the most forward-thinking practice and improve the quality of the patient experience. Co-location of facilities and resources means that smooth pathways of care are well planned and have reduced patient length of stay remarkably. Floor-ceiling windows enhance natural light and views to create a therapeutic and spacious feel, which helps aid recovery and improve clinical outcomes. Artwork for the building was sourced through collaboration with local schools and developed a sense of community ownership and pride. A cast-bronze landmark statue called 'Equity' embodies the unity and diversity of the Borough and was commissioned within Newham. To improve wayfinding and access to the GSC, a recycled blue glass pavement and under-surface 'river' guides patients into the main entrance. Also, the colour palette for soft furnishings and textures was selected by staff and patients to give the building a coordinated and comfortable look.

The GSC is an exemplary, innovative and cost-effective project that delivers effective and quality clinical outcomes, 98% excellent patient satisfaction, staff development, therapeutic environment and community benefits. This project is a shining example of what the NHS building programme can deliver, and how sustainable development can produce results for the NHS, the community, the economy and the environment.

Learning Points:

- Responsive, cost-effective health, environment and community benefits can be achieved through the NHS building program.
- Sustainable buildings can reduce length of stay and overall treatment costs.
- Securing board-level support can be accomplished, go for it!



Shirley Dow, who was treated at the Gateway, said:

"I thought it was like a five star hotel: the staff; facilities and services. I couldn't fault a thing."



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