

Progress in Practice

Barts and the London NHS Trust regenerating the local area

Barts and the London NHS Trust used the model to assess their contribution to the local community, economy and environment and that of their preferred private finance initiative (PFI) bidder. It helped to firmly establish good corporate citizenship as an essential element of the Trust's redevelopment and regeneration activities.

Summary

To test the model, Barts and the London NHS Trust opted for a facilitated meeting with their PFI construction and services company, Skanska Innisfree.

Barts and the London NHS Trust is undergoing a massive £1.2 billion PFI redevelopment. Skanska Innisfree is the Trust's preferred bidder. Both organisations are already working hard to promote sustainable development in their approach to the planned new building. Skanska are putting all their managers through The Natural Step programme and have established groups of sustainability champions. The Trust is also participating in this programme through its Facilities Management team.

The meeting focussed on the new buildings and employment and skills elements of the model and provided an interesting insight into the potential for good corporate citizenship at the PFI company/NHS trust interface. Examples of good practice in the Trust are detailed here.

Regenerating the local area

Out of the Trust's regeneration strategy an Actions for Community Employment (ACE) group was established with the aim of moving towards a more local and representative workforce by the time the new hospitals are opened.

The Trust is located in Tower Hamlets, an area of low employment (55%), with a high Bangladeshi population (32%). This has been identified as the target group to support into Trust employment. *(continued across)*



Above: Recent 'ACE recruits' who have successfully found employment with Barts and The London NHS Trust through the scheme.

(Regenerating the local area continued...)

The Trust has realised the advantages created by local employment in terms of providing culturally and linguistically sensitive services, reduced turnover and recruitment costs, as well as the social, economic and health benefits in helping to maintain a healthier local population.

ACE is operating a number of support and training programmes for jobs that can be accessed by people with few or no qualifications:

- In house work placements
- Pre-employment, vocational and customised training.

The Trust currently employs 7,000 staff of which only 3.5% are from the Bangladeshi community. The ACE group has a target of employing 80% of entry-level jobs locally, which would amount to 900 jobs.

This initiative is being paralleled by Skanska Innisfree who will target local people for the construction of the new hospitals and for the facilities management staff, who they will manage.

The model helped identify the differences and areas for improvement between the Trust and the PFI preferred bidder.

Links and organisations involved: Barts and the London NHS Trust <http://www.bartsandthelondon.org.uk/>,
Vital Arts <http://www.bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk/charitablefoundation/vitalarts.asp>,
Skanska Innisfree <http://www.skanska.co.uk/>

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Vital Arts

Is a pioneering programme of arts projects designed for Barts and the London NHS Trust to improve the healing and well being of patients, staff and the hospital community.

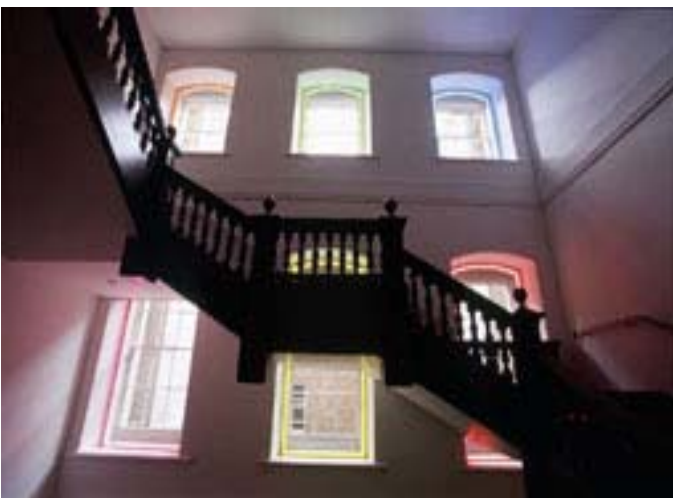
Working in partnership and engaging the community, staff, patients and visitors is central to the project to ensure that the hospital environment is one that addresses the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of users.

Initiatives include:

- Bringing musicians, storytellers and performers into the hospital to boost patient and staff morale
- Organising artists' residences and special projects suited to an individual department's needs
- Programming exhibitions to attract local people, forging links with the community and making the hospital more welcoming.

Through these initiatives, the project hopes to use art as a tool to enhance healthcare delivery, create a lively and stimulating atmosphere, foster a sense of community within the hospital and promote access to and understanding of the arts.

Vital Arts has been successful in the Breast Care Centre in the West Wing by creating spaces that encourage positive distraction and discussion. The artwork offers an element of 'transportation' and enables viewers to think about being somewhere other than in hospital.



'Offering employment locally empowers our communities and ultimately helps reduce health inequalities.' Andrew Attfield, Barts and the London Regeneration Manager

Sustainable new hospitals

Operating in a culture of sustainable development with commitment throughout the team, from senior management down, Skanska Innisfree is in a good position to make good corporate citizenship an integral part of Barts and the London NHS Trust's new building programme and operations.

They have environmental targets including:

- achieving a rating of 'excellent' for all new buildings using the NHS Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT)
- recycling 65% of their waste, and
- sourcing 20% of their energy from renewable sources.

The new hospitals look set to minimise environmental harm and to benefit the local community and economy from employment and investment.

Across and above: Images from the new Breast Cancer Unit in the West Wing at Barts and the London NHS Trust

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