

Progress in Practice

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust's Cardiology and Surgical Unit

In developing this new facility, Stockport NHS Foundation Trust included health education, local procurement, waste management, training and employment, and community engagement programmes to illustrate how resources can be used to benefit the local economy, community and environment.

Summary

When planning the investment of over £25 million in a new Cardiology and Surgical Unit (CSU) at Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport NHS Foundation Trust decided to make sure that the benefits were as far reaching as possible. They felt that it was their responsibility to not only deliver a state-of-the-art health facility but also provide significant economic, environmental and social benefits to the people and communities it serves.

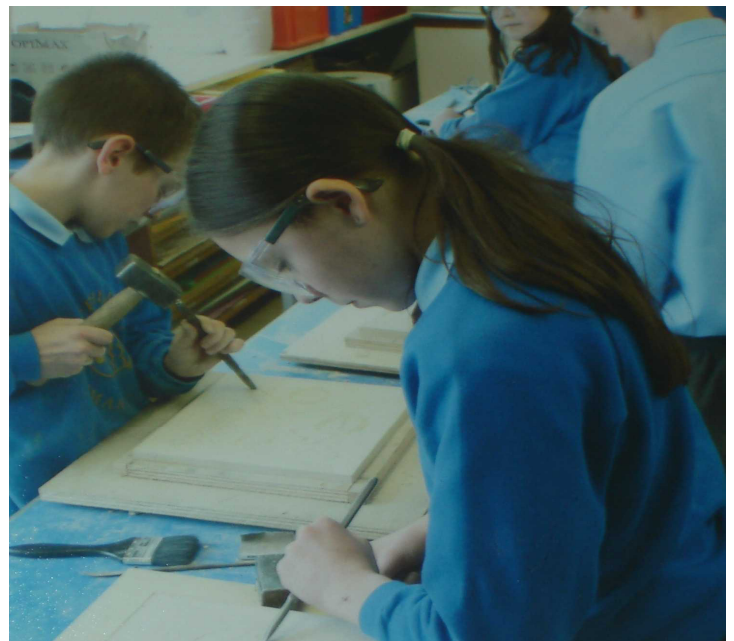
They used this good corporate citizen rationale, agreed to by construction partner Laing O'Rourke, to form the basis for many key decisions relating to the development, and the people, goods and services required in its delivery.

Investing in the local economy

Recognising the wider benefits of local procurement, 63% of the £16.22 million building budget was spent within the North West economy, on design, architect and project management fees, and contractors and suppliers for the construction. £124k of this was spent in the immediate postcode area.

Health Education

As a health care provider with a strict 'No Smoking' policy in operation across its sites, the Trust felt that it was important to ensure that contractors working on the CSU project were informed of the risks associated with smoking and the impact it could have on the health of their family and friends. In order to support this, smoking cessation information and support was provided to all contractors and sub-contractors working on the project. This resulted in several individuals ceasing smoking.



"In Stockport we believe in being 'more than a hospital' and putting something back into our local communities. This is a fundamental part of being a foundation trust and can be achieved by thinking differently, not by spending more. It's effectively 'recycling' - using the same money to achieve two outcomes instead of one. Many of us recycle at home and if we could get that same change of thinking at work, just think what we could achieve."

Darren Hurrell, Director of Modernisation

Links and organisations involved: Stockport NHS Foundation Trust, 0161 483 1010, trust.enquiries@stockport.nhs.uk
Laing O'Rourke: www.laingorourke.com; MANCAT: www.mancat.ac.uk; Kenny Skip Hire: 0161 790 3737;
NHS Good Corporate Citizenship Assessment Model: www.corporatecitizen.nhs.uk

Contact: Stephen Youd-Thomas, Corporate Citizenship Advisor, Stockport NHS Foundation Trust, 0773 9657484, youd-thomas@phoncoop.coop

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Community Engagement

The Trust worked with nine local schools and a professional artist to create a public art installation within the unit. Over 100 young people were involved, creating art work with a health promotion/prevention theme, giving them the opportunity to engage with health related matters in a fun and interesting way and also encouraging them to interpret those issues in such a way as to make them accessible to the general public. It was also felt that the pupils were able to develop a connection with the hospital, understanding its role within the community.

Training and Employment

Laing O'Rourke worked in partnership with Manchester College for Art and Technology and promoted the development of the unit as part of its Apprenticeship Programme. In total, eight Laing O'Rourke apprentices trained on the construction of the CSU along with two of the Trust's own apprentices.

During construction, the site and equipment were made available to the local fire service as part of its crisis training and rescue exercises, enabling it to improve its skills and experience in emergency rescue situations.

Waste Management

In order to minimise negative effects of the construction on the environment as much as possible, a special framework agreement was created between Laing O'Rourke and waste management experts Kenny Skip Hire, who provided monthly reports on how each waste stream had been dealt with in this period. The agreement specifically aimed to minimise environmental disruption by carefully monitoring waste descriptions, total waste weight, recyclable and non-recyclable content and hazardous waste etc. and ensuring that they were segregated appropriately and handled in a responsible and environmentally sensitive manner.

Strategic Learning Points

- Looking at all opportunities for health education can help improve population health and create the virtuous circle needed to reduce the burden on the NHS.
- There are many areas of the community who could benefit from a development, some not immediately obvious, such as the Fire Brigade.
- Getting agreement from a construction partner from the outset will make it easier to implement good corporate citizenship.



A model for the future

This development is an excellent example of how the money being spent by the NHS can be used more efficiently and effectively for wider community, economy and environmental gains.

And it's only the beginning... The organisation first completed the NHS Good Corporate Citizenship Assessment Model in April 2006 and have since developed an action plan for the whole Trust, advancing proposals on different areas of the Model. The Model will be applied to the day-to-day running of the new unit and indeed the whole of Stepping Hill Hospital.

An energy manager has been appointed and they will be working with the Carbon Trust in the 2007-8 round of the NHS Carbon Management Programme. Other proposals include a partnership with United Co-operatives to increase support of local suppliers; implementation of an Environment Steering Group; and development of a Volunteer Learning Scheme.