

Community Landmark



Mansfield Community Hospital has been redeveloped to give the hospital a public face within the town, becoming a landmark for the community

Forming a striking presence within the town, Mansfield Community Hospital is not only a striking building, but one that offers an attractive and welcoming environment to patients and staff alike.

Visitors, patients and staff continue to praise the redeveloped Mansfield Community Hospital following its transformation into a focal point for community health rather than just a straightforward medical facility.

Located near the town centre, this project has been central to the overall strategy of transforming the health delivery system for Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Mansfield District Primary Care Trust, as part of a larger PFI.

At the outset of the project a sustainability strategy was developed to identify opportunities and as a basis for discussion and development of the proposals. A requirement for a NEAT 'Excellent' rating had been set by the Trusts and this was reviewed regularly during the development of the design and during construction.

The project met these requirements and the hospital has achieved an 'Excellent' rating under the scheme.

Sustainable strategies for the hospital include:

- Better integration and accessibility of healthcare provision for the local community;
- Rationalisation of the organisation of the hospital to facilitate future flexibility and expansion;
- New energy centre with efficient plant and up-to-date controls;
- Use of natural light in the new build elements;

Ensuring easy accessibility for both pedestrians and vehicles, and integrating the redeveloped site into the immediate surroundings, were important factors in determining the building's position and design.

As lead architectural consultants on the project, Swanke Hayden Connell



Dichroic glass blades on the first floor glazed bay at the end of the cantilever, refract light and change colour depending on the viewing angle and lighting conditions



Architects' (SHCA) involvement included masterplanning, architecture, clinical planning and interior design.

The new main entrance building and the adjacent exterior entrance courtyard, designed by SHCA, provide an exciting new public arrival point. This building contains a café, patient information centre and administration facilities and acts as the new centre for the whole of the hospital. The strikingly modern two-storey structure has been designed in the form of a partially glazed rectangular block which cantilevers dramatically over the ground floor.

Light & airy design

Materials used for the building include metal and glass for the first floor while the ground floor base is predominantly render and brick. Large glass panels which are protected by a series of vertical metal fins, give solar protection to the east side of the building. This glass curtain wall incorporates windows which open to allow natural ventilation. The interior near the entrance is light and airy and opens to

an atrium space which reaches the full height of the building.

Integration of artwork is central to the hospital's design. Glass artist Laura Johnston designed an installation of dichroic glass blades for the first floor glazed bay at the end of the cantilever. This refracts light and changes colour depending on the viewing angle and lighting conditions. Colour artist Ptolemy Mann was also engaged to work on the external colour scheme for the hospital.

Improving patient experience

SHCA's new entrance building forms part of a wider redevelopment of the site, which has been planned to streamline clinical functions and improve the quality of the patient experience. These additions include a specialist rehabilitation centre, physical therapy department and outpatient services centre. SHCA also undertook extensive renovation of the existing wards within the hospital to fully integrate the interior environment of the existing hospital with the new developments.

Wayfinding and access to all departments is now clear from the new entrance and the strong geometry of the new building emphasises the building's important role as a hub between hospital and community.

The integration of the hospital building within the community has been assisted by the surrounding landscaping which was developed to reinforce the overall design. A new granite paved public plaza makes the connection between the town and the hospital.

Visitor parking is located adjacent to the main entrance but contained within an elliptical stone clad wall which both defines the approach and drop off sequence and shields the cars from view. Elsewhere more private courtyards provide outdoor spaces for patients and staff.

Julian Seward, Principal of Healthcare at SHCA said: "This redevelopment forms an important part of the NHS Trusts' ambition to provide the best healthcare facility and treatment to the local community. The new building at Mansfield enhances



Simple colours and the generous use of natural light in the main entrance and reception area, create a positive, welcoming environment

Project Team

Trust: Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust & Mansfield District Primary Care Trust

PFI Consortium: Skanska Innisfree

PFI Bid Management & Clinical Advisor: Healthcare Projects

Healthcare Planner: Secta

Architect & Lead Consultant: Swanke Hayden Connell Architects

Planning Supervisor: Waterman Group
Structural Engineering: Skanska Technology/Arup

Building Services Engineer: Faber Maunsell

Landscape Architects: FIRA

Logistics, Fire & Acoustic Consultant: Arup

the experience for visitor, patient and staff, and is an attractive addition to the surrounding environment." ■