

Cardiac Care at Basildon

The stunning new Cardiac Centre at Basildon Hospital was completed on budget and five weeks ahead of schedule in April 2007. Opening the doors for the first time on 1 July 2007, by the following day the first patients had benefited from critical heart surgery in a comfortable welcoming environment.



Overview

Highly specialist treatment for heart patients in Essex had not been available previously. Patients requiring this level of treatment had to be referred to London – a costly and time-consuming exercise. Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust therefore proposed a state of the art facility to be built on the Basildon Hospital site.

This is a pure ProCure21 scheme. It is an excellent example of Trust and the Principal Supply Chain Partner (PSCP) working well together, going through the correct procedures and coming up with an excellent result. The PSCP dedicated time and resources to understand the clinical requirement of the Trust.

The building was handed over ahead of schedule on 27 April 2007. It is a sustainable, efficient and quality design achieved to budget.

The centre is among the most modern of its kind in Europe, and provides specialist cardiothoracic diagnosis and treatment for the people of Essex.

The President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Mr Bernie Ribeiro said, "I very much hope that I will not require its services but if I do, I know I will be in a first rate unit".

Trust Project Director Jenny Galpin is very proud of her first ProCure21 scheme and has already undertaken another with the same PSCP.

Principles and objectives

This £35m project, successfully taken through the ProCure21 procurement route, started in late 2003, when the Trust selected HBG to work with

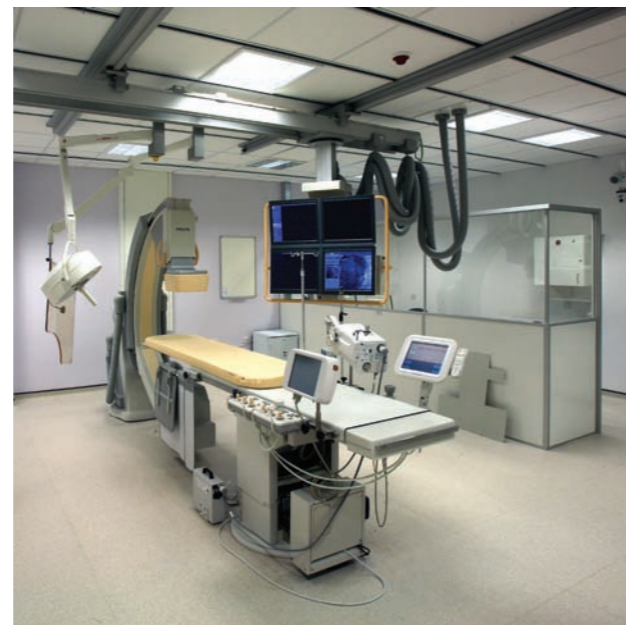


Successful innovations/ technology

The Trust has spent £12m on new equipment, much of which is state of the art and the latest on offer. There are a number of energy-saving features including LED operating theatre lights that use less energy, produce a better quality light and remain cool during operation. They are the first of their kind to be installed in a cardiothoracic theatre in the UK.

- By using the same cardiac monitoring throughout the building patients can be transferred easily from one area to another using wireless technology.
- There are windows in the operating theatres with integrated laser blackout blinds which are fixed between two panes of glass for infection control. The blinds can be operated remotely from the surgeon's panel.
- The critical care beds have pendants which provide the gasses, electrical services and space for monitoring equipment. This keeps all the equipment off the floor and ensures that there are no trailing wires and pipes, making it easier for clinical staff to treat patients.

- There are over 46km of electrical cabling, over 52km of pipework and over 2,500 light fittings. On an average day the electrical demand could power the equivalent of 20,000 light bulbs. The water storage tanks could fill 160 average baths.



Contacts

Trust: Jenny Galpin, Project Director
t: 01268 593 922

PSCP: Rod Stiles, HBG Construction Director
t: 020 8200 8064



them to complete the Full Business Case, develop the brief and complete the design. A delivery programme was produced setting out management of the pre-development and construction phases. The programme was constantly reviewed by the project team. The valuable early investment in time and resources was later repaid through efficient construction and early completion.

Trust Finance Director Trevor Smith said, "The additional planning and specification work at the beginning has clearly helped in the successful delivery of the project."

The Department of Health Full Business Case approval was received in December 2004 and less than two months later construction had started on site.

Trust Project Director Jenny Galpin believes the success of the project was down to teamworking. The PSCP HBG arranged a start-up workshop where both the Trust and PSCP were able to get to know and develop confidence in each other. This event enabled the team to set out the project objectives and benchmarks, agree communication plans and a decision-making protocol.

The good working relationship continued. The PSCP arranged further training that allowed the PSCP and Trust team to develop their knowledge together, reinforcing the teamwork ethos.

"The project has been excellent" said Trust Finance Director Trevor Smith. "The P21 process has provided cost certainty, cash flow definition and enabled an excellent facility to time and plan."

The £35m centre has three state of the art operating theatres and three Cardiac Catheter laboratories with shells for a fourth theatre and lab for future potential growth. There are surgery and cardiology inpatient beds, a 22-bed Critical Care Unit, Outpatient clinic rooms, a rehabilitation gym and supporting facilities. It also has its own Training and Education Suite.

With 100 beds, the Cardiothoracic Treatment Centre has the capacity to perform over 1,400 surgical procedures and 2,500 cardiology procedures each year, and many more people will be seen as outpatients.

Patients will benefit from the highest quality treatment and care delivered by a team of experienced staff. The new Centre will provide specialist diagnostic investigation, and cutting edge treatment, for the full range of adult cardiovascular (heart) and respiratory (lung) diseases.

Head of Nursing, Deidre Evans commented, "I think the finished centre is amazing, the quality really shines through and I can't wait to accept patients into an environment that they will find comfortable and welcoming."



Achievements and benefits

- The start-up workshop that set out what was to come and the strategy to deal with it helped to create good working relationships which were maintained through to the project's early completion.
- The NEC contract and teamwork culture encouraged team members to air any potential problems which were resolved in a collaborative and supportive manner. This was achieved through staff continuity, regular meetings and both formal and informal contact throughout the project.
- Staff and patients were involved in the design process. This helped the team to improve the specification and will make the patient experience of the centre better.
- The building supports the provision of a specialised service while achieving a restful and reassuring feel in the clinical areas. When entering, visitors find it modern and welcoming; the materials have been selected to provide durable finishes, which exude quality in their feel and appearance.
- Forward planning means that as well as the three Cardiac Catheter laboratories and three operating theatres there is an extra shell for a fourth of each. These shell facilities will make expansion in the future less costly in financial terms as well as causing less disruption for both patients and staff.
- The centre includes its own Training and Education Suite. This provides a facility for staff development and has been designed so that it can be used for clinical expansion in the future should the Trust wish to increase bed numbers or use the space differently.

