

Community Based **HEALTHCARE SCHEMES**



Community based healthcare schemes involve projects which are locally based and close to the start of a care pathway. Community schemes might involve: primary care centres, GP practices, polyclinics or community hospitals.

At Niche our healthcare planners have considerable experience in community based healthcare schemes. Ken Wood was responsible for writing the Community Hospital Design Guide for NHS Estates in 1991. The guide is still in use today. Another of our healthcare planners has recently been involved in writing the Health Building Notes guidance for Primary Care facilities for NHS Estates. Our team has been involved in a wide range of community healthcare schemes through LIFT, P2I and PFI processes, covering a full and wide range of clinical services.

Community based healthcare schemes aim to combine choice with accessibility. However, due to economies of scale, this can be more challenging than in a larger acute hospital. Community healthcare also needs to be responsive to changing local need and evolving clinical practice. In our experience creating flexibility of room use through careful adjacency planning, room layouts, room data sheets and equipping can help provide choice and flexibility in an affordable manner.

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All of our healthcare planners come from NHS backgrounds and a key part of our approach involves clarifying the operational brief.

Community healthcare provides an opportunity to integrate healthcare pathways and also elements of social care as part of an holistic model. We believe that both the design and the healthcare planning should reflect this. This integrative aspect of our work echoes many of the mental health schemes undertaken by our MHS team, which typically bring social, psychological and medical care models together.

As a company our work is increasingly focused on analysing care pathways across healthcare sectors using computer modelling tools to plan capacity. At the outset of any scheme we usually offer to review the capacity planning.

Here are some examples of schemes our healthcare planners have been involved in:

St Charles Community Hospital

Working with Interserve on this £10 million pound refurbishment of grade 2 listed buildings, we were provided with an opportunity to ensure that modern community hospital facilities could be provided within this challenging environment without its listed status imposing unacceptable constraints. Facilities provided within the development included an Urgent Care Centre, Outpatients, accommodation for General Practitioners, Dentistry, GP out of hours service and supporting therapies for Rehabilitation. A large Renal Dialysis Unit is also provided.

Neath Port Talbot Community Hospital

This was the first PFI scheme to be delivered in Wales. The hospital has a large central Atrium area with the departments abutting each side of this pleasant open space.

Our health planners worked very closely with both the Trust side and the contractors to ensure that this innovative replacement delivered appropriate patient services. This

circa £60 million pound hospital development provides some 230 acute inpatient beds along with both elective, cold and day case surgery. A separate but integrated acute mental health inpatient unit is also located on the site.

Manchester, Salford & Trafford LIFT

The delivery of new integrated Primary and Social Care Centres for the people of Greater Manchester has resulted in one of the largest investments in health infrastructure for primary services since the inception of the NHS. Major developments include:

- Ancoats Health Centre
- Lower Kersal Health Centre (Willow Tree)
- Cheetham Hill Health Centre
- Brunswick One Health Centre
- Benchill One Stop Primary Care Centre
- Douglas Green Energise Centre
- Openshaw Health Centre
- Wythenshawe Forum Centre
- Partington Health and Social Care Centre
- Eccles Joint Service Centre (Under Construction)
- Pendleton Health Centre (Under Construction)
- Walkden Health Centre (Under Construction)

Bradford & Airedale NHS Trust LIFT Schemes

This scheme provided three new primary care centres offering services for children, intermediate care, GP practices, dental services and rehabilitative services. Working with Accent and Carillion these facilities were provided across urban and rural areas helping to revitalise this part of Yorkshire.

LIFT Development for Tees Valley and South Durham NHS Trust

We worked with Accent and Carillion to deliver a £14m development providing new day care, minor surgery, dentistry, palliative care and supporting rehabilitation therapies. We were responsible for health planning advice to a variety of user groups for new build and refurbishment work at the Richardson Hospital.