

PROSPECT PARK MENTAL HEALTH UNIT



The West Berkshire Priority Care NHS Trust decided, after a review of the delivery of their services, that the long established hospital at Fair Mile in Cholsey was no longer suited to giving their patients the best care. There followed a selection process, Prospect Healthcare was chosen as its private sector partner to build and run a new hospital at Prospect Park Reading. The site is ideal, situated away from the main roads at the edge of the park, it is only 10 minutes away from the town centre. Reading has communication links that cover the whole of the south-east.

There are 200 beds in the scheme. These include:

- 91 beds for acute mental illness
- 15 intensive care beds
- 55 elderly
- 24 hour nursing for chronic patients
- 10 beds for learning disabilities

Patients also have access to a library, bank, shops, games rooms and TV lounges. The new scheme retained two of the existing buildings on the site – one is used for Trust administration and the other is used by ISS, the service provider.

The construction posed significant challenges. The construction period was tight at 22 months and this challenge was intensified when early excavations discovered that the ground was subject to heave and extensive measures had to be put in place to ensure that this risk was eliminated. The design had to be re-evaluated to take into account issues of safety for patients.

Philipa Slinger, Chief Executive of the Trust said ...
"for the first time we have a top class, modern hospital.."

Track Consulting was subsequently appointed to manage a following phase and to carry out life cycle surveys as part of the review of the robustness of the life cycle fund.

Track went on to manage a separate project to reconfigure one of the areas after completion.

Project Details

Services Provided:
Project Management
Site Inspection

Project:
New Mental Health Hospital procured under the Private Finance Initiative for West Berkshire Priority Care NHS Trust.

Completion Date:
March 2003

Value:
£24m

Location:
Prospect Park, Reading

Client:
Prospect Healthcare