

# Sustainability

The Horizon centre has been built to the NHS NEAT standard of excellence.

Features include:

- segregated waste areas to collect material to recycle

- lights that automatically go on and off depending on need
- the building enjoys all the benefits of energy efficient design.

September 2006 ●●●●● Final business case approved    September 2006 ●●●●● PSCP appointed    September 2007 ●●●●● Start on site    October 2007 ●●●●● GMP agreed    May 2009 ●●●●● Completion



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PRO CURE  
21

NHS

South Devon Healthcare  
NHS Foundation Trust

Horizon Centre

Innovation  
Education  
Research



“ The quality of the design and the attention to detail, as well as the passion of the design team, shines through ”

Dr John Lowes

# Innovation, education and research – the Horizon Centre, South Devon

Often seen as one of the more remote parts of the UK, South Devon has put its healthcare centre stage through the creation of a cutting edge education and innovation development, to ensure it attracts the best healthcare professionals for patients.

South Devon NHS Trust has a strong commitment to delivering the best health and social care for its community through innovation, education, and research and development.

It wanted to build a centre of excellence combining traditional teaching with innovative learning using cutting edge technology. The Trust believed this would help it build and retain a team of highly skilled and motivated clinical and support staff to provide progressive health and social care to its community.

“We wanted to create an exciting space for the Trust which would be modern, flexible and inspiring,” said Susan Martin, Education Manager and Horizon Centre Project Lead. “Six months after the Horizon Centre opened people still comment on what a wonderful space it is when they walk in the doors.”

With funding of almost £5 million for the project, the Trust decided to use ProCure21, attracted by the prospect of teamwork with its Principal Supply Chain Partner (PSCP), Kier, and the opportunity to effectively manage risk.

## Teamwork

“From the outset the team approach worked well for us. They immediately understood what we wanted to achieve. If there was anything we didn’t understand we asked and the PSCP was good at coming back to us and dealing with issues as they arose.

“Our PSCP was also flexible. We had a budget and deadline, however, during the course of the project we asked them to incorporate additional

features such as a café to promote informal learning. Although it added cost and time it benefited the Horizon Centre and demonstrated the flexibility of ProCure21,” said Susan Martin.

“Because ProCure21 was new to us we ran separate risk registers which we compared on a regular basis. To promote communication we had a PSCP representative at our monthly Trust board meetings which again worked well for us,” she added.

Design was critical to the success of the Horizon Centre. South Devon NHS Trust wanted to promote traditional and innovative learning through formal and informal spaces. This demanded innovative thinking from the architects. The open teamwork of ProCure21 encouraged input from Trust personnel.

South Devon NHS Trust invested £500,000 in IT equipment such as Audio Visual (AV) suites and a virtual operating theatre to allow simulation learning, and wanted students to learn informally in ‘breakout spaces’. Because of this the Horizon Centre



was designed inside out to ensure functional navigation.

Dr John Lowes, Director of Education and Consultant Gastroenterologist said, “The quality of the design and the attention to detail, as well as the passion of the design team, shines through.”

## Innovative design

There are three distinctive zones, each with its own unique look and feel. They are education and learning, clinical skills, and research and development.

Innovation has always been integral to South Devon NHS Trust and nowhere is it more evident than in the clinical skills zone. Determined to make the Horizon Centre as user-friendly as possible to maximise the learning experience, it worked closely with the PSCP.

Students are able to learn in virtual theatres, wards and skills rooms using state-of-the-art simulators and mannequins, overseen and guided from the adjacent observation room. Early collaboration with the audio-visual contractors ensured the AV spaces were sensitive to the needs of end-users. In addition South Devon NHS Trust wanted a centre that was inspiring and interesting as well as functional.

“We set out to create a centre of learning that would help us build the best clinical and support team to provide optimum health and social care for South Devon,” said Susan Martin.

The PSCP realised, thanks to the unique ProCure21 delivery, that challenges could be converted to opportunities. Having assembled a team for the Horizon Centre it has been able to retain the expertise and use it on subsequent projects.

The Trust had chosen a site for the Horizon Centre adjacent to the library. However, it necessitated demolishing an existing building that contained the existing out-dated facility and working in a very tight space. The PSCP was able to factor the use of a tower crane into the planning and prevent hold-ups that could have occurred.

“We were able to deliver a robust build because of the partnership arrangements that ProCure21 facilitates. It allowed us to get closer to the client and enabled us to properly translate the user requirements from the start. This has been evidenced by the high quality unit that South Devon NHS Trust now has,” said Richard Davis, Framework Director, Kier.

## Facts and figures

**Project**  
The Horizon Centre

**Location**  
Torbay

**NHS Client**  
South Devon Healthcare Foundation NHS Trust

**Principal Supply Chain Partner**  
Kier Health

**Contract value**  
£4.8 million

**Building size**  
1,900 m<sup>2</sup>

**Start on site**  
September 2007

**Completion**  
May 2009

