

The Harbour Mental Health Unit

Client: Dorset Technology/JDM/Vinci

Architect: Gilling Dod

Type of build: New Build

Location: Blackpool, Lancashire

Contract value: £40 million

Background

A public consultation in 2006 led to the establishment of the 'Mental Health Matters' programme which over a 10 year period would see the Trust invest in the region of £117m in new in-patient facilities.

The new inpatient unit in Blackpool represents a major investment by Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust and has seen significant engagement with not only staff and service users but also local residents, Councillors and relatives. The project is being delivered under Procure 21+ with IHP as PSCP, this project is part of the Trust's long term development strategy for their Inpatient services across the region with two further major projects planned.

The development, the Harbour, a brand new state of the art mental health unit on the Whyndyke Farm site, just off the M55 in Blackpool has a total of 154 beds including a psychiatric intensive care unit.

The new facility replaces in-patient services for mental health patients at Parkwood unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Lytham hospitals.

Project

The Harbour is predominately a single story building with 154 beds in 10 ward units each situated on the ground floor with access to external areas. Each unit is made up of a series of ground floor single rooms with en-suite bathrooms and toilets.

The hospital was designed with extensive input from service users and clinicians and is based on good practice guidance and 'safety by design' to ensure that it can provide high quality care. The ethos for the new in-patient services is to deliver therapeutic care which is empowering, person centred, needs-led, and focused on promoting recovery and independence.

Respecting privacy and dignity is an essential element which is why Vistamatic was specified.



The Harbour Medium Secure Mental Health Unit

Vistamatic® vision panels were directly specified at the request of the Trust and Architect with observation with privacy and dignity a key factor when it comes to the treatment methods ongoing within the facility.

In conjunction with the main contractor, Vinci, and the door manufacturer, Doorset Technology, 224 Vistamatic Oblong Vision Panels are in use throughout the new building including in all bedroom doors, treatment areas and consultation rooms. The specified vision panels were oblong Vistamatic panels with 10mm/19mm modified toughened glass with soft closing dampers and key operation.

The new mental health unit, The Harbour opened its doors to the public for a 'first peek' on Saturday the 21st of February and opens its doors officially on March 10th 2015.

“Vistamatic® Vision Panels were specified for The Harbour mental health unit because of their well-established record of providing reliable security, privacy and protection in sensitive environments such as this medium secure facility. They provide a practical solution respecting the privacy and dignity of the service users and promoting recovery and independence, which is essential for environments like this.”

Kevin Dyer, Doorset Technology

