

Royal Blackburn Hospital



Key information

Capex **£100 million**
Staff **2000+**

Beds **668**
Area **71,000m²**

Introduction

Consort Healthcare (Blackburn), the concession company awarded the 38-year, £116 million project which reached financial close in 2003.

Balfour Beatty's shareholding is 50%. Our 50% shareholder partner is HSBC Infrastructure Fund Management. At 31st December 2005 Balfour Beatty had invested £3 million in the project; Balfour Beatty's total committed investment is £6 million.

Financing type: Bond

Project overview

- Handed over on time and to budget on 10th April 2006, and opened to patients on 8th July.
- Combines services onto a single site which were previously provided in two separate hospital sites, eliminating the need for some 16,000 ambulance transfers each year.
- Construction involved a 45,000m² extension to Queens Park Hospital and a refurbishment of 7,500m² of the old facilities to provide a total of 668 beds. Construction work was undertaken by Balfour Beatty Construction.
- Consort Healthcare (Blackburn) is responsible for the provision of hard facilities management including routine and life-cycle maintenance, certain soft facilities management services and various non-clinical services. The provision of non-clinical services is predominantly sub-contracted to Balfour Beatty WorkPlace, also a Balfour Beatty group company.



Main entrance improvements

Since the introduction of the national ban on smoking in public places, the East Lancashire NHS Trust was concerned that the hospital's entrance was being used as a location for smokers, and as a result the walls and floors were damaged and littered. Balfour Beatty Capital was invited to submit proposals to address the issue and improve the main entrance.

Nick Riley, Director of Groundwork Contract Services said, *"The inspiration for the artwork came from the immediate environment and climate. As many people know, it gets very windy at the hospital site so we thought we would try and use that theme whilst adding some bright colours to a plain area. We have worked with a local poet and consulted with the hospital users to create a reservoir of words, which flow through the mural and tie into the local environment."*

The hospital staff and users now have a bright, clean and interesting welcome through the main entrance, and the NHS Trust has received positive feedback since the improvements were made.

The Trust is keen to engage the local artist to create additional murals to complement the main entrance.

As a result of a creative consultation day, when hospital staff and visitors chatted with a local poet, the Trust received feedback on the issue of smoking at the main entrance. It confirmed that providing a discreet smoking shelter should prevent further damage and littering from cigarettes, and would be acceptable to most hospital users. This idea is to be taken forward by the Trust as part of the main entrance improvement programme.

*"In Blackburn, the Trust team and Consort Healthcare have formed an **honest and effective** relationship through transition; from procurement to construction and this bodes well for the operational phase of the contract."*

Jackie Hadwen, Project Manager, East Lancashire NHS Trust