

Camden & Islington Community Solutions

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World Class Design, World Class Commissioning Kentish Town Health Centre

It has been known for sometime that good building design can have a direct impact of the care outcomes for patients. It was with great pride therefore to hear that the unique design of London's premier Health Centre in Kentish Town had been recognised by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) earlier this month and been awarded the RIBA Prize for London and earlier in the year at the national NHS LIFT Awards for best design.

But this is only part of the story!

On the 23 July 2009, RIBA announced its shortlist for the prestigious Stirling Award for outstanding design in 2009, and included on the shortlist is The Kentish Town Health Centre.

Developed under NHS LIFT, NHS Camden commissioned Camden and Islington Community Solutions as their preferred development Partner to work with the GP Champion, Dr Roy Macgregor and world renowned Architects Allford Hall Monaghan Morris and in particular Paul Monaghan.

Rob Larkman, Chief Executive of NHS Camden said: 'The very existence of the new Kentish Town Health Centre is testament to what can be achieved when you have a real partnership between local people, GPs, Commissioners, Architects, and Developers.'

The result, a health centre for the people of Kentish Town that not only is architecturally stunning, but a health centre that encapsulates the very essence of what we are trying to achieve in bringing services closer to where they are needed. And not just health services. Whilst NHS Camden have commissioned a range of health services from the Centre, the Local Authority have also commissioned along side us many Social Care Services. It's a live example of real service integration.'

RIBA will announce the winner of the Stirling Prize at their annual dinner on 17 October 2009, but for Kentish Town in London they are already winners.

Dr Roy Macgregor, Lead GP for Kentish Town Health Centre spoke earlier today: 'I am clearly very proud of what has been achieved here. The reaction from those whom have visited the Centre since opening in December last year has been outstanding and makes the hard work that has gone in to develop this world class facility all worth while.'

ENDS



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Notes for editors

1. The original Kentish Town Health Centre in Bartholomew Road was built by Camden Council in 1973 – an early example of an integrated approach to primary care. By the late 1990s, the building had become costly to maintain and inefficient to run.
2. NHS LIFT is a vehicle for improving and developing new primary and social care facilities to support the delivery of services to local communities. Community Health Partnerships (CHP) deliver a LIFT company on behalf of the Department of Health; this is a limited company with the local NHS, CHP and Community Solutions for Primary Care as shareholders in a public-private sector partnership. Camden and Islington Community Solutions (CICS) is the LIFTCo operating across Camden and Islington.
3. Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM) is the award-winning London-based architecture firm which won the RIBA competition to design the new KTHC building. www.ahmm.co.uk
4. The James Wigg GP Practice was founded in 1887 with the then radical aim of providing free medical care to local people. It currently has a patient register of 16,000 cared for by the practice's twenty five GPs. The practice has a reputation for progressive thinking and a holistic approach to healthcare.
5. The head of the practice, Dr Roy Macgregor was the project champion and initiated the RIBA competition.
6. Community Solutions for Primary Care is a longer term investor in public private infrastructure and is in partnership on 6 LIFTs across the England. www.community-solutions.co.uk
7. Addressing the health inequalities agenda

The agenda for the Kentish Town Health Centre is a holistic approach to healthcare whether this is offering complimentary services and treatments, debt advice and employment counselling, yoga classes or gym facilities, or providing rooms for local charities and community groups to meet. The café will encourage social interaction at the heart of the building placing KTHC at the heart of the community.

As well as being home to the James Wigg GP practice, district nurses and health visitors, KTHC houses a wide range of health services, including,

Breast Screening Service – state-of-the-art digital screening facility.

Dentistry – including a special facility whereby wheelchair bound patients can receive treatment without having to vacate their chair.

Diagnostics – on-site diagnostics service including ultra-sound scans so patients can have tests whilst attending their GP appointment without having to make a separate appointment at a different site.

MOSAIC – an integrated service for local children aged 0 to 19 years with severe and profound disabilities. They can access services including physiotherapy, occupational therapy and mental health.

Camden Psychological Therapies Services (CPTS) – GP and self-referral mental health services.

Library and teaching facilities for medical training – including observation suite and webcam facility.

Arts for health – an arts council grant has been secured to support a community arts programme working with schools and commissioning work.

8. The agenda for the building was that it should be sustainable both in terms of its construction, but also in terms of its whole life operational and lifecycle characteristics. The streetscape around the site is a conservation area and the building references the brick and stucco, architectural repetition, scale and forms of the surrounding housing. As many existing trees as possible were retained including, London planes, ash, lime and a damson. A series of small, private gardens and terraces are integrated into the building, and there is a public garden connecting to the main waiting room where a café will soon be located.

9. Sustainability

- The building is essentially of concrete construction thus achieving a high thermal mass and high levels of insulation will ensure a low energy use.
- Natural ventilation is achieved through monodraught windcatchers on the roof which are fitted with solar powered extract fans to assist with the expulsion of stale air.
- Water management through low flush cisterns and percussion taps and rain water collection and re-cycling.
- PIR activated time switches.
- Recycling points throughout the building and separation of waste in an outside store.