

CASE STUDY

Elective Treatment Centre for East Cheshire NHS Trust

East Cheshire NHS Trust, which serves over 250,000 residents through its hospital and community services identified an opportunity to transform an unused area at Macclesfield District General Hospital into a new Elective Treatment Centre.

The aim was to centralise services, support the elective recovery programme, and expand capacity for minor treatment procedures. To deliver the estate improvements, the Trust appointed Gilling Dod Architects through a direct award on the NHS Shared Business Services (NHS SBS) Construction Consultancy Services Framework Agreement.



This centre is one of many exciting investment projects underway on our Macclesfield site which will help us to deliver truly outstanding, local patient care to the communities of East Cheshire."

Ged Murphy
CEO, East Cheshire NHS Trust

THE CHALLENGE

The works were carried out in a live hospital setting, close to the main entrance and a busy outpatient area.

Because access was limited and the site sat so close to essential healthcare services, the team had to plan carefully, keep in regular contact with hospital staff, and put measures in place to protect patients and reduce any disruption.

The new facility needed to fit within the existing hospital layout, which meant working around retained services, load-bearing walls, and existing windows and doors. The design had to work within these constraints while still meeting current health building notes (HBN) and health technical memoranda (HTM) guidelines and creating a modern, high-quality clinical space.



To enhance the adjoining patient entrance, the Trust incorporated a new reception desk and waiting area into the project, improving overall flow and patient experience.

The project was delivered in carefully planned phases. This allowed the new elective treatment centre to open during Phase 1, so clinical services could continue as normal. The reception and entrance improvements were then completed in a later phase, helping to keep disruption to patients and staff to a minimum.

Delivering a new reception area in a live hospital environment meant working closely with the Estates, Fire Safety and Infection Prevention teams. The design needed to maintain safe escape routes, including the fire exit to Hospital Street, and keep the main car park entrance open so patients could access the hospital at all times. Temporary signage and protective measures were also put in place to support safety and keep the hospital running smoothly throughout the works.



THE RESULT

The purpose-built Elective Treatment Centre provides four additional elective treatment rooms, five additional outpatient consultation rooms and multiple recovery areas, allowing East Cheshire residents to be provided treatment and diagnostic services closer to home.

The interior design was developed to complement the established character of Hospital Street while providing a calm, welcoming, and non-clinical environment. A more open layout, with comfortable seating helps reduce congestion, encourages better patient flow, and improves access to nearby retail and café facilities.

The reception desk was designed with staff safety in mind, incorporating protective screening, controlled access points, and a dedicated place of safety. To enhance the environment, artwork donated by a patient's family was permanently incorporated into the space, creating a meaningful and personal focal point within the hospital.



THE RESULT

The centre was delivered on time and to a budget of £2m. It offers a range of outpatient and diagnostic procedures, supporting gynaecological and urology services, allowing patients to have their treatment and diagnostic tests performed locally.

The layout of linked consultation and treatment rooms supports smoother clinical flow and greater efficiency, helping the Trust tackle waiting lists and the backlog caused by Covid pandemic. Creating two separate areas also gives flexibility for single-sex clinics and supports patient privacy and dignity.

The new entrance area makes visiting the centre easier and more welcoming. It includes a staffed reception desk, an interview room, an admin office, and an open-plan space with clearer seating and wayfinding to help patients and visitors move through the building more comfortably.

SUMMARY

- New treatment centre centralised services and provides a range of outpatient procedures, helping improve patient wait times and experiences
- The new entrance area provides an improved patient and visitor experience providing a reception, improved seating and wayfinding.



It's very exciting to open this new treatment centre and welcome our first patients who will be able to have their treatment and diagnostic tests performed more locally."

Andrew Sinclair
Consultant Urologist
East Cheshire NHS Trust

To Find out more about Gilling Dod Architects (GDA), contact: contact@gillingdod.com to learn about NHS SBS's framework agreement, contact sbs.hello@nhs.net