

FERNDENE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE PRUDHOE, NORTHUMBERLAND, UK



Ferndene, Children and Young Peoples' Service

Ferndene is the first facility of its kind in the UK to bring together multiple agencies and tiers of care to offer an integrated Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Service. It provides a modern, 40-bed inpatient centre for young people aged 8 - 18 years. Built on a brownfield site of the existing hospital estate at Prudhoe, the scheme is composed of two elements; a two storey shared activity centre and a single storey residential block accommodating four wards.

The shared activity centre sits at the front of the site facing the access spine that connects to Moor Road. The ground floor accommodates a sports hall, café and youth club, education and therapy rooms. The first floor houses staff offices, administration and quiet workrooms. The intention is to clad the front façade of the building at first floor level with slates reclaimed from the existing buildings on site. The ground floor areas are more open, with large areas of glazing allowing views out into the landscape for the young people and their carers.

The single storey ward blocks step down the hill from West to East, following the topography of the site. The building is conceived as fingers reaching into the landscape. The links between them form courtyards used for relaxation, therapy and play. At the southern end of the site the living and games room opens up to long views out into the woods and wider landscape.

The environmental design approach is to maximize the use of natural daylight and ventilation and improve the immediate micro-climate, of the scheme to minimise the mechanical services traditionally associated with hospital buildings.

"We are so pleased with Ferndene, it's doesn't feel like a hospital and is a wonderful place to work. Fellow staff and young people have literally drawn gasps when visiting and that confirms how well it was designed and conceived. Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

Eddy Wilkinson - Education Activities Coordinator at Ferndene

Sector:
Mental Health

Client:
Laing O'Rourke, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust

Role:
Lead Consultant, Masterplanner and Architect

Value:
£27.1m

Status:
Completed September 2011