

Circle Reading

Circle / Health Properties Management Ltd



The Client

Circle, a partner owned social enterprise, is becoming well known in the health sector not just as a health provider, but also as a health innovator.

Most recently, Circle has been chosen as the preferred partner to run Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust in Huntingdonshire.

With a number of key hospital developments already completed, the Reading Hospital has recently secured funding and is one in a line of elective care hospitals to be procured by Circle Health.

The Team

Geof Beesley: Health Planning: Derogations and health guidance compliance

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The Project

Fusion Health LLP was appointed to review the design solution for the hospital and to note where elements of the design deviated from Health Building Note guidance or established best practice, including infection control measures and staff facilities.

In addition, Fusion Health was required to review the proposed equipment lists for each service area (at room level) to assist Circle in establishing a procurement process for their equipment needs.

Working closely with the Design Team and Project Manager, Fusion Health established a process to record each service element and correlate to the most appropriate HBN document, stipulating what guidance was available, how it differed to the design proposal, the consequences of the deviation and a possible remedy should such deviation be unacceptable to the Circle Partners.

The Results

The process undertaken by Fusion Health in developing a detailed derogation schedule assisted in the fine tuning of the design to ensure that patient and staff process flows were acceptable to The Circle Partners and set the agenda for engagement with the Care Quality Commission for ultimate registration purposes.

In addition, the process of “derogation clarification” assisted the due diligence process required to secure project funding and so to bring the project to site.

Construction commenced in January 2011, with operational opening scheduled for the Autumn of 2012