Scarborough Energy Centre opens with guaranteed savings

NHS Sustainability Day, March 23, marked the perfect occasion to celebrate the official opening and handover of the refurbished, low-carbon Energy Centre at Scarborough Hospital, which has been delivered by Vital Energi.

York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is committed to reducing its carbon footprint through the work of its Sustainable Development Group. The refurbishment of the Scarborough Hospital energy centre will help make a large step towards reducing the Trust’s carbon footprint.

The £3.2M project will achieve guaranteed savings of £512,000 in the first year - a 31 per cent reduction on current energy bills and operating costs. Over the course of 15 years the guaranteed savings will be in excess of £9M.

The upgrade at Scarborough includes improved boiler control and the installation of a combined heat and power (CHP) unit which will make a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions, as well as significant savings to the hospital’s energy costs. Carbon emissions are
projected to be cut by 2,130 tonnes a year, a reduction of around 38 per cent.

The unit will supply all of the hospital’s night time electricity, over 70% of its day time electricity and make a substantial contribution to the heating and hot water supply.

The energy centre was officially opened by the Trust's Chief Executive, Patrick Crowley. Patrick was joined by Brian Golding, Director of Estates and Facilities, members of the Scarborough Hospital Estates team and representatives from Vital Energi, including Joint Managing Director, Ian Whitelock.

Brian Golding, Director of Estates and Facilities, explains: “As an organisation, we are very much aware of sustainability issues and are committed to reducing our environmental impact. Our sustainable development group ensures that we are consistently addressing energy consumption across all our hospitals, looking at everything from light bulbs through to the design of new buildings.

“In 2014 we completed a major energy saving and carbon reduction project at York Hospital using a Carbon and Energy Fund Framework with Vital Energi, and last year we completed a major reduction project at Bridlington Hospital. Including the refurbishment here at Scarborough Hospital, the overall project will offer over £26.5M guaranteed saving for the Trust – money which will be reinvested into patient care. Across the three sites, carbon emissions are projected to be cut by 5,800 tonnes a year, a reduction of around 27.6 per cent.”

Patrick Crowley adds: “On behalf of the Trust I am delighted to officially open the refurbished energy centre at Scarborough Hospital. By reducing energy costs, we can reinvest savings into front line services and patient care.”

Combined Heat and Power Engines are extremely efficient and capture the heat created during electricity generation, which would normally be wasted, and use it to provide low carbon heating to the hospital. This technology is far more efficient than traditional power stations and delivers a larger reduction in CO2 emissions.

Ashley Malin, Project Development Director for Vital Energi explained: “York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust was one of the first in the UK to embrace this type of energy infrastructure upgrade, with guaranteed returns. Their commitment to reducing emissions and producing value for money has seen them revolutionise the way they generate and use energy. NHS Sustainability Day is the perfect opportunity to congratulate them on their achievements.”

Visit the official website of Vital Energi for more information and news on their work.
New Patient Advice and Liaison Service office opens

On Tuesday 21 March, Trust Chair, Susan Symington, officially opened York Hospital's new Patient Advice and Liaison Service office.

The new information board outside the office includes photographs of the PALS advisers, operating times and patient experience leaflets and posters to help signpost patients and visitors.

Officially opening the new office, Sue said: “I am delighted to open the new PALS office; but this is more than just an office - it is a celebration of the work of the PALS team in the last year.”

“The PALS Team is here to help ensure patients and visitors have a positive experience of using the Trust's services from start to finish. With that in mind, I very much hope that the new environment will offer patients and visitors the chance to raise feedback in a more relaxed, pleasant and welcoming environment.”

Sue adds: “PALS are an integrated and essential part of the Trust and part of every team in the Trust.”

The next stage is to look at improving the Scarborough office and expanding the service to Bridlington hospital.

The PALS team, who offer impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers, have also revised the PALS ‘Your Experience Matters’ leaflet and compiled a FAQ’s which aims to help staff to understand what PALS does - and doesn’t do. For more information download the FAQ’s from Staff Room.

Dementia Appeal launch

York Teaching Hospital Charity have launched a new appeal to raise £200,000 which will help patients living with dementia during their stay in their hospitals.
It is estimated that 850,000 people are living with dementia in the UK and one in six people over the age of 80. With an aging population, the demand on our hospitals to provide a dementia friendly environment and specialised care is only going to increase.

Emma George, Assistant Director of Nursing at York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and the lead for dementia care said, “We already have some fantastic support in place for people living with dementia when they are admitted into our hospitals – we have open visiting hours for carers which is part of the John’s Campaign initiative and amazing volunteers, called dining companions, who help support patients during meal times where possible. We have also recruited dementia volunteers to offer support to patients and carers and have dementia champions on various wards across the organisation.

Additional small changes across the trust will have a big impact on the experience of patients and their families and all the money raised through the appeal will make them possible.”

The appeal will fund new equipment and projects that will revolve around the everyday work of our hospitals to make sure they quickly deliver benefits for patients and their families, carers and friends.

Lucy Clegg, Fundraising Manager at York Teaching Hospital Charity said, “We're encouraging everyone to get involved with the appeal as dementia is a condition that could affect us all personally or through a family member or friend. You can donate to the appeal directly, hold your own fundraising event to help us reach the target or take on a sponsored challenge.

“Across each hospital we want to supply patients with activities while they are in hospital; things like memory boxes full of vintage cards, photos and games that will all help to stimulate their early memories.

“We’d also like to buy some special computer systems designed specifically for people living with dementia to use
on the wards as well as make changes to the patients’ environment to make the area as comfortable as possible by installing special clocks, lighting and coloured toilet seats which will reduce confusion and stress. At Bridlington Hospital we would also like to refurbish the day room on the Johnson Ward to make it dementia friendly for patients and visitors.”