



The Neville Childhood Epilepsy Centre

client The National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy

architect Lee Evans Partnership LLP

net cost £5m area 2,300m²

completion November 2009

Specialist care

- Child/young person centered environment
- Co-location of practice and research
- Remodelling of existing buildings

'The building has fulfilled all of our expectations and is providing a pleasant and comfortable environment for our patients. We are so pleased with the welcoming impression that the building portrays that we have moved the main reception for all visitors to the organisation into the building.'

PHI Rickett, Head of Facilities, NCYPE



As the first purpose-built childhood epilepsy centre in the UK, this building provides a significant contribution to the medical community. It provides space for assessment, treatment and research and is an international resource for paediatric epilepsy. The form and layout of the building were generated by a commitment to create an unrivalled research and medical centre within the environment of a school and college specifically for students with epilepsy and special needs, for use both by the school community and the wider fraternity.

Existing buildings from the 1960s have been extended and remodelled to house specialist facilities, which include post-surgery rehabilitation and teaching space to supplement the residential medical assessment unit, as well as outpatient consultation rooms and a conference centre for paediatric epilepsy training. The spaces are

designed for young people aged 6-18 years with a wide range of complex neurological conditions in addition to epilepsy.

The project's driving ethos was to promote user and staff well-being. The centre is designed to blend into the campus so that resident children do not feel 'hospitalised'. Inside, a series of sightlines throughout the building define its scale and size, creating a safe environment and ensuring that users are not overwhelmed or intimidated. There are no long, dark corridors but instead walkways with reassuring curved walls and glazing and top lights, which are used to flood light into the building. The exacting 'micro environments' needed by the staff to deliver the range of discrete services and facilities demanded by the multi-functional centre have been carefully considered and comfortable, well organised workspaces have been provided.

The Neville Childhood Epilepsy Centre showcases in 2010 RIBA Health Buildings Exhibition 01.10.10

Lee Evans Partnership's design for a new medical and assessment centre for The National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy (NCYPE) is just one of 20 projects from across the UK to be featured in the RIBA's 2010 'Healthy Buildings' Exhibition.

The Neville Childhood Epilepsy Centre was selected by the RIBA's Health Client Forum, a collective of health and design professionals. The forum's aim is to improve the performance of both clients and design professionals, ensuring that value for money, fitness for purpose and design quality are achieved in the projects they undertake.

Bill Murray OBE, Health Client Forum Chair said, 'This exhibition not only showcases design quality but illustrates how architects with a greater understanding of how health services work across the whole spectrum of care can deliver functional, innovative and sustainable facilities for our communities. I hope you will take inspiration from these projects.'