

Case Study

Design Brief for a Specialist In-patient Services Unit (SISU)



Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) currently provides a range of services across Mental Health and Learning Disability, including rehabilitation wards, psychiatric intensive care ward, a small learning disabilities unit, acute admission ward, and assessment and treatment wards.

The services are delivered from outdated accommodation on several sites, across a total estate spanning 133ha. The estate is poorly utilised and costly to maintain, with significant backlog maintenance costs.

The estate is just one of several key drivers for the project, alongside:

- Demand outstripping current capacity
- Lack of appropriate services
- Workforce and financial sustainability
- Quality of clinical care

gbpartnerships were commissioned by ABUHB to:

- To design and run user workshops to facilitate visioning and brief development
- To write a comprehensive design brief, including an outline schedule of accommodation, for the design team to enable the production of Outline Business Case level design and cost outputs
- To produce a site option appraisal.



Client requirements of the Design Brief:

- To encourage evidenced based design to support more efficient and effective multi-disciplinary working practices
- To improve functionality and inter-relationships between services to enable knowledge sharing and lead to a better quality of patient care.



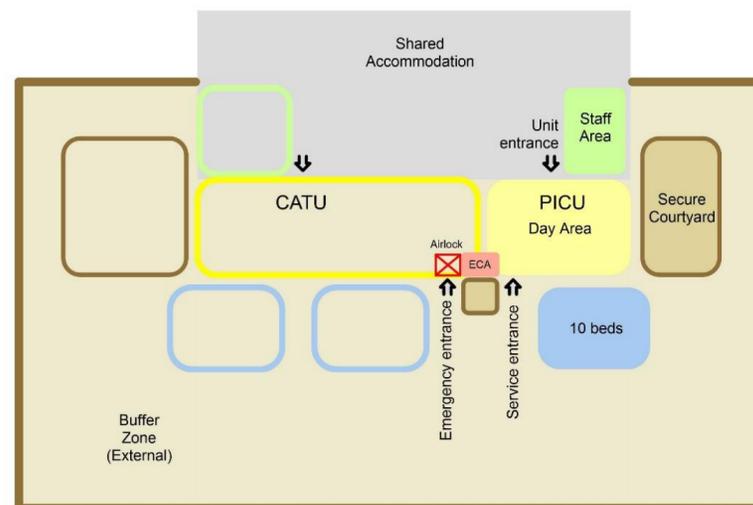
Outputs produced by gbpartnerships:

- Site Option Appraisal Report of the qualitative non-financial benefits from a clinical and operational perspective
- 118-page Design Brief, covering: Background Information, Design Requirements: Service Units / Building and Site, Design Process and Deliverables + Appendices



Our Impact:

gbpartnerships succeeded in drawing together many unresolved strands to create a clear and coherent brief for design development. We engaged proactively and creatively with the clinical user groups, and the estates team to build a consensus around the design vision.



“We are often given very poor design briefs for these types of projects; this is one of the best we have seen.”

ABUBH design team lead

