Greening the NHS estate

This is the first in a series of Stop Press bulletins on the project ‘Greening the NHS Ayrshire & Arran estate’.

During 2011/12 we carried out an extensive review of our estate in partnership with the Green Exercise Partnership (GEP). The GEP is a national partnership between Scottish National Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland and NHS Health Scotland. It aims to promote better health and quality of life for people through greater use of the outdoors for physical activity and contact with nature.

The review identified seven sites as having the best development potential to improve access to the outdoors for patients, staff and the wider community, and to create opportunities for improving health and wellbeing.

In 2013 we worked with the GEP to develop two woodland walks at Ailsa Hospital and University Hospital Ayr for the benefit of patients, staff and visitors. The paths were located here because these areas have points of natural interest and also gave us the opportunity to enhance and protect wildlife and biodiversity. The paths have been open for more than a year and are proving very popular.

We have now entered into phase two of the project, which includes the development of a third path and extensive work to the trees in the hospital grounds.

Woodland Wynd

Evergreen Way

19 March 2014
Maintenance work on the trees on the Ailsa Hospital / University Hospital Ayr site started at the beginning of March 2014 and is expected to take up to 12 weeks. Contractors will keep disruption to a minimum, however some noise can be expected. The landscape will change dramatically in the short term, however because of the replanting the woodlands will come back stronger and protected for the future.

We have already started engaging with staff, patients and visitors to provide information about the project and to discuss how best to develop the site to create opportunities for exercise, recovery and relaxation.

We are also developing plans for a third woodland path to be created later this year.

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