

Progress in Practice

LIFT and sustainable development in East Lancashire

In East Lancashire primary care facilities are being redeveloped through LIFT, and the opportunities to contribute to local regeneration are being maximised

Summary

Health services in East Lancashire are currently being delivered from premises out of step for modern health care provision. This has a major impact on recruitment and retention of GPs and other NHS staff. To tackle this, East Lancashire has embraced LIFT (Local Improvement Finance Trust) as the model to rejuvenate healthcare provision, enabling new facilities to be built via public/private partnerships.

Three redevelopment projects are currently underway in East Lancashire – the Darwen Health Centre (BWD PCT), the Nelson Health Centre (which involves redeveloping a listed canal warehouse) and Bacup (both BPR PCT). And a further project, Burnley Central, a major redevelopment initiative being led by Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale PCT, has been proposed.

The Burnley Central project in particular will make a significant contribution to local regeneration. Various health, social, education, leisure and community services – such as GP and dental practices, a crèche, a leisure centre, a training suite and a community café – will be co-located as a result of the redevelopment. Care is being taken to ensure that the design of the new building will enhance the environment, and the project includes the development of a green travel plan.



The project team is working with the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to explore how to utilise as much locally sourced material and employ as many local workers as possible in the development. They will also offer training places for local construction workers on the scheme.

The Eric Wright Group have been selected as the preferred private partner.

The Burnley Central LIFT redevelopment is expected to contribute towards:

- The Borough's Healthy Lifestyle Programme (which encourages exercise on prescription)
- Recruitment and retention of health professionals
- Local education and training and professional development
- Removing physical, economic and social barriers to taking part in sport and physical activity
- Improving the town centre landscape by removing two eyesores and creating a high quality building
- Improving the local economy by making Burnley town centre a more attractive place to work and shop and bringing more jobs into the town centre
- Improving civic pride within the town.

Links and organisations involved: The three PCTs involved are Burnley Pendle and Rossendale PCT (www.bprpct.nhs.uk), Blackburn with Darwen PCT (www.bwdpct.nhs.uk), and Hyndburn and Ribble PCT (www.hrvpct.nhs.uk). The LIFT project has benefited from legal and financial advice from Beachcroft Wansbroughs (www.bwlaw.co.uk) and Grant Thornton (www.grant-thornton.co.uk). The Eric Wright Group is the preferred private partner (www.ericwright.co.uk/home.html). The PCTs are also working in partnership with Lancashire County Council (www.lancashire.gov.uk), Burnley Borough Council (www.burnley.gov.uk), Pendle Borough Council (www.pendle.gov.uk), Rossendale Borough Council (www.rossendale.gov.uk), Hyndburn Borough Council (www.hyndburnbc.gov.uk) and Ribble Valley Borough Council (www.ribblevalley.gov.uk).

Contact:

Peter Sellars, Head of Primary Care Development, Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale PCT, 31-33 Kenyon Road, Lomeshaye Estate, Nelson, 01282 607041, Peter.Sellars@bprpct.nhs.uk