

Tonna Hospital, Suite 3 Dementia Ward

Project// Tonna Hospital, Suite 3 Dementia Ward

Client// NHS Wales

Products// Vistamatic® Anti-Ligature vision panels incorporating artwork

Project

Marcus Eyre, Project Manager for the newly refurbished Suite 3 Dementia Ward at Tonna Hospital was looking for something new and innovative when planning the works. He attended a Mental Health and Dementia forum where he met with Vistamatic, who had one of their new Vistamatic anti-ligature vision panels with artwork on show which caught Marcus' eye from the offset.

When searching for a suitable product for the Tonna Hospital project, the emphasis was on anti-ligature by design. Following a conversation with Vistamatic and the demonstration of the newly integrated artwork, Marcus concluded that it 'ticked all the boxes and more'.

Following this meeting, Vistamatic vision panels were directly specified at the request of the Trust with observation with privacy and dignity, anti-ligature and the ability to incorporate artwork key factors when it comes to the treatment methods ongoing within the facility.

The decision was made to incorporate a different flower into the vision panels for each individual bedroom. The team at the Trust were confident that this innovative new design would help with recollection, thus aiding the service users to identify their bedrooms with more confidence. The floral artwork for each bedroom was not only included in the vision panels, the decision was made to also use the same graphic within the bedrooms as well for continuity with the service users.

Colour and individual bespoke graphics can make the world of difference to a project be they of a novel or commercial nature and can play a part in creating an exciting or calming influence within an environment. Vistamatic® recognise the importance of this and enhancing the overall experience of patients, staff and visitors within mental health and dementia and pride themselves on their effective approach to interior design, helping to create an outstanding therapeutic space.

"Vistamatic Vision Panels were specified for Tonna Hospital, Suite 3 Dementia unit because of their well-established record of providing reliable security, privacy and protection in sensitive environments such as this facility. They provide a practical solution respecting the privacy and dignity of the service users and promoting recovery and independence, which is essential for environments like this.

"The anti-ligature Vistamatic® panels incorporating the chosen artwork will play a vital role within the refurbished ward. The staff know and trust the product and rely heavily on them when it comes to performing their day-to-day care duties."

Marcus Eyre, Project Manager Capital Planning - ABM NHS Wales



After working with several leading Architects in the field of Dementia and Mental Health design about incorporating art within a building's design in order to improve the therapeutic environment, we began to look into ways of incorporating art into our vision panels. Following an extensive research and development process, we developed a remarkable solution which allows detailed digital images to be printed on to the vision panels.

Vistamatic® Anti-Ligature vision panels demonstrate innovation within their field and sets a precedent for the design of future environments, providing a number of benefits for end users, including:

- Respecting the modesty, privacy and dignity of patients and visitors
- Creating a welcoming and attractive environment that lifts the spirits of the end users
- Creating an inspirational sense of place and a therapeutic environment whilst addressing infection control, patient safety and security

A patient's perception of internal perimeters is that of an obvious custodial boundary, something unmistakably institutional and a constant reminder that they are living in a secure environment. We realised that by adding art to our vision panels we could soften the physical appearance of the doors whilst significantly enhancing the internal patient environment.

Any image deemed appropriate can be used, be it specified by the healthcare provider, architect or end users themselves. If the latter option is selected it creates an opportunity to empower service users to take ownership of the building and indeed their internal environment.