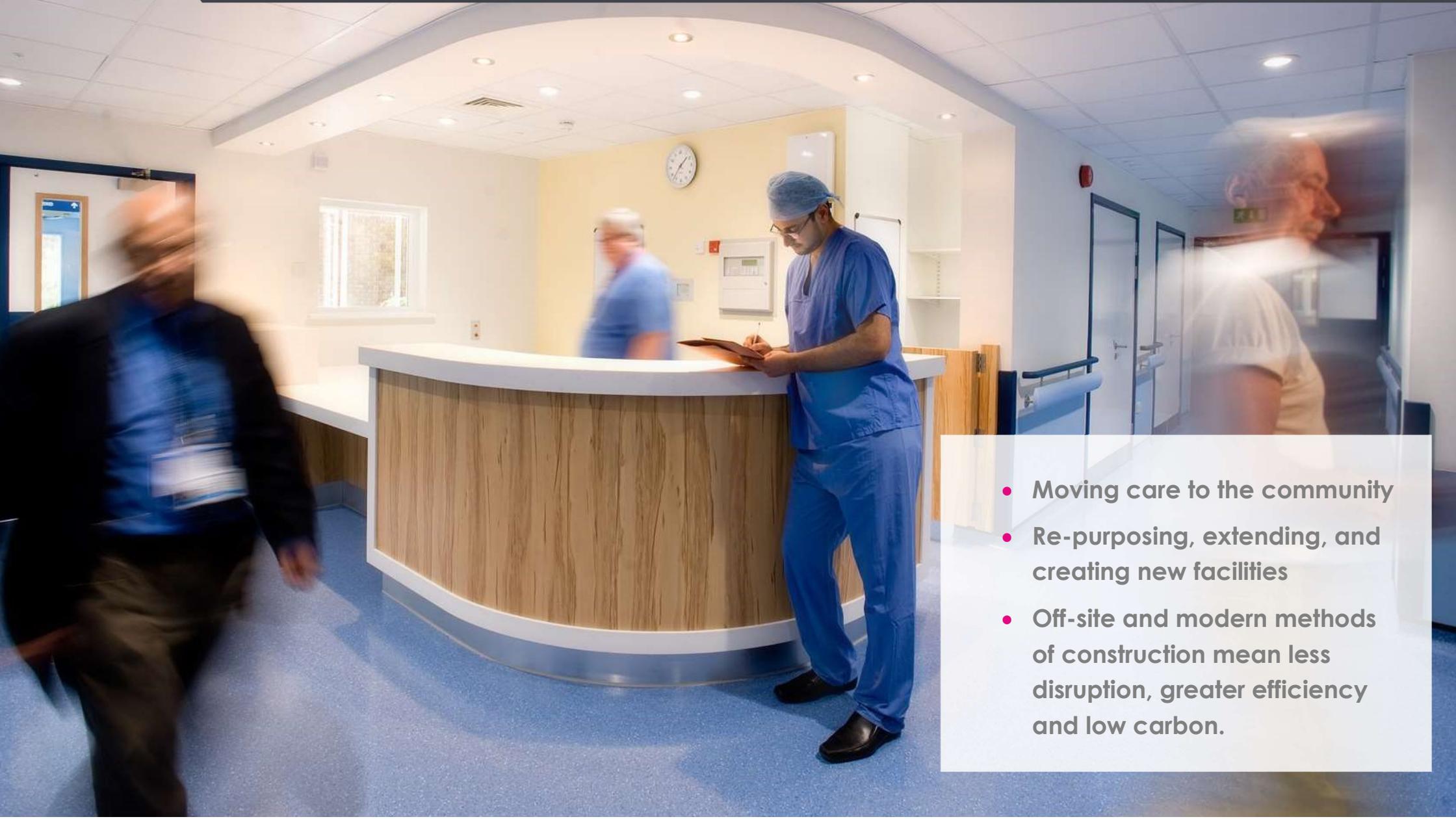


Health – Building Resilience into Healthcare



- Moving care to the community
- Re-purposing, extending, and creating new facilities
- Off-site and modern methods of construction mean less disruption, greater efficiency and low carbon.

Need

The pandemic has brought into sharp focus the resilience of healthcare systems across the world, not only to deal with the virus but also to continue delivering the essential services people need in these unprecedented times.

Studies by the Institute for Public Policy Research and the King's Fund both stress the value of investing in community-based provision to increase resilience. By migrating services to GP practices, community hospitals, and local private providers, it frees up large hospitals to focus on making people better.

Shifting capacity into local healthcare settings will require creative solutions to re-purpose existing facilities and extend and build new spaces. The construction sector is currently under enormous government pressure to build, build, build, which means that healthcare will be competing with residential and education markets for precious labour and material resources.

Solution

The way to increase production and build quickly and efficiently is to move construction off-site into a manufacturing environment where it:

- is less disruptive for a healthcare setting.
- reduces dependence on skilled trades.
- provides factory-controlled quality.
- releases less carbon in build and use.

'Off-site' encompasses a wide range of building options. At one end of the spectrum, 'volumetric' solutions create entire enclosed spaces in a factory which are delivered to site for installation. Watford Hospital AAU is a prime example of a modular build which saved 6 months of disruptive site work and delivered high quality flexible wards.

Moving along the scale, a degree of volumetric construction can be incorporated in the form of bathroom pods or plant spaces. At the Royal Marsden Molecular Pathology Centre the service modules were pre-fabricated in factory conditions and tested and lagged before delivery to site.

At the other end, are large components that are prefabricated off-site. Structurally insulated panel systems (known as SIPs) fall into this category. We have delivered over 50 schemes using SIPs technology to simplify the build. At Kingfisher Court AMHU, speed of delivery was a priority for the Trust and by opting for 24,000 SIPs over traditional brick, we erected a watertight envelope in under 3 months.

Outcome

For healthcare providers whether you are re-purposing existing facilities, or extending and building new ones, all schemes can benefit from the reduced disruption and improved predictability afforded by off-site solutions.

To realise the benefits, architects, contractors, and specialist suppliers all have a part to play and the earlier teams are brought together the more efficient it is to integrate new systems and technologies into the proposals.

Let our experience in simplifying the build process help you to create better outcomes for your healthcare scheme and increase resilience within the NHS.