

Environmental Week
UHCW Coventry Hospital
VINCI Facilities

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Community Engagement

Project overview

Environmental Week 20th to 26th June 2016 at UHCW Coventry Hospital was a small permanent project to tidy and re-decorate the communal garden to enable the children’s wards to re-use the space.

The week was promoted within the Trust by a children’s t-shirt competition. Children of VINCI employees and on the wards provided designs to go onto VINCI t-shirts for Environmental Week, winning the wards £500 each and tablets for two entries from children of VINCI employees. The winning designs were displayed in the wards.

The team cleared ground in the communal garden, of inches of soil to reveal the paths and amphitheater that the children use to have access to. Trees that had become overgrown were cut back to let light into the flower beds. Flower beds were weeded and rotten sleepers were replaced.

The area was checked for ground dwelling birds by members of the VINCI team before work commenced, and the team rescued frogs and toads and released them by the river as things were lifted and moved.

The team removed and replaced a rotten fence, refurbished and painted a larger pergola and pagoda, repaired and repainted a retaining wall for the kids seating area, replaced rotten benches and re-fixed the memorial plaques, replaced rotten trellis fencing and fenced in an old culvert to prevent children falling in.

VINCI received the support of dedicated contractors Fallons Grounds Maintenance, as well as being given items free of charge or reduced cost by local businesses. External power points were installed to enable the user’s access to power, at the request of the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU).



VINCI team and volunteers getting involved.

The power was installed free of charge by one of our dedicated sub-contractors, DME Electrical. During the week the team held daily talks about the environment on-site with the children on the wards with help from the UHCW play team.

Members of the VINCI team spent an hour each day doing interactive biodiversity-related activities with the children; from taking fishing gear and maggots for them to handle, to bunches of meadow flowers from site to touch, and our osprey who talked about falconry including the peregrine that visits. These visits went down brilliantly with the children and us receiving many compliments from the staff.

At the end of the project the play specialists were thrilled with the result, as were the SCBU team who held their summer fayre in the communal garden on 27th June.

Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?

Wanting to engage with our client, patient and teams to raise awareness and promote the environment.

What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?

There were some good areas of habitat in the communal garden, however, its overgrown state prohibited the ward children and hospital users to utilise and enjoy this.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

- Nectar rich plants have been planted.
- Trees overshadowing low level plants have been cut back to re-invigorate the trees whilst allowing light to the low level plants.
- Existing plants and shrub brushed through to remove dead leaves and let them obtain more light, whilst leaving protection for small animals and food for birds, moths and butterflies.
- Trees are fitted with bird and bat boxes.



Daily talks on topics including fishery and species in the garden.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement

Further information

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Hospital staff taking part in "The Maggot Challenge"!



John pleased with the final results.



Old fence gone. Shed to follow.



The final results and the engagement during the process.