IT has taken 18 months of building work, and an investment of £16 million to transform the Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre (BHOC); now patients from across the South West and beyond are receiving non-surgical cancer and blood disorder treatments at the newly extended and refurbished BHOC. As one of the three major strands to the Building a Better Bristol project, the reopening of the BHOC is a fantastic achievement for the Trust.

The completed extension means that the BHOC is now able to house the adult bone marrow transplant unit, which was previously based in the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children. Patients receiving this treatment will benefit from being in an environment dedicated to adult cancer care. The additional space available has also allowed the NHS Blood and Transplant’s apheresis unit to relocate into BHOC from Southmead so for the first time, all non-surgical cancer treatment is available under one roof, improving the patient experience.

Even though the building work has now been completed, there is more to be done before the redevelopment work at the BHOC is finished. Two new concrete bunkers, situated beneath the car park, have been designed to house the latest linear accelerator (linac) equipment. Used to provide radiotherapy treatment, one machine was delivered in April, but takes six months to commission for use, so we expect to see the first patients treated in November.

Did you know?
The extension was built on eight metre tall columns so that the development did not reduce the number of car parking spaces available to patients. The building’s foundations have been designed so that additional load is not placed on the underground linear accelerator bunkers.

 Renewing Our Hospitals

WELCOME to our second Building a Better Bristol newsletter of 2014.

As we went to press, one of the project’s key milestones is close to reaching fruition as specialist children’s services transfer from Frenchay Hospital. The centralisation of specialist paediatrics at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children is our response to recommendations made in 2001 to transform the way children’s healthcare is delivered in Bristol and the wider region. There will be plenty more on this in the next edition, but for now we want to focus on communicating one of the major changes which is the new location of Bristol’s A&E provision for under 16s. You can read more on this below.

Since our last newsletter, the redevelopment of the Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre (BHOC) has been completed. The facility has been part of the Bristol healthcare landscape since the 1970s, the enhancements made during its extension and refurbishment mean it is ready to continue providing life-saving treatments for many years to come.

Finally, our new helideck on the roof of the Bristol Royal Infirmary will allow some of our most critically ill patients to receive treatment quicker than ever before.

I do hope you enjoy reading about all the exciting changes taking place.

Deborah Lee
Director of strategic development
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust (UH Bristol)
MAJOR CHANGES TO SPECIALIST CHILDREN’S SERVICES IN BRISTOL

As part of a wider reorganisation of the city’s healthcare provision, on Wednesday 7 May specialist children’s services moved from Frenchay Hospital to Bristol Royal Hospital for Children. This includes children’s A&E services as well as all specialist inpatient services, including the major services of burns, plastics and neurosurgery.

The Centralisation of Specialist Paediatrics project is the result of recommendations made in 2001 by the Kennedy Report. The changes mean that all specialised children’s services will be provided from a single, state-of-the-art facility in central Bristol, improving care by bringing together dedicated clinical teams under one roof. Children’s minor injury services will continue to be provided from Southmead Hospital Bristol in the new hospital and UH Bristol will operate some outpatient services that will operate from the Southmead site.

Helideck open

THE BRI’s new helideck is now fully operational, coinciding with the Centralisation of Specialist Paediatrics. Test flights have been taking place since April 15, allowing pilots to familiarise themselves with the new facility. But the helicopters themselves are just one part of the equation when operating a helideck; without fire crew in place, not a single helicopter can land.

Andy Williams, Chandel Brown, Ian Ingram, Issica Baron and Mike Maimone are UH Bristol’s very first helideck fire crew, along with full time helideck supervisor Dale Robson. Working on the helideck is a voluntary role, requiring the team to leave their day-to-day role at a moment’s notice to assist in transferring cases from the care of the air ambulance crew to UH Bristol.

On Friday 4 April, dressed from head to toe in bespoke, personalised protective equipment, the team went to the helideck to complete the final part of their initial training. They had already taken part in off-site training in March. “The whole two days away was fascinating and incredible and an experience not to forget” said Chandel Brown, cardiology waiting list co-ordinator “I can’t wait to be involved when the helideck opens and I am looking forward to the future with the helideck team”.

MILESTONES

- May: Children’s A&E services move from Frenchay Hospital to Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, as part of the wider Centralisation of Specialist Paediatrics project.
- May: Services at Frenchay hospital begin to close, transferring to the new Southmead hospital. Adult A&E closes at Frenchay on May 19, reopening immediately at the new Southmead hospital.
- June: First wards open in the new Terrell Street BRI ward block: paediatric day cases and CIU.
- August: Adult Intensive Therapy Unit opens in new BRI ward block.

For more information about our projects go to www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/buildingabetterbristol or contact the strategic development team on strategicdevelopment@UHBristol.nhs.uk or call 0117 342 0651

Charity activity update

Charity support has been crucial to the success of the Building a Better Bristol project, with a total of £16 million being pledged by our charitable partners. Above & Beyond has recently celebrated raising £2.2 million of the £6 million total for their Golden Gift appeal. The £2.2 million will go toward the cost of the new Bone Marrow Transplant unit in the refurbished BHOC.

The Grand Appeal is supporting the cost of improvements to the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, with a multi-million pound investment. The Friends of BHOC are committed to raising £2 million, which will pay for a new linear accelerator.

We are tremendously grateful for all of the help which the charities and their supporters are providing, and hope that you will do everything you are able to help them in achieving their goals.