

## **Design in Mental Health Case Study Submission – Rowan View**

### **Client**

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

### **Who was involved**

IBI Group, Kier & WSP

### **Project outcomes**

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust's £53m state-of-the-art 123-bed secure unit, Rowan View, aims to reconfigure care services across the region, integrate expertise and innovative approaches to care and recovery, and create a new centre of excellence in forensic care. Based at Mersey Care's Maghull Health Park just ten miles from central Liverpool, the Rowan View medium secure unit co-locates mental health and learning disability care services in new state-of-the-art regional facilities. Rowan View is home to the latest technology and specialist staff delivering innovative treatments and care services which aim to reduce the length of stay for service users.

### **The design**

IBI Group's design for Rowan View placed service users at its heart, actively involving them in the design process through bespoke consultation sessions, the value of which recognised by DiMHN's award in 2019 for Service User Engagement at Rowan View. IBI Group's mental health and learning disability experts have also long-recognised the value of collaborative co-designed solutions and the pivotal role of service users and clinicians in creating innovative recovery orientated environments.

The two-storey core houses administrative functions alongside public and social space, whilst connected treatment room, therapy areas and ward accommodation are bounded by therapeutic green infrastructure, multiple ward gardens and landscaped walks.

IBI Group sought to create a 'human', accessible and reassuring environment and deliberately chose single-storey massing to enable excellent connections to outside space. Rowan View's form and design ethos explicitly addresses recovery. Biophilic design principles choreograph a hierarchy of places and spaces, forming concentric 'rings of recovery' which emphasise curves and liminal transitional spaces throughout the built space – a proposal supported strongly by service users during engagement sessions. Central to wellbeing and recovery – the presence of natural light – is channeled deep into internal spaces whilst ward accommodation enjoys easy access to and views of external green space, the benefits of which IBI Group's design experts are experienced in delivering. An art installation greeting service users, staff and visitors as they enter Rowan View has been designed in collaboration as a result of service user feedback and engagement.

### **Further reading**

<https://www.ibigroup.com/ibi-insights/failing-childrens-mental-health/>

<https://www.ibigroup.com/ibi-insights/let-the-sunshine-in/>

<https://www.ibigroup.com/ibi-people/wendy-de-silva/>