

## Avon Villa Step Down Unit, Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield



Having been used originally as a children's ward and more recently for administration, Avon Villa has been subject to numerous ad hoc changes over the past 20 years. Whilst structurally sound the building was very tired and poorly insulated with outdated heating and electrical services.

The client manages Psychiatric intensive care units on the Chase Farm site and identified the need to have an interim form of accommodation known as a step down unit to bridge the gap between secure accommodation and a normal Psychiatric ward.

The brief was to convert Avon Villa into a 'low-secure' unit to fill this gap. The contract detailed the provision of en-suite bedrooms, kitchens, interview rooms, a dining room and the associated office and staff spaces. Externally, works were carried out to form secure open spaces for patient recreation. A particular challenge was to provide a non institutional but secure environment for patients and the Trust.

The principles of a secure unit were followed with all fixtures and fittings being anti-ligature and extremely robust. New heating and electrical services were installed together with data services incorporating an element of 'future proofing'. Controlled entry and exit systems were installed to complement the high security windows, doors and fencing. This was all done whilst maintaining the Hospital server room which also formed part of the site.

### Client:

Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust.

### Architect:

Paul Clarke, Baqus, Boxall Sayer

### Contract Details:

Value: £1.2m JCT IFC 2005

Period: 30 weeks

### Completed

2009