Exciting redevelopment well underway

On target to open in autumn 2018, the new hospital will provide out-patient services including diagnostics, musculoskeletal therapies and women’s services. There will also be an urgent care centre, an older persons assessment unit, theatres, day surgery, surgical in-patient beds, endoscopy and medical day cases including a chemotherapy unit.

The landscape of Chase Farm Hospital has dramatically changed with the frame of the new hospital now complete.

Construction work is progressing at an exciting pace, keeping to both time and budget.

We are carefully planning the redevelopment so that all services remain operational throughout construction and disruption to patients is minimised.
Construction works update

The construction of external and internal walls is continuing along with the installation of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems.

Work on the new energy centre is moving forward. The frame of the building is complete and the installation of mechanical and electrical services is due to start shortly.

Work to connect the new hospital to gas and electricity supplies has meant external and internal roadworks and removal of a section of the front wall of the hospital. Work to redesign the main entrance is due to start in November 2017.

State of the art energy centre

The new energy centre will provide power, heating and hot water for the new hospital, using a highly efficient and lower carbon combined heat and power plant. EDF Energy will operate the new centre.

Large thermal stores will be used to store excess heat generated by the plant and allow it to be used in the hospital when it is needed – as well as being able to export any power not used back to the national grid.

Celebrating topping out milestone

The redevelopment reached a special milestone in January 2017 when the new building reached its maximum height.

A topping out ceremony took place at the hospital to celebrate the landmark with the final laying of concrete on the top floor of the new building.

Sir David Sloman, chief executive of the Royal Free London, said: “I cannot thank everyone enough for their hard work in getting the project to this point – it’s fantastic that we can all now see the plans becoming a reality.

“The new hospital will offer facilities which will improve the experience of our patients and help us to attract and retain the very best clinical expertise.

“I am looking forward to the day when we start to welcome patients and our staff to our new hospital.”
Ongoing improvements

Digital technology innovation

The new hospital will pioneer new digital technologies which will enable us to deliver better, safer, more efficient care for patients.

Electronic patient records will improve the quality of care we provide by guiding clinicians to evidence-based treatment pathways for each patient (including investigations required and medication to be prescribed according to diagnosis). Clinicians will also be alerted in real time to a change in the patient’s condition.

A patient navigation system will enable patients to access up-to-date information about their clinic visit including live wait times, maps and transport information on their mobile device.

A patient portal will mean patients can access their own medical information and take an active role in their treatment while providing a secure method of information exchange.

A new nurse call system will remove the loud patient call bell noise from clinical areas while improving the response time by nursing staff. The system will enable more effective staff-to-patient and staff-to-staff communication.

Improving patient pathways

Involving patients in service improvement and listening and responding to what they say has played a key part in the redesign of patient pathways (the route that a patient will take from their first contact with an NHS member of staff to the completion of their treatment) for the new hospital.

Patients and carers have contributed to pathway redesign meetings, attended stakeholder events and completed surveys.

Deciding the interior design

Patients, staff and members of the public have been helping to design the internal look and feel of the new building.

Different design options were available for comment and feedback. Over two thirds of voters agreed on the design for the internal spaces. The preferred option includes the use of vibrant colours to identify different floor levels. Many noted that using coloured doors to identify patient areas and grey doors for staff only areas would be very useful in navigating the building.

Although many liked the design using bold, coloured shapes in the main entrance there were a number that felt it was too busy and not therapeutic enough. The design team will continue to develop the design for this area using the feedback received.

We are also working with the Royal College of Art on ways we can improve navigation and wayfinding for the new hospital. By involving those who will be using the new hospital in the design process we can learn from their experience and ideas.

Healthy living

Initiatives to improve the health of the local community, including staff, patients and visitors have already begun.

We are now running a range of fitness classes including structured walks, yoga and Pilates. A popular outdoor gym is also available. The Clock café offers healthy food choices.
Patients, members of the public and staff who want to know more about the redevelopment are invited to visit the redevelopment hub, located in front of the Clocktower building at Chase Farm Hospital.

The hub is open on Monday, Thursday and Friday from 10am-2pm.

For more information visit www.royalfree.nhs.uk/chasefarm.