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Work underway on £1.75m project to create extra bed space and new facilities at Newton Community Hospital

- **New facilities will support NHS shift towards more community-based care**



Work is now underway on a £1.75m project to create additional bed space and a series of new facilities at Newton Community Hospital in St Helens. The project will offer a huge boost to local residents, and will also support [NHS plans to shift](#) more care out of hospitals and into the community.

Newton Community Hospital was built in 2008 by health investor Renova and Community Health Partnerships (a key part of the NHS family) under the NHS LIFT partnership. The building has grown to become a vital part of the local community, offering a range of health and social care services all under one roof including a GP practice, physiotherapy, X-ray, ultrasound and cardiology. Newton also has an inpatient ward that provides vital 'step down' capacity for the NHS, allowing patients to leave hospital and be given intermediate care in a community setting before returning home.

Building on Newton's vital role in supporting the community and local health priorities, £1.75m of capital funding has now been secured to deliver a series of new and improved facilities including:

- **Creating additional space for 9 new inpatient beds** and 1 specialist bariatric bedroom, taking the number of beds up to **39 in total** – the additional space will help to **boost NHS efforts to shift more care into the community**
- Turning under-utilised meeting space into **a new gym and physio suite**, and creating **additional clinical room capacity** to allow increased health service provision
- **Sustainability improvements** including the change of light fittings to LEDs to help **reduce the building's energy output**

The project is being delivered by CHP and Renova, alongside Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Work is now underway and the improvements are due to be completed in the Autumn.

Renova General Manager Amy Lawrence said: *"The NHS LIFT estate can play a crucial role in supporting the shift from hospital to community-care, so creating additional bed space at Newton Community Hospital will offer a huge boost. With construction work now underway, we have moved an important step closer to new and improved facilities for local residents and the NHS."*

Jeanette Leach, CHP Regional Director – North West, commented: *“Being able to offer extra bed space in a remodelled building at Newton Community Hospital is fantastic. It shows how flexible CHP buildings can be. The new variations will offer an increased bed capacity by a further 11 intermediate care beds for patients on the ground floor and will also include individual bariatric bedroom. The changes will add vital services in the neighbourhood for those who need it most, lessening the need to travel to a larger hospital.”*

Newton Community Hospital is one of 17 health centres delivered by Renova since it was established in 2004 under the NHS LIFT Partnership to invest in and deliver vital community health facilities. Last year, detailed analysis commissioned by Rebova showed that Newton Community Hospital delivers over £110million of Wellbeing value to NHS patients, local residents and staff – [read more here](#).

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