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Vibrant Community Hub launches at Akerman Health Centre



A vibrant, community-led hub has officially launched at the Akerman Health Centre in South London, creating an exciting focal point for local connection and wellbeing.

The Akerman Health Centre in Camberwell was delivered in 2012 under the [NHS LIFT programme](#) by health investor Fulcrum and [Community Health Partnerships](#), a key part of the NHS family. Akerman Health Centre has grown to become a vital part of the local community, offering a range of integrated health and social care services all under one roof – to build on this, last month an ambitious new community hub was created to ensure the building continues to be a welcoming, inclusive space for local residents within the neighbourhood.

This month, the hub hosted its first major community event, bringing together a dynamic mix of local services and organisations, including GP practices, London Sport, gardening groups, and boxing clubs. The event provided a lively and welcoming space where residents could explore available support, discover new opportunities, and build stronger links with the initiatives shaping their local area. The launch event drew an impressive turnout of over 350 people, attracting a diverse range of local residents and patients from across the borough, all eager to engage, connect, and make the most of what their community has to offer. [Watch this short video](#) to find out more.

The Akerman community hub project comes as the Government and NHS have set out ambitious plans to deliver a neighbourhood health service that brings together both clinical care and community-based support under one roof. With NHS LIFT facilities based in the heart of the community and typically located in areas of high healthcare need, the existing LIFT estate will have an important role to play with 11 NHS LIFT buildings [already selected by Government to become new neighbourhood health centres](#).

Arlind Zenel, Fulcrum's General Manager for London said: *"We are proud to support the launch of the Akerman community hub which shows how much can be achieved by taking a thriving health centre and opening it up to an even wider range of organisations to support the wellbeing of local residents. As the NHS takes important steps towards more neighbourhood-based care, the Akerman project underlines the strength of the NHS LIFT estate in continuing to meet the changing needs of local communities."*

Siobhan Harper Regional Director, London, Community Health Partnerships said: *“The launch of the community hub at Akerman Health Centre is a fantastic example of how NHS LIFT buildings can evolve to meet the wider needs of the communities they serve. By bringing together local organisations, activities and support in one accessible space, we are helping to create stronger, more connected neighbourhoods, and ensuring our facilities play a vital role in improving health and wellbeing beyond traditional healthcare.”*

Tony Rackstraw, Programme Manager, NHS South East London Integrated Care Board, said: *“This new community hub reflects exactly the kind of neighbourhood-based approach we want to see more of across South London. By working in partnership with local groups and residents, we’re making it easier for people to access both healthcare and wider support services in a way that feels welcoming, inclusive and joined-up. Initiatives like this are key to improving outcomes and reducing health inequalities across our communities.”*

Adrian, a community group representative said: *“There is a lot of hurt out there, but if no one has a place to come together to talk through their pain, their grief, their trauma then people go back into their homes to suffer on their own. Community centres offer individuals to form a collective response to the needs of their communities.”*

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