



From left to right: The new staff accommodation designed by Vincent & Gorbing Chartered Architects and Town Planners: One bed – two person flats and three and four storey blocks of cluster flats at Milton Keynes Hospital. Images by Vincent & Gorbing.

## **NEWS RELEASE**

9th June 2008

For immediate release

### **Vincent & Gorbing Announce Completion of New Staff Accommodation at Milton Keynes Hospital**

Stevenage-based Vincent & Gorbing, Chartered Architects and Town Planners, have announced the completion of new staff accommodation at Milton Keynes Hospital for client SDC Housing in Partnership with bpha (Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association) working with Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The £4.5M scheme for the hospital's key workers comprises 100 ensuite study bedrooms arranged in clusters of up to four rooms and 9 one-bed flats and makes good use of off-site fabricated components, such as bathroom pods, imported from France, which were selected for the ensuites. The development comprises five apartment blocks set around a central landscaped courtyard together with car parking and cycle storage. The new city housing scheme is providing doctors and nurses at Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust with new high quality, affordable, on-site accommodation.

The project began in June 2004 when Vincent & Gorbing received an invitation from SDC Housing, the specialist contractor, to join them and their development partner, bpha, in preparing a joint pre-qualification submission to the hospital trust for the provision of the new staff accommodation. Following the team's successful pre-qualification, a formal tender was submitted to the hospital in February 2005 and the project was awarded to the team in June 2005. The hospital trust particularly liked the proposal's courtyard arrangement, with individual blocks placed around a central landscaped square which contained most of the car parking. This idea was proposed to avoid an institutional 'feel' as well as contributing to a more secure environment for hospital staff, in



which the courtyard was well overlooked from the surrounding buildings. Private amenity areas were also provided for residents to the rear of the blocks, along with secure cycle and refuse storage areas.

Vincent and Gorbing were then instructed to prepare a detailed planning application which was submitted at the end of August 2005 and finally approved in July 2006, following extensive negotiations with Milton Keynes Council.

Construction work started on site in October 2006 and the completed building has recently been handed over to the hospital on a 60-year lease, with the first residents now moving in.

Geoff Yeates, Vincent & Gorbing's Project Director and a Director at Vincent & Gorbing, said: "This project has involved extensive consultation and collaboration and I would like to thank bpha, Milton Keynes Hospital, SDC Housing and the project team for their valued partnership."

David Keeling, Executive Director for development at bpha, said: "This housing scheme has been developed in close consultation with the hospital and primary care trust to ensure that it meets their needs and the needs of their staff, both now and in the future. As a leading local housing provider we know that the cost of housing in Milton Keynes remains high. This development will provide vital, frontline public sector staff with affordable accommodation in an ideal location. As the hospital is a major healthcare provider, the homes will not only support staff but also have a wider community impact."

Peter Jones, Estates Services Manager, Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, commented: "Our vision is to be the health care provider of choice for the people of Milton Keynes and the surrounding area. We are committed to maintaining a high standard of care for our patients and to meeting the needs of our key workers. This on-site accommodation is a much-needed facility and valuable resource for the staff. Since the handover of the building, the feedback from the doctors and nurses residing in the new buildings has been extremely positive."

Vincent and & Gorbing provide architecture, interior design, town planning and urban design services to private and public sector clients throughout the UK. The practice's client portfolio includes housing associations, county and district councils, police and fire services, developers, private companies and PLCs, national housebuilders and private individuals.



### **The Project Team**

Architects: Vincent and Gorbing Associates

Development Partner: bpha

End User Representative: Milton Keynes Hospital

Main Contractor: SDC Housing

Structural Engineer: Alan McEwan Associates

Landscape Architect: Caroline Hay Associates

Planning Department: Milton Keynes Council

Building Control Consultants: Approved Design Consultancy

Ends

### **Notes to the Editor**

1. For further information, high resolution images of the scheme or an interview, please contact Carri Crook, Carisma Communications, on 01842 815910 or email [carri@carismacommunications.co.uk](mailto:carri@carismacommunications.co.uk).
2. Vincent & Gorbing's services and client projects may be viewed on the practice's website [www.vincent-gorbing.co.uk](http://www.vincent-gorbing.co.uk).
3. SDC Housing is the dedicated housing arm of SDC Builders Ltd and further details of their projects and clients may be viewed on the company's website [www.sdc.co.uk](http://www.sdc.co.uk).
4. Milton Keynes Hospital is based at Standing Way, Eaglestone, Milton Keynes. [www.mkgeneral.nhs.uk](http://www.mkgeneral.nhs.uk). The new, on-site staff accommodation is based at Lister Close, Eaglestone. bpha is based at Pilgrims House, Horne Lane, Bedford. [www.bpha.org.uk](http://www.bpha.org.uk).
5. bpha (Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association) is a leading provider of affordable homes throughout central, southern and eastern England and is a preferred development partner of the Housing Corporation.
6. The Association manages more than 13,000 general needs, sheltered and shared ownership properties, mainly in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. It also provides supported housing, accommodation for homeless people, a Foyer and a hostel for young people, and a women's refuge.
7. bpha is the lead member of Key Communities, a partnership that unites seven housing associations working to create high quality, affordable homes across the east of England. Through its Keyhomes East arm, bpha is the Government's HomeBuy agent for the two 'zones' that cover the Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire sub-regions, promoting low cost ownership schemes for tenants, housing register applicants, key workers and first-time buyers.
8. The consortium of housing associations offering the new MyChoice HomeBuy product, known as CHASE, comprises bpha, Catalyst Housing Group, Tower Homes, Metropolitan Home Ownership, MOAT, Swaythling Housing Association, Thames Valley Housing Association and Aldwyck Housing Association.
9. In Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire, bpha is working in partnership with the two County Councils and The Orders of St John Care Trust, a registered charity, on a £100 million project to upgrade or replace care homes for older people across both counties.