

Annesley House

When faced with the problem of giving patients their right to privacy whilst also allowing staff to perform discreet checks when necessary, VISTAMATIC Vision Panels have provided the ideal solution for Partnerships in Care, the leading independent provider of high quality specialist mental health care services. Located in Nottinghamshire, Annesley House is registered as a medium secure unit and offers services for women detained under the Mental Health Act.

The hospital has the capacity to accommodate 32 female patients, who are designated to one of three wards on assessment of their condition. The 48 VISTAMATIC Vision Panels installed throughout the centre replaced the previous clear glass screens, which failed to comply with mental health and human rights legalisation. The panels meet health, safety and security needs as well as promote patients' confidentiality and dignity. Designed for use in areas where entry needs to be restricted, the panels allow for only authorised use and offer complete control over clear or obscured vision into or out of each room.

As an important safety measure, staff can observe through the panel with a special key restricta system while patients can control admittance by simply turning an integral anti ligature knurled knob mounted on the face of the panel inside the room. This allows a degree of privacy and respects the patients' right to make decisions for themselves. This system can be overridden if it is deemed in the patients' best interest.

The mechanical principle of VISTAMATIC Vision Panels is simple. Consisting of three clear and opaque banded sheets of glass in a single frame, the panel is opened or closed when the centre sheet is lifted via the turn lever cam mechanism which in the open position allows for clear two way vision and when closed completely obscures the view.

Within the 250 x 800mm slimline profile, the internal glazing incorporates a 15mm Pyrostop clear multi-laminate, fire resistant glass that provides outstanding performance under the most extreme circumstances. Ideal for settings vulnerable to 'incidents', the glass retains its integrity and insulating qualities. The external sheets consist of 6mm toughened glass with 3M™ Scotchshield™ Ultra Safety Film to deter against damage or vandalism and reduces the chance of personal injury to patients. Each unit is effectively triple glazed, therefore sound transmission is substantially limited.

Partnerships in Care have invested significantly over the past 10 years in response to patient and client needs as well as industry demands. With over 18 establishments across the UK, it has extended existing services, modernised current facilities, introduced new centres and researched innovative ways of delivering mental health care services.



Facility maintenance supervisor Mark Richards who specified the vision panels says: “The Annesley House site embraces our holistic, women-centred approach to mental health care. Our residents have very specific and individual needs so it is important that we provide a safe and caring environment to aid their rehabilitation programme, whilst also allowing staff to administer the best possible treatment by reducing the patients’ risk to themselves and others. The VISTAMATIC Vision Panels have been chosen for all our facilities as they have been invaluable in operation in the past. We are continually pleased with the performance and they help us to achieve the high criteria we set for care and safety.”

As an additional safeguard, specially built 3mm welded steel frames were installed around the vision panels on both sides of the door and fixed using 24 special security bolts. Proving highly effective in areas where there is a possibility of patients becoming violent or difficult to control, the frames were colour coded to blend into each ward environment.

Once installed the VISTAMATIC Vision Panels are maintenance free. In the closed position, the opaque panels still let light permeate through into the rooms, creating a natural ambience and assisting recovery until patients can be returned to community care.

VISTAMATIC products are designed and manufactured in the UK and distributed worldwide. The vision panels meet the British Standard BS EN ISO 9002: 1994, as well as BS 6206 for Tempered Safety Glass Class ‘A’. VISTAMATIC can also work with architects and designers to create bespoke sizes and specifications.

