

High quality eye care in the community

Since it opened at the end of January 2011, Wrekin Community Clinic has seen more than 2,400 patients, offering high quality ophthalmology services in a community setting.

A joint initiative between Wrekin Commissioning Group and SaTH's Ophthalmology Department, the NHS clinic looks to provide an alternative to hospital based treatment for patients across Telford and Wrekin being referred by GPs and Optometrists for the assessment, management and treatment of cataracts.

"Cataract surgery is one of the most common surgical procedures undertaken by the NHS," explains Mr Ewan Craig, Consultant Ophthalmologist and Clinical Lead, SATH.

"In 2009/10, approximately 1,100 cataract operations were performed by SATH for local people across Telford and Wrekin. With an ageing population, a higher proportion of people will be at risk of eye problems, which places an even greater demand on eye care services.

"We wanted to provide a community based outpatient service, which improves outcomes for local patients

through earlier diagnosis and treatment of common eye conditions. The service looks to reduce waiting times and offer more convenient access to healthcare."

Advances in treatment and technology have helped move services traditionally provided in hospital, out into the community. Wrekin Community Clinic is home to the country's first SurgiCube operation unit, which helps to ensure a sterile environment for eye operations by keeping an ultra clean airflow around the operating area and operating instruments.

"We've carried out 465 operations here at Wrekin Community Clinic," says Senior Sister Marie Claire Wigley. "The clinic is like an extension of our hospitals providing additional space and capacity. People receive the same service and quality of care delivered by the same senior nurses and clinicians."

"We've had really positive feedback from patients since the centre opened. It's also helping to reduce demand on our hospital ophthalmology services, keeping them for children and patients with more complex cases who do need to be seen in hospital".

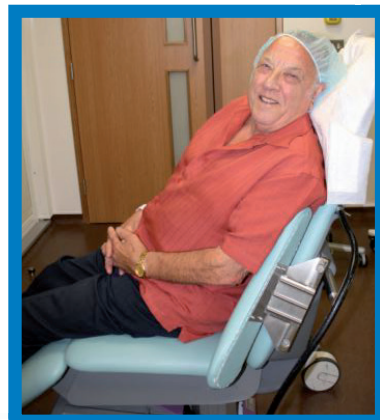
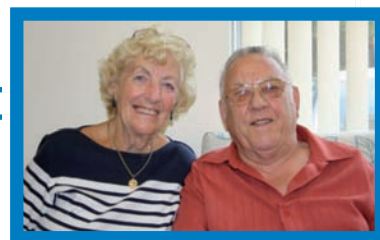
In the waiting room at Wrekin Community Clinic...



Betty Williams from Ketley Bank was referred by her optician following a routine check up and is having her second cataract operation.

"I hadn't heard of Wrekin Community Clinic so it was a little scary being referred to somewhere I didn't know, but

once I got here it was fine. My sons have driven me to my appointments and there's no problem with parking. I find it a bit friendlier than the hospital, and quieter! I've had one eye done already and it's made a big difference. I'll be glad to have the other one done as I've been reading with one eye shut! You hear lots of different stories about the operation; last time I held the nurse's hand really tightly... I hope she's ok! I'm still a bit scared but it's worth it."

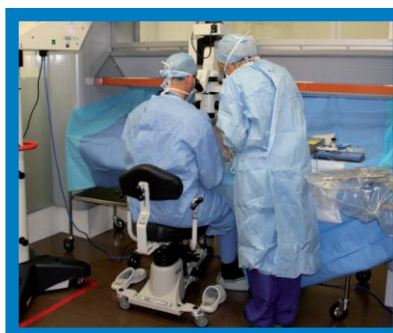


Mrs June Ford from Brockton, Shifnal, had her cataract removed on 11th January 2011 at Princess Royal Hospital.

"Wrekin Community Clinic wasn't open when I had my operation. I was offered a late cancellation and received fantastic service and care at Princess Royal. It's made a big difference - you don't recognise how precious your sight is until it's gone. We've now come in to have my husband's cataract removed."

Roland Ford said: "I wasn't too concerned about having my surgery done at Wrekin Community Clinic. I was reassured that I would receive the same care and service. It was easy to get to and it's a smart building. It's a bit calmer than the hospital."

"The operation was very quick and there was no pain as such. You do worry but I didn't find it too frightening, I'll be back for my other eye!"



Quality and Safety
We will always provide the right care for our patients

Ensure that we learn from mistakes and embrace what works well

Design care around patient needs

Provide the right care, right time, right place, right professional

Deliver services that offer safe, evidence-based practice

Meet regulatory requirements and healthcare standards

Ensure our patients suffer no avoidable harm