



Eternal Garden

Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



Healing Arts

- Launched in 2019
- An initiative that is part-funded by the ASPH Charity to provide different forms of art that improve both staff and patient environments, leading to a positive experience for those being cared for or working in those areas.
- Focuses on three key areas:



Performance



Visual Art



Environment



The Eternal Garden

- The idea came about after a visit to a neighbouring Trust
- Partnered with The Friends of St Peter's Hospital and local garden designer
- Patients, staff and families were consulted and involved
- Recognised the value of non-clinical spaces for patients and loved ones
- The presence of nature and landscapes in healthcare settings is known to aid recovery and reduce length of stay:
 - Tranquil space away from the noise and distractions on a ward
 - Dedicated space for end of life patients
 - Place for NICU families who've lost a baby to meet and grieve







Feedback

“Such a beautiful space, so tranquil, the sound of running water and rustling leaves, it’s the perfect escape...Thank you.”

Patient from ICU

“Very tranquil and pleasant surroundings for a difficult conversation.”

Staff member

“I’ve had a lovely afternoon with my family in this beautiful space, the plants and the garden room are really nice...a peaceful place to sit.”

Patient, Willow Palliative Ward



Impact and Results

- Lots of positive feedback left by each visitor in the guest book
- Some patients have talked to staff about how the space has benefited them at often very difficult times
- The creation of this garden has resulted in the proposal for another outdoor space to be created, to be called the COVID Staff Memorial Garden
- Commitment to improve hospital courtyard spaces at both Ashford and St Peter's



Key Learnings

- Collaboration with a key donor important for the project to be realised
- Close involvement with patients and staff key to ensuring all needs and considerations were identified and address





Thank you

