

Mural brightens up entrance at Royal Edinburgh Hospital

Why a mural?

A mural is an art form that dates back centuries, it is painted or applied directly to a surface, in this case, an exterior wall. Wall murals become a part of and strongly influence the environment where they are installed which is important in hospital settings as they aim to create calm and welcoming spaces, they are also large scale so can have a big visual impact. This report highlights how art work like this supports Tonic Arts and NHS Lothian Charity meet some of its strategic outcomes and priority objectives.

Patients and staff have increased opportunities to express their voice

Behind the design of the mural

Artist Natasha Russell was commissioned by NHS Lothian Charity Tonic Arts programme to paint a mural on the Jordanburn entrance of the Mackinnon Building at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Tonic Arts staff provide NHS Lothian staff, patients and visitors the opportunity to have their say about many of the planned art projects installed in NHS Lothian hospitals and settings. The consultation activity for the mural consisted of a workshop with staff and patients at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital facilitated by Tonic Arts staff and Natasha.

During the consultation staff proposed that the mural connected to the Whitebeam trees already situated around the courtyard and the agreed design would introduce calming blues and greens to imitate trees and foliage wrapping the entrance to the courtyard creating a light filled and a welcoming feeling and to provide softness and colour to the building in winter months.



The building before the mural



The building after the mural

Improved hospital environment – more welcoming and inviting

We spent the day asking patients, staff and visitors to what extent they thought the mural improved the hospital environment and why (1 = no improvement, 5 = extremely improves it). On average they answered 4 and 65% of those surveyed rating it a 5/5. Here are some of the comments they shared:



Looked bland and not welcoming before. Now refreshed and beautiful.

Patient



Definitely feel the building is more inviting to come to now, so lovely to look at rather than dull walls

Family member



The colour scheme is very relaxing for patients and staff, I see this building every day and it cheers me up."

Staff member