

Enhancing education space for Women's Services at St John's Hospital

With funding of £2,900 from NHS Lothian Charity, an unused space in Ward 11 at St John's Hospital was transformed into a dedicated education and training space. The introduction of essential teaching equipment, including a smart board, has enabled the space to be fully utilised for clinical teaching, multidisciplinary training, and collaborative working. With capacity for up to 30 staff and an average of 2 sessions per day, the room has become a central hub for learning and collaboration within Women's Services.



Before - Unused space



We have seen attendance at TRAK training increase from 5/6 to 20/30 since the space opened."

- Charge Midwife



After - Senior nurses using room for meeting

Impact - Increased access to training

The location of the teaching space within the ward has significantly improved access to training for staff. Previously, staffing pressures and the distance to off-site education centres limited attendance at sessions. The new space allows staff to participate in training during their shifts, leading to a substantial increase in attendance. This accessibility has enabled more frequent and flexible training, ensuring staff can update and develop clinical competencies in line with service needs.

Impact - Improved staff experience and wellbeing

Clinical staff have reported improved working conditions for essential meetings. Daily capacity meetings, previously held in cramped offices, which risked disrupting others, now take place in an environment that allows teams to think clearly, communicate effectively, and collaborate across sites using the smart board. This has had a positive impact on the nurses and the overall start to the working day.

Impact - Enhanced patient care and outcomes

By enabling more staff to access training and develop their clinical skills, the project has had a direct impact on patient care. Better-trained staff are more confident and competent in delivering safe, high-quality care. The ability for staff to quickly return to the ward if needed ensures that training does not compromise patient safety, while still supporting professional development.

Impact - Wider system benefits

The creation of the space has reduced pressure on external education facilities at St John's Hospital, which are often fully booked and difficult to access at short notice. This not only benefits Women's Services by enabling more responsive training, but also frees up space for other departments on site.

Thanks to the the staff who participated in this evaluation. Go to [NHS Lothian Charity Website](#) to find out how to access funding for staff spaces.