

History of Trafford General Hospital

In 1926, work began to build what is now known as Trafford General Hospital. It was initiated by the Barton-upon-Irwell Union, a body created in 1849 as part of a requirement for each parish to create unions that would provide for the area's poor. The turf was cut by Mr James Belshaw, Chairman of the Building Committee of the Barton-upon-Irwell Guardians. The spade used in the ceremony is now displayed in Trafford General Hospital's boardroom.



The hospital first opened to patients on the 17th December 1928 as Park Hospital and was officially opened by the first Princess Royal (HRH Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles) on 1st June 1929.



The hospital was used by the armed forces from September 1939, during World War II, initially as a British military hospital. The first casualties arrived in early 1940 following the German invasion of Norway. The Commanding Officer was Colonel Dr Danny Dougal who, out of military service, was a consultant in Obstetrics at Saint Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

In November 1943, the hospital was then transferred to the US Army, becoming the 10th US Station Hospital and treating service personnel from across the world. Glen Miller and his US Army Air Force Band entertained troops on the lawns. The Americans left in July 1945 and the hospital returned to the care of Lancashire County Council.

On 5th July 1948, the hospital was officially opened by Aneurin Bevan as the first NHS hospital. During his historic visit, Bevan symbolically received the keys from Lancashire County Council to mark the creation of the NHS. Sylvia Diggory became the very first NHS patient to be treated at the hospital, aged 13.





In 1988, Park Hospital was renamed Trafford General Hospital in celebration of the 40th anniversary of its opening. The first NHS patient, Sylvia Diggory, unveiled a plaque in commemoration. The first baby to be born under the NHS, Sandra Pook, also attended.

In 2008 the Trafford Diabetes Centre was opened after successful fund raising of £250,000, helped by local people.

On 1st April 2012, Altrincham Hospital along with Trafford General Hospital and Stretford Memorial became part of Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Produced by: The Communications Department
 Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust