



 TOP-TEC | Case Study

  
**Walsall Healthcare**  
NHS Trust

## Flexible Meeting Spaces for Hospital Libraries

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Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust needed to find a way to make better use of its existing spaces for staff and students. The Trust's Library and Knowledge Services team, in collaboration with the Manor Learning and Conference Centre, identified a growing demand for quiet, comfortable and collaborative learning spaces that could support both professional development and academic study.

Working with TOP-TEC, the Trust installed several meeting pods, turning underused areas into valuable, multi-purpose facilities that enhance the learning environment and support productivity and well-being for learners.

### Understanding the Brief

Hospitals are naturally busy and often loud environments. The library and education centre teams needed to create dedicated, quiet study areas without costly and disruptive construction.

The goal was to provide flexible spaces where staff could hold virtual meetings and students could study in peace.



**“The facilities are part of Library and Knowledge Services ongoing effort to improve our colleague’s library experience and to support the education and development of all Trust staff and students on placement.**

**It is hoped you will enjoy using the new spaces and find them beneficial for your work and studies.”**

**Jacqui Watkeys**

Group Head of Library, Knowledge and Education Centre Services

## Key Project Criteria:

- Support both individual and group study in a focused, quiet learning environment.
- Allow for virtual meetings, including Teams calls, without interruption.
- Optimise the use of existing library and education centre spaces.

## The Solution:

TOP-TEC supplied a selection of Hutch meeting pods, purpose-built to provide sound-insulated, technology-enabled learning spaces that are both comfortable and practical. Designed to be deployed immediately into corridors, libraries and open-plan areas, the pods created instant transformation without requiring planning permission or alterations to the building.

Each pod offered a clean, comfortable and well-lit interior, with ports for USB and power charging to support laptop use. The upholstered walls blocked out visual distractions and noise, allowing staff to focus, relax or communicate privately.

With a variety of fabric options available, the pods were matched to the existing aesthetics of the Trust's learning environment, creating a seamless and attractive addition to the space.

**Motion sensor lighting** to create a suitable workspace

**USB and power charging** to support laptop use

**Fabric options colour matched** to existing space



**Fully enclosed pods** with frosted glass, ideal for confidential calls

## The Result

The new pods quickly proved to be a success. Staff praised them as “fabulous facilities,” appreciating the calm and discreet atmosphere they created. Jacqui Watkeys, Group Head of Library, Knowledge and Education Centre Services, noted how well the pods worked for one-on-one and online discussions. Users described the pods as “cosy,” “very comfortable” and “clean,” while also feeling spacious with plenty of natural light.

The availability of power and USB ports was a major benefit, allowing users to conveniently charge their devices. The quiet and comfort of the pods offered a welcome escape from the usual hospital noise, giving staff and students a place to concentrate, reflect and have meaningful conversations without interruption.

The pods can be booked online for up to three hours at a time, providing library users with enclosed spaces ideal for work and projects. When privacy is needed, the sound insulation makes them perfect for one-to-one and online meetings.

Overall, the pods are more than just a practical installation; they have become a genuinely appreciated addition that enhances well-being, supports learners and strengthens the overall learning environment at the Trust.

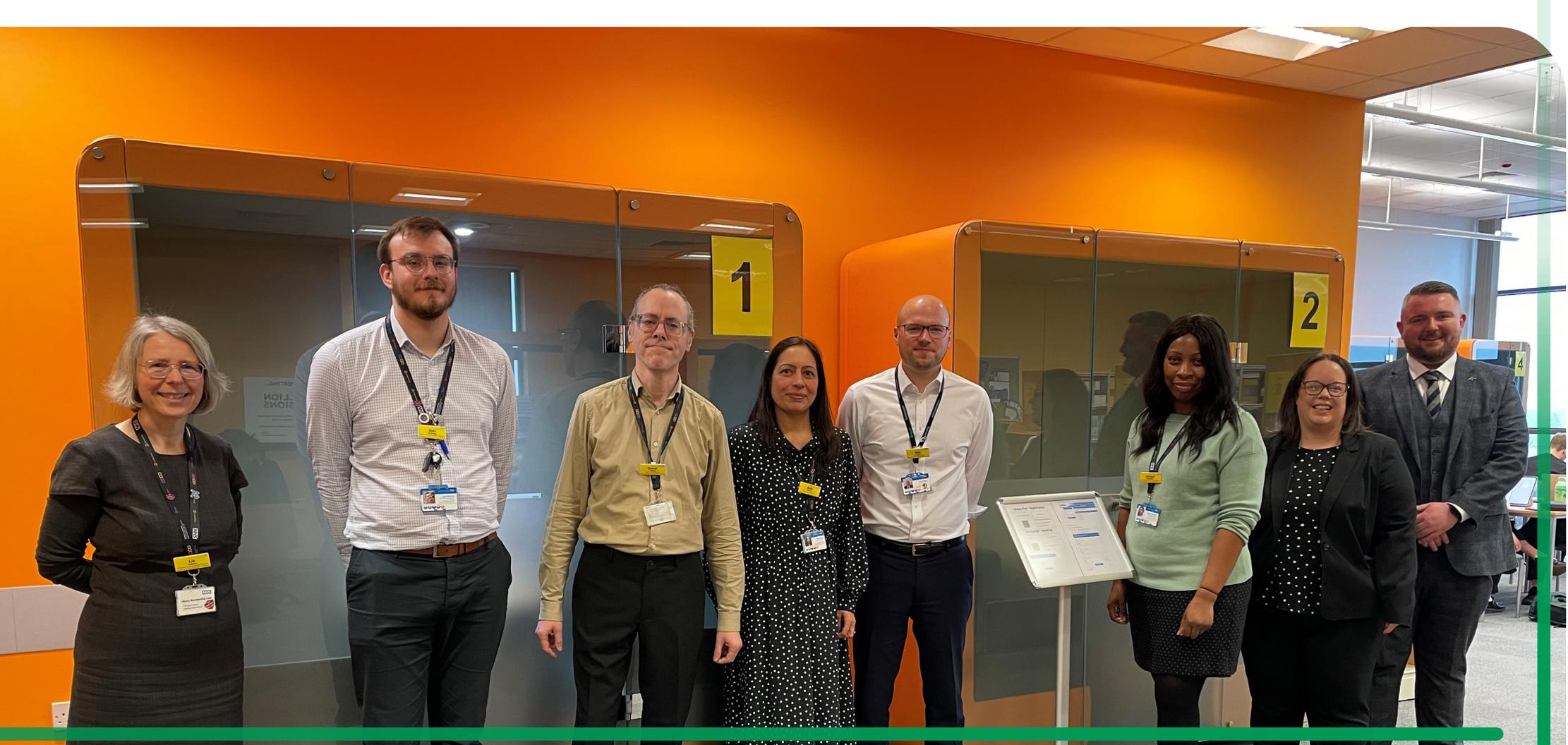


**“The Trust places great importance on supporting staff with their academic studies in healthcare, and these are an excellent addition to the environment for colleagues to study in.**

**From computer access to open tables and now booths and study pods, these are all to help meet colleagues’ educational and study needs. It is also particularly important for colleagues who may be neurodivergent or have other needs that benefit from studying in a quiet and private space.”**

**Ned Hobbs**

Chief Operating Officer and  
Deputy Chief Executive



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**T** +44 (0)121 783 3838

**E** sales@dalen.co.uk

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