

+ Healthcare



Barnsley Hospice

Case Study

Location

Barnsley, UK

Date

April 2025

Project

Osborne Technologies' Aurora
immersive room for dementia
and palliative care

Product

Immersive room





About Barnsley Hospice

Barnsley Hospice is a charity providing specialist palliative and end-of-life care to local people living with a life-limiting illness, as well as supporting those close to them. The hospice's team works with compassion and dedication to ensure high-quality care for every individual. As Ward Manager, Melanie Butcher oversees day-to-day operations, focusing on excellent patient care and effective team coordination.

The opportunity

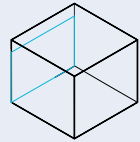
The idea for an immersive space first emerged during Dementia Week, where staff encountered Osborne Technologies through its touring sensory van. Conversations with the team helped the hospice identify a meaningful gap in patient care, especially for those who are bedbound or dealing with cognitive conditions such as dementia. The hospice envisioned a space where patients could experience one last cherished moment, whether it was a relaxing holiday memory, a favourite garden, or simply a calming escape from the clinical environment.

The process

Having maintained a long-standing relationship with Osborne Technologies, and with both organisations being based in Barnsley, the partnership felt natural. Once the concept was clear and the room measured, the Aurora team swiftly delivered a one-wall immersive solution.

The process from consultation to installation was seamless. Despite the presence of large equipment, such as a hoist, the immersive system was integrated subtly into the hospice surroundings. Staff also received immediate and effective training, enabling them to begin using the room confidently and intuitively straight away.

The solution



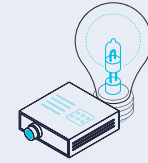
One wall
of projection



One
projector



Audio
system



Dynamic
lighting

The immersive room has become a valued asset within the hospice. It features high-quality projection and audio, creating versatile environments that support both patient and staff well-being. Patients have been virtually transported to cherished places, from swimming with dolphins and rollercoaster rides to peaceful walks through botanical gardens.

“A gentleman with Alzheimer’s came in quite confused and unsettled due to being in and out of hospital... The calming scenes from flowers really grounded him as gardening is something he loved doing at home.” Melanie Butcher, Ward Manager

In addition to patient care, staff members have used the immersive room for stress relief and personal well-being, further demonstrating its flexibility and value.

The results

The Aurora immersive room is enriching the lives of both patients and carers. For those with limited mobility or in distress, the room offers a calming sanctuary or a final meaningful experience. It supports patient engagement, improves emotional well-being, and helps staff provide more personalised care.

“We’re so grateful for our relationship with Aurora. The installation was turned around so quickly and seamlessly. Not only is the projection impressive, but the audio system really enhances the experience too. It sounds so good!” Melanie Butcher, Ward Manager

“This upgrade will absolutely enhance the experience of our patients and those close to them. At Barnsley Hospice, we are all about person-centred care, and this will go such a long way in helping us to deliver this.” Rebecca Lambert, Head of Clinical Services and Quality Matron

“It has really touched me as to how amazing Room 5 now is and the impact it will have for the hundreds upon hundreds of patients and their loved ones.” Simon Atkinson, Corporate Partnership Manager

“We would absolutely recommend Aurora to others, especially those in the healthcare industry. There will be many care providers who haven’t even considered sensory and immersive technology, and they really should.”

Melanie Butcher, Ward Manager

Here are just some of the ways care providers are using the immersive room to enhance healthcare:



Fulfilling final wishes

Patients have revisited their favourite holiday destinations, experienced cherished memories, and even enjoyed thrilling experiences like virtual rollercoaster rides, all from the comfort of their bed.



Supporting dementia care

Tailored scenes, such as tranquil gardens or familiar routines, can ignite memories and reduce confusion and agitation in patients with dementia, encouraging conversation and emotional connection.



Creating calm environments

The room offers a quiet, controlled setting that helps alleviate anxiety and overstimulation, ideal for patients who are unsettled or nearing end-of-life.



Staff well-being and resilience

The immersive room also supports healthcare workers, offering a retreat for stress relief and mental recovery during challenging shifts.

“We had a lady who wanted to visit her favourite holiday destinations of Tenerife and Turkey. So, we sat her in the chair and took her there. She also enjoyed a rollercoaster ride at Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida.”

Melanie Butcher,
Ward Manager





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