

POLYFLOR CASE STUDY

Harpenden Springs

For this BREEAM 'Excellent'-accredited healthcare facility, every aspect of its specification had to meet standards beyond design aesthetics. Thanks in part to a varied selection of inviting Polyflor products, it exceeded requirements while offering residents a pleasant, home-like environment.

Location: Hertfordshire, UK

Products Used: Architex PUR, Colonia PUR, Expona Commercial PUR, Expona Control PUR, Expona Design PUR, Polysafe Stone fx PUR, Polysafe Ultima & Secura PUR

Sector: Health & Care

Harpenden Springs is a modern, sustainability-focused care home, set amidst lush countryside in the scenic town of Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Opened in March 2026, this 75-bedroom en-suite accommodation facility is managed by Oakland Care, an operator of several sites across Southeast England.

Their dedicated team delivers specialist care that covers residential, nursing, dementia, and respite.

Residents enjoy a range of amenities including a hair salon, activity room, library, quiet lounges, and a multi-function central courtyard.

Jacqueline Farguson, Design Manager for Oakland Care, undertook all interior design responsibilities, working closely with Richard Dooley, Director of Development, as well as the architect, the building contractor, craftspeople, and suppliers.

She also developed a project design brief inspired by nature and the surrounding area. At its heart was a joyful, uplifting colour palette that created a homely, welcoming environment in which residents would feel at ease.

The safety of residents, staff, and visitors at Harpenden Springs was paramount. With an interior design career spanning over two decades, Farguson was familiar with the benefits of Polyflor flooring and was always reassured that it would balance safety with visual appeal.

"The excellent range of products and the beautiful designs available offered great choice when designing the different facilities within the care home," she commented.

The primary flooring collection within Harpenden Springs is Expona Commercial PUR, which was specified as follows within key common areas:

- French Vanilla Oak Parquet (4122) – Reception Waiting Area & Café/Bistro
- Oiled Oak Versailles (4129) – Second Dining Room
- Rusted Metal (5098) – Cinema/Activity Room/Resident Activity Suite
- Wilder Oak (4133) – Hair Salon/Barber & Dining Room



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Elsewhere, a further assortment of Polyflor collections was effectively utilised, including Polysafe Ultima in the kitchen, Expona Design PUR in the physiotherapy suite, and Colonia PUR in the staff room.

TW Contract Flooring, based in nearby Hitchin, completed the substantial flooring installation.

Oakland Care has a longstanding, proven commitment to sustainable construction. Each of their new-build properties has been certified to BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method), an internationally recognised evaluation of a building's environmental impact across 51 criteria.



Harpenden Springs achieved a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating (74.8%), with the sustainability credentials of Polyflor products contributing towards this impressive accolade.

In line with this accomplishment, the care home boasts many positive environmental features, including the installation of 12 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points and protected wildlife garden areas. It is also carbon-neutral, using 100% renewable electricity, thanks to 125 solar panels and air-source heat pumps.

In recognition of the collective efforts on this project, Harpenden Springs was awarded Residential Project of the Year at the Herts & Beds Constructing Excellence Awards 2026.

The award recognised the care home for its demonstration of excellence in residential design, construction, and delivery, as well as its commitment to delivering exceptional outcomes for the local community.

Harpenden Springs continues to welcome new residents who value the comfort and high levels of service provided at this forward-thinking care home.

> "The feedback on the entire development has been amazing, and the flooring selections have been an important part of the canvas on which all the other design elements sit, figuratively and literally."
>
> **Jacqueline Farguson, Design Manager, Oakland Care**

