

Hainault Maternity Hospital, 1920-1974

Early in 1919 the Erith Urban District Council decided to combine the school-medical and child welfare services in one centre.

For this purpose it acquired a large Victorian house called 'Hainault' with two acres of land in Lesney Park Road. It cost £1800. The hospital was opened in 1920 with three wards, six beds with three of them in the maternity ward. The staff included two midwives, a ward maid, a cook and a caretaker. There was an infant welfare centre, antenatal, dental and school clinics. The coach house and stables were fitted up as an operating theatre. By 1921 there were 82 patients.

The Second World War did not close the hospital, though it was definitely in a danger zone. June 1944, a flying bomb nearby caused considerable damage but the only injury was to a baby in its small cot. Between the wars the number of patients averaged less than 150. After the war the number of beds was increased in 1945 to 22 beds and 24 in 1956 with 472 inpatients and 324 outpatients being treated. In 1965 a unit accommodation was provided of two first-stage rooms together with a bathroom, toilet and sterilising room.

The hospital was closed in 1974.