

DIY SOS: Treetops Hospice

A VRV unit for a children's counselling centre, as part of BBC Children in Need's Big Build

When the DIY SOS team approached Daikin to discuss a project for Treetops Hospice, we knew it was something we wanted to be involved in.

The DIY SOS team were working on a special collaboration build in aid of BBC Children in Need in Risley, Derbyshire. The amazing project involved building a purpose-built facility to deliver support and counselling for children and young people who have experienced traumatic bereavement.

Treetops is an adult hospice in Derbyshire for people with life-limiting illnesses, those who've been bereaved, and their families. They also provide support and counselling services to children and young people facing traumatic bereavement who are going through an unimaginably tough time.

The hospice did already have rooms for counselling, but they weren't very child-friendly. Understandably, they wanted to create a welcoming space where children coming for counselling would instantly feel at ease.

DIY SOS was looking for a donation of a heating and cooling solution for the building to ensure the comfort and well-being of the users of the counselling centre. Daikin UK's James Oates, was initially approached by the team to help them out:

"Treetops is an amazing charity that addresses such an important issue. When I was growing up, I had

close friends who lost their parents, and at that time the available support was very limited."

"When I was asked if Daikin would supply a VRV to the project, I instinctively knew that this was something that we should support. Everyone I spoke to at Daikin agreed, and I'm so proud that we are playing our part in helping children come to terms with the loss of a parent."

The build was especially tricky because the team were building a new structure from scratch in a field within the hospice grounds. The rain poured, and the hundreds of vans on site were getting stuck in the mud. But, as Gabrielle Blackman, DIY SOS presenter says, "a DIY SOS building site is like no other! We are one big family, and you really feel that when you are working on it."

Local company, The Mansfield Cooling Company, stepped forward to donate their time, skills and resources to install the Daikin VRV system. "When we were presented with this opportunity, there was no hesitation from any of the team. It was a unanimous and resounding YES!" says Mark Leivers, Director. "We felt that we had something to offer and were in a great position to be able to play our part. You'd be hard-pushed to watch an episode of DIY SOS and not be moved by the help they provide to people, families and projects who really, really need it."

Year of installation

> 2023

Project requirements

- ☒ Air conditioning
- ☐ Air curtain
- ☐ Air purification
- ☒ Control
- ☐ Heating
- ☐ Hot water
- ☐ Refrigeration
- ☐ Ventilation

Installed systems

> VRV IV+





The fact that Daikin UK was prepared to provide the equipment was overwhelming," says Mark. "The whole project is a massive team effort. It has been a brilliant once-in-a-lifetime experience, which we all feel so fortunate to have been involved with."

The installation involved a Daikin VRV IV+ system for the new counselling centre, offering customised comfort, intelligent control and increased energy efficiency.

By delivering simultaneous cooling and heating, the system guarantees a comfortable climate for the visitors of the centre. And the ability to control each conditioned zone individually keeps the system running costs to an absolute minimum; an essential factor for the charity.

The purpose-built children's counselling and therapy centre includes three counselling rooms, a main multi-purpose space, a complementary therapy room, and a quiet space for counsellors to have more sensitive conversations with families. Two wall-mounted units were installed in the activity room, and one in each of the other rooms, ensuring efficient air and temperature distribution throughout the rooms. The whisper-quiet operation was a key consideration here, with top priority given to creating a quiet, calm and comfortable space.

As Daikin's VRV system has been specifically designed for simple installation, thanks to the skills of The Mansfield Cooling Company, the complete install was completed in a few long days.

Bereavement counselling is a critical service, and Treetops Hospice excels at providing this support specifically for children who are facing a traumatic bereavement. Before this project took place, Treetops was delivering this support in a building that was a bit too clinical for children.



They now have a welcoming counselling centre where children will be able to come and feel comfortable and at ease. Thanks to the hard work and support of everyone involved, Treetops now have an incredibly special building, where they can continue to support local children for many more years to come.

"The thing that makes our builds work time after time, is the generosity of the tradespeople and companies that donate their time and resources to get us over the line. We literally couldn't do it without them volunteering their time," says Nick Knowles.

"Everyone pours their heart and soul into this build and wants to make it as special as possible for the children who will be using it for years to come."

Julie Heath, Chief Executive of Treetops Hospice was delighted with the outcome.

"Our heartfelt thanks go to DIY SOS, BBC Children in Need, and all the tradespeople and volunteers who helped build us this beautiful children's counselling and therapy centre. Your support and kindness has been truly overwhelming and you have built a lasting legacy for local bereaved children and young people.

It's incredible to see what was achieved in such a short space of time and it's really beyond anything we could have imagined.

Everything from the décor to the furnishings is just beautiful and it fits perfectly into the landscape here on site in Risley.

Thank you, everyone, for giving us the best birthday gift during our 40th anniversary year."

Kit list

Code	Description	No of units
REYQ-U	VRV IV+	1
FXAQ-A	Wall-mounted unit	7
BRC1H52W	Remote controller (white)	7