

## Creating A Warmer Welcome For Veterans



Acting as a stable social hub to learn new skills, receive support and advice, Veterans' Garage is a unique project providing support to military veterans across the North West. Bringing ex-servicemen and the local community together, Veterans' Garage has been conceived as both a PTSD support centre and a venue for fundraising and awareness for both veterans and local causes.

Veterans Garage occupies the second floor of a building at City Airport & Heliport, Manchester. Donated to the charity, the building is a modular steel frame structure, with portacabin units that are insulated and double glazed, but still needed considerable work to meet the functional needs of the centre, not least heating throughout. With the location supported by an electric-only connection, Veterans' Garage co-founder David Redshaw turned to electric heating experts Dimplex for help.

The Glen Dimplex Heating Applications Design Department reviewed the needs and modelled a response to ensure the property remained comfortably warm through the colder months.

Customer Profile:  
Veterans' Garage

Location:  
City Airport, Manchester

Sector:  
Charity

Products:  
PLXE





**“The heaters have made a massive difference already, the centre is warm, working and functional” David Redshaw, co-founder, Veterans’ Garage**

With 13 areas to be heated, including reception, lounge, office, consultation rooms, classroom, toilets and corridors, all of different sizes and configurations, the team was able to specify for all the required heating needs from the Dimplex PLXE range of electrical panel heaters.

Dimplex’s PLXE is the latest generation of installed electric panel heaters. The range of seven different models, which are all EcoDesign compliant, offers a choice of smart, space-saving and efficient electric heating appliances for domestic and commercial projects.

PLXE heaters include electronic thermostat control providing stable, accurate room temperature and the versatility of an integral 7-day timer. A range of user configurable timer modes and continuous heat modes are available to make things as easy as possible when it comes to managing warmth throughout the centre. The heaters feature predictive technology that learn the thermal properties of the room over time, allowing them to turn on at exactly the right time to achieve desired temperatures. They also recognise if a window is left open and will shut off automatically to prevent wasted energy.

In all, 22 appliances that encompassed most of the range were specified and donated to the charity for installation according to the heating plan. A PLX050E and PLX125E were used for the corridors and the rooms took an even split of PLX150E and PLX200. As all PLXE heaters are splash proof, they also made a good choice for the toilets. The slim-line design will also cover most traditional panel heater fixing marks, so they are perfect for refurbishment work such as was needed throughout the Veterans’ Garage project.

David Redshaw comments, “It’s better than we ever expected electrical heaters could be. The site, being on the airfield, is really open to the el-

ements. The wind has even blown open the fire door! But the heaters have made a massive difference already, the centre is warm, working and functional”

To meet the official May opening, the Veterans’ Garage team had to work through the winter, weathering the Beast from the East when the pipework was being fitted out. “That was a real concern,” says David, “We didn’t want to suffer any burst pipes, but the installation of the Dimplex heaters meant the building was very warm, despite the extreme temperatures outside. So much so, that we started to turn the thermostats down in early March!”

As well as the social function of the centre, there are a number of therapy and consultation rooms. Because Veterans’ Garage is a non-clinical environment, it’s easier for those using the facilities to open up and talk, especially with outside resources such as the NHS who now come to the centre to support those with PTSD. The rooms also provide an important role with solicitors visiting to help with legal advice. It’s an unfortunate by-product of PTSD that marriages can break up, so there is a real need for support and advice. This can range from agreeing on visitation rights with children through to advising those veterans who find themselves homeless about how to go about getting a roof back over their head.

“The Veterans’ Garage is there to keep the lads going, and we want to be self-sufficient with a café, bar and shop in place to help generate income to support the project,” says David. “All these spaces, from the consultation rooms to the café are critical and they have been made functional by the heating provided by Dimplex.”

Visit: <http://veteransgarage.co.uk/>

Dimplex is the market leader in electric heating appliances and systems. The extensive Dimplex product range spans domestic and commercial heating products, award-winning electric fires and surrounds and one of the widest ranges of renewables solutions available from a single manufacturer in the UK - all supported by unrivalled customer service and aftercare support.



## PLXE electric panel heaters

### Key Features

- Electronic thermostat control to +/-0.2°C
- Integral 7-day timer
- Touch sensitive controls
- Open window detection
- Adaptive start
- Standard timer modes (Out All Day, Home All Day, Holiday)
- Frost Protect and Eco settings
- Covers most traditional panel heater fixing marks

### Specifications

#### PLX0.50E

- H430mm x W430mm x D108mm
- Weight 4.6kg
- Output 0.5kW

#### PLX125E

- H430mm x W690mm x D108mm
- Weight 1kg
- Output 1.25kW

#### PLX150E

- H430mm x W690mm x D108mm
- weight 6.1kg
- Output 1.5kW

#### PLX200E

- H430mm x W860mm x D143mm
- Installed weight 7.8kg
- Output 2.0kW