

Progress update on the new Maternity Hospital and the new Children's Hospital projects – for Trust Board (Public)

9 January 2025 – 9am

Trust Headquarters Meeting Room, NCS Building

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Following the verbal update to December Trust Board and the subsequent Assembly Health Committee, this paper provides a public update to Trust Board on the ongoing works on the water systems within the new Maternity Hospital. The paper also provides an update on progress on the new Children's Hospital. The paper is for information only.

2.0 NEW MATERNITY HOSPITAL UPDATE

2.1 PROGRESS

The Trust received an interim report through DLS from the independent expert (Hydrop) on 22 November 2024 on the water safety issues within the new Maternity Hospital. The interim report provided an update on the latest sampling results, which showed that the number of outlets with pseudomonas aeruginosa (PSA) detected had reduced by approximately 50% when compared to the previous samples undertaken by the Trust. The interim report also contained a number of recommendations for actions to be undertaken by the Trust.

The recommendations made by Hydrop have generally been implemented on site, including revisions to the flushing regime and the dosing of the water systems within the building. The Trust now plan to continue to monitor the revised flushing regime on site in the coming weeks. Once the team are satisfied that suitable dosing is reaching all areas of the cold water system, targeted sampling of areas previously identified as contaminated will be undertaken. This will not involve full sampling of the building at this stage.

Concurrent with this monitoring of the water systems, it is proposed that the project team will meet with clinical teams and other Trust experts to review risk assessments for the new Maternity building. This will be with a view to determining criteria for acceptance of systems and areas of care in advance of completion of the recommended flushing regime.

On completion of the flushing phase, a further review will be undertaken with the independent expert, a number of Trust clinical teams and subject matter experts to assess

whether assurance can be provided that the building is safe to occupy with some minor remediation works to the engineering systems, or whether more extensive remediation will be required. Dependent on the outcomes of this review, the options moving forward towards occupation of the building will be as previously reported to Trust Board in December and to the Assembly Health Committee.

At this stage as the Trust do not yet know the extent of remediation works required, the Trust are not yet in a position to confirm the cost or programme implications.

2.2 OUTSTANDING DEFECTS

Bi-weekly meetings are taking place to review progress on outstanding defects on the building. While these have been subject to intense media scrutiny in recent times, the consultant design team, Trust Estates and Capital Redevelopment remain satisfied that they are being managed in accordance with normal contractual procedures. They are also satisfied that the only issue on the critical path for the building is the water safety, and all other defects should be rectified without having an impact on the opening of the building.

We would again highlight that the timing of the rectification works for some defects remains under review pending the outcome of the water safety issues. Where appropriate, it may be beneficial to undertake some works such as the replacement of the medical gas pipework concurrent with works to the water systems to avoid nugatory works and costs.

3.0 NEW CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL UPDATE

3.1 PROGRESS

On 5 July 2024 the Trust received approval of the Full Business case for the new Children's Hospital project with an approved capital expenditure of £615,674,675.

The Trust are currently working with the contractor to put in place final arrangements for the start on site of the new building work. It is anticipated that the contract for the new building will be awarded in January 2025, with construction commencing on site two weeks thereafter. This two week period is required under health and safety legislation.