

**TRUST BOARD
SUBMISSION TEMPLATE**

MEETING	Trust Board – Public	Ref No. 7. 4
DIRECTOR	Finance, Estates and Capital Development	Date 2 Sept 2021
Modernisation of School of Dentistry facilities in response to Covid-19		
Purpose	• <i>Capital scheme > £1million requiring approval at Trust Board</i> • <i>Ring-fenced Covid-19 capital funding to be provided by Department of Health</i> The introduction of public health control measures led to severe curtailment of the delivery of dental health services. Due to ongoing risk of transmission of Covid 19 from dental treatments that generate aerosols (aerosol generating procedures or AGPs), the number and range of treatments that can be safely delivered within the existing Belfast Trust infrastructure, remains significantly reduced. The building and infrastructure does not meet the requirements for the delivery of dentistry within single rooms nor does it have the air changes per hour to reduce fallow time from the maximum suggested by PHE for these types of procedures. Historically, the polyclinic layout maximised the volumes of patients and treatments that could be delivered by students and dentists and facilitated ease of supervision. Polyclinics are not suitable at all for undertaking AGPs and there is a 70% reduction in the capacity to deliver this type of dentistry due to the current building infrastructure. The dental team has explored new ways of working and have supplemented the service by using a 'slower' drill at under 60,000 revolutions per minute after research within the last year supported its use to be categorised as non- AGP. The use of high flow suction and a rubber dam is also used for mitigation purposes. This has limitations and has only been able to increase activity levels to 50% of those delivered pre-covid. Like many clinical areas there has had a detrimental impact on waiting times and increasing the requirement for antibiotic usage for the patients awaiting treatment. Pre Covid such practice was noted as least favourable option and not in-line with best practice. Covid and the dental building infrastructure has majorly impacted upon the delivery of the undergraduate dental degree which the Trust is funded via SUMDE to deliver. The Trust has been working very closely with QUB, the Acting CDO/DELG and HSCB dental advisors and have been successful in securing funding from the DoH to refurbishment areas within the School of Dentistry to deliver under graduate, post-graduate and hospital/community NHS dentistry. Nevertheless, a proportion of final dental students will not been assessed at 'safe beginner status' as required by the General Dental Council even with the extension of the academic year to end July 2021. The Trust will need to facilitate one and a half final year cohorts until December 2021.	

	While some risk mitigation has been possible, aerosol dispersal continues to impact the ability to deliver services without correct ventilation and room air changes and hence impacting on fallow time. Proposal is two phased: 1. To reconfigure existing spaces to optimise the use of single-chair surgeries to increase capacity for AGPs within School of Dentistry 2. To refurbish an entire floor and install air handling unit on the roof to facilitate required air changes and single room chair capacity for the management of patients requiring AGPs
Corporate Objective	Safety, Quality & Experience – Risk mitigation for patients and staff, compliance with Public Health England COVID-19: Guidance for maintaining services within health and care settings (2021) and COVID-19: Infection Prevention Control Dental Appendix (2021) and BHSCIT Infection Control guidance. Service Delivery - Delivery of the Under Graduate dentistry degree and NHS Specialty training programme. Increased numbers and variety of procedures to meet demand. People and Culture- The undergraduate dental degree is delivered solely by QUB for Northern Ireland via the Belfast Trust. Inability to deliver the programme will have a major impact on the dentistry workforce of the future in a time when dental health is so important. The degree programme feeds into national recruitment of specialty training programmes and there is already evidence of a national deficit for post graduate training. Strategy and Partnership- The dental team within the Belfast Trust work collaboratively with QUB, HSCB, DoH and NIMDTA. Consultation and regional approval has been sought and granted to support this bid. Resources – The Trust is allocated £5.1 million SUMDE funding to facilitate delivery of the under graduate dental degree. Ability to provide adequate safe facilities is part of service level agreement.
Key areas for consideration	Approval is sought to proceed with the two-phase approach to the refurbishment. Approval is sought to proceed with the funding model below and the intention to re-profile unspent allocation from this ring-fenced project to other Covid requirements in year and subsequently allocate the remainder Capital required in 2021/22. Cost Assumptions: valid at 25.6.21 The phase 1 -£159,117 Phase 2 - £750,000 Dental Chairs: 12 x £25,000 = £300,000 Total cost: £1,209,117 Allocation is £1,050,000 Deficit due to real time costings rather than assumptions: £159,117 Projected spend 2021/22 - £739,117 Funding required 2022/23 - £470,000
Recommendations	For approval