

Ulster Hospital – Inpatient Ward Block

Enhancing lives, revolutionising care

£85m

/ Project value

June 2013

/ The build commenced

December 2016

/ The duration

Honoured as the overall winner at the Construction Excellence Awards 2017, the GRAHAM-BAM Healthcare Partnership's Inpatient Ward Block at the Ulster Hospital has set the standard in healthcare construction. Designed to exceed the highest building and infection control requirements and incorporating input from over 200 user groups, the state-of-the-art £85 million Inpatient Ward Block is dramatically enriching the working environment of dedicated staff while enhancing the lives of patients on a daily basis. In addition, the Partnership is constructing the Hospital's new £95m Acute Services Block adjacent to the Inpatient Ward Block.

The Brief

Transforming patient care for the 21st Century, the modern, innovative Inpatient Ward Block heralds the first major landmark in the Ulster Hospital's ambitious £261 million Phase B redevelopment programme. A core component of a four-year Framework at the Ulster Hospital, this 30,000m² world-class healthcare facility was successfully delivered within budget over the course of a 38-month construction programme by the trusted GRAHAM-BAM Healthcare Partnership.



"This new Inpatient Ward Block is a major landmark in the continued development of the Ulster Hospital and will provide our staff with fit for purpose, modern facilities in which to provide exemplary care to our patients"

Hugh McCaughey
Chief Executive, South Eastern Health and Social
Care Trust

“The new £85m Inpatient Ward Block at Ulster Hospital has been exceptionally well delivered by the GRAHAM-BAM Healthcare Partnership. All the characteristics of professional construction management have been demonstrated throughout, which has resulted in the creation of a world-class healthcare facility”

commented the Judges from the Construction Excellence Awards 2017

The Challenges

With construction work undertaken amidst a busy acute hospital complex and adjacent to ward blocks, theatres, ambulatory passages, staff, patient and public access routes it was imperative that the Hospital's daily operations were not negatively impacted. To offset any potential challenges associated with this critical live environment, Aspergillus control and comprehensive Traffic Management and Disruption Management Plans were implemented. A Community Liaison Officer was also appointed to orchestrate communication and engagement with the client and the respective medical teams.

GRAHAM's added value solution

Constructed to an unrivalled standard, work on the £85 million project began in June 2013 before opening its doors to widespread acclaim in April 2017. The seven storey spacious building, designed to maximise natural light, features a procedural area on the ground floor and four floors of 288 ensuite bedrooms within 12 inpatient wards. The transformative new build, which received a Gold Award from the Considerate Constructors Scheme, and is BREEAM 'excellent', replaced a stagnant ward built in the 1960s, and showcases innovation designed to enhance the lives of patients. Low level lighting that is red at night to encourage sleep before gradually turning blue to assist patients waking up naturally in the morning is just a small snapshot of our revolutionary approach. A commitment to robust collaboration between GRAHAM-BAM, the client, user-groups, the design team and subcontractors ultimately ensured the final build is the benchmark for future healthcare projects.

Outputs & Benefits

- / **Award Winning:** Overall winner at the Construction Excellence Awards 2017
- / **Considerate Contractor:** Gold Award with Considerate Constructors Scheme
- / **Project Management:** The project was successfully delivered within budget
- / **Innovation:** All bedrooms have been provided with innovative 'out of bed' sensors and lighting
- / **Health and Safety Focus:** No major injuries or occupational health issues occurred during the 38-month contract
- / **Opportunities for Training and Development:** 828 person weeks over the life of the contract for unemployed and 14 student placements established



For more information on how we're delivering lasting impact:

+44 (0) 28 9268 9500

info@graham.co.uk

graham.co.uk

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