



Trust Board Briefing Paper

From: Owen Harkin, Director of Finance

To: Trust Board

Date: 07th June 2021

Subject: Whiteabbey Area Hospital Low Voltage Infrastructure Works.

Action Required: Presentation of Business Case to gain approval from Trust Board

Background:

Whiteabbey Area Hospital is located off the Doagh Road, close to the village of Whiteabbey, within the town of Newtownabbey. Whiteabbey Area Hospital offers a range of acute and sub-acute hospital services and is fundamental in the delivery of patient care within the NHSCT.

There are a number of key departments which operate within Whiteabbey Area Hospital, Theatres and Day Surgery, Endoscopy Services, Outpatient Physiotherapy, Dermatology Unit, Midwifery, Cardio Rehab, Gynecology, Specialist Nurses offices, Outpatients and X-Ray.

Whiteabbey Area Hospital recently had a significant financial investment from the Department of Health in Refurbishing the New Ward Block, Ward 9 which provided a further 100 clinical beds, part of this investment was upgrading and modernizing key site Infrastructure.

The electrical infrastructure in Whiteabbey Area Hospital was originally installed in the 1970's and is not compliant with current standards within HTM-06-01 and BS7671. The current main Low Voltage (LV) switchboard for the site has a number of defects which leave the LV electrical infrastructure vulnerable to electrical power distribution within the site thus affecting patient care, safety and business continuity of the site.

The aim of this project is to connect the site LV electrical infrastructure to the new LV switchboard thus minimising the risk of electrical distribution within the site and improving compliance with HTM-06-01 and BS7671. This project will also improve the site resilience which in turn ensures business continuity is maintained within Whiteabbey Area Hospital, this project will also allow for expansion of the LV electrical infrastructure within Whiteabbey Area Hospital Site.

Benefits:

This project is required to ensure the safety and business continuity for all service users and staff within Whiteabbey Area Hospital Site.

The Trust has a duty of care to provide suitable environmental conditions for service users on a 24/7 basis. Any failure to do so would place patients, staff and all other users at risk and could lead to litigation and negative media coverage.

The Trust has a statutory obligation and a duty of care to meet the requirements within HTM 06-01 “ Electrical Services Supply and Distribution” and BS7671 2 “ The Institution of Engineering & Technology Wiring Regulations”. Any failure to do so could have serious implications to the safety of all service users and staff within, Whiteabbey Hospital.

Total Capital
Cost

£495,000.00

Affordability:

Capital funding of £495k will be sourced from the NHSCT’s 2021/22 CRL.

Risks:

There is a low impact risk associated with implementing a scheme of this nature. The project will be carefully project managed to minimise the impact on business continuity and compliance with statutory standards. The Project Manager will liaise closely with Capital Development to ensure any cost / programme risks are communicated in a timely manner.

Conclusion

Implementing this scheme will remove current risks and maintenance issues with the existing low voltage electrical infrastructure and add further resilience to the site.