

Belfast Maternity Unit, Royal Victoria Hospital

# Building the future of modern maternity care

**£95m**

/ Project value

**November 2017**

/ The build commenced

**March 2024**

/ The build completed

Delivered by the GRAHAM-BAM Healthcare Partnership, the new five-storey maternity unit boasts modern amenities and innovative design features aimed at providing a welcoming and uplifting environment. With en-suite rooms equipped with birthing pools, delivery suites, obstetric theatres, and a neonatal intensive care unit, the facility ensures comprehensive care for mothers and babies.

## The brief

To meet the growing maternity demands of its patients, the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust required a state-of-the-art maternity unit that would replace the existing aging and cramped accommodation.



**“The building delivers clinical services, including an Early Pregnancy Unit, Midwifery Led Unit, Delivery Ward, supporting Theatres, Maternity Ward, and Neonatal Intensive Care.”**

Peter Reavey  
Regional Director for Building at GRAHAM

"Belfast Health and Social Care Trust is delighted that the handover of the new maternity hospital from contractors, GRAHAM-BAM, has taken place. This is a significant step in delivering a new modern facility which will provide a high standard of care for our mothers and their new babies. Our sincere thanks go to GRAHAM-BAM Healthcare Partnership, and of course our own staff."

Maureen Edwards  
Director of Finance, Estates & Capital Development  
at Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

### The challenges

The project faced several challenges over the course of its construction programme, primarily due to its location within a live hospital environment. Construction was carefully planned and coordinated to avoid disrupting the hospital's critical services. One notable challenge was the proximity of the helipad on the roof of the adjacent critical care unit. Due to the location and use of two tower cranes on site, ongoing communication with the Trust ensured that helicopter landings and take offs were not disturbed at any point.

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic posed an unprecedented challenge. Construction was temporarily halted for four weeks due to Government restrictions. However, we implemented a robust COVID-19 site mobilisation plan, which allowed work to resume safely.

### The solution

A three-phased approach was adopted to ensure construction activities didn't disrupt ongoing hospital operations. Our proactive problem solving and collaboration with the Trust and other stakeholders were crucial in navigating the complexities of working within a live hospital environment.

### Outputs & Benefits

- / **Thoughtfulness in design:** Mother, baby and supporting family members were placed at the centre of the design approach, carefully considering each stage of the maternal pathway
- / **Economic benefits:** We negotiated further works to be completed beyond the original scope, saving the Trust financially
- / **Future-proofed:** Resilience and sustainability were built in to deliver improved health outcomes for future generations
- / **Trusted by the Trust:** In addition to the Maternity Unit, we also completed the new £30m Acute Mental Health Inpatient Centre at Belfast City Hospital



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