**Expansion of theatre capacity at Bolton NHS Foundation Trust**

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust has been successful with its bid for £19.6 million funding to significantly increase its theatre capacity.

The funding will be used to build four modular theatres, as well as the creation of a bespoke day case paediatrics theatre hub by refurbishing Royal Bolton Hospital’s existing day case theatres.

The theatres will provide enhanced capacity for both Bolton and Greater Manchester and help to drive down waiting lists. [Work has already begun on two of the new modular theatres](https://www.boltonft.nhs.uk/news/2022/08/state-of-the-art-theatres-being-built-at-royal-bolton-hospital/) and integrated ward, with the two additional day case theatres to be built on top of these. The four new modular theatres should be open and ready for use this summer, with the bespoke paediatric hub planned to be operational by early 2024.

The four ultra-modern theatres have been designed to work flexibly and adapt for inpatient and day case adult patients, including ear nose and throat, oral, urology and general specialities.

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust will be staffing the new theatres in part through its theatre academy project, in collaboration with the University of Bolton, with eight apprentice operating department practitioners and three trainee anaesthetic nurse practitioners already undertaking their training within the Trust.

Four more trainee anaesthetic nurse practitioners and four more apprentice operating department practitioners will qualify in September. Other opportunities to join the theatres team will be announced in the new year.

The latest investment into healthcare in Bolton comes [following work beginning on the Bolton College of Medical Sciences (BCMS) in October 2022](https://www.boltonft.nhs.uk/news/2022/10/work-begins-on-medical-training-facility-at-royal-bolton-hospital/). A collaborative project between the University of Bolton, Bolton College, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, and Bolton Council, BCMS will give people a direct route into clinical healthcare employment, with a focus on practical, skills-based learning in a live hospital environment.