

## Case Study: Paediatric Children's Ward

**Description:** Renovation of Child care wards at Trafford General Hospital

**ThermaSkirt Profile:** Deco PR & Urban LT Vintage Ivory

**Client:** Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust



Before



ThermaSkirt provides the heating and skirting in one – here seen integrated into the vinyl flooring for total ease of cleaning.

### The Challenge:

Lead Microbiologist Dr Barzo Faris is tasked with eliminating C.Difficile & MRSA from Trafford General, and has achieved the remarkable landmark of over 1,000 days without a single incidence. This has been achieved by a rigorous cleaning regime and scrutiny of all previous sources of infection. The last remaining source of HAIs' (Health Care Acquired Infection) was discovered to be the radiator system and the protective LST (low surface temperature) covers.

Designed to protect patients from scolds, the covers were in fact the perfect breeding ground for the spores, and the air convection currents radiators create the ideal mechanism for distributing infection around the wards. In addition there were reported incidences of collisions and falls onto the bulky metal covers, some of which had not been deep cleaned for many years due to the time taken to disassemble them and the obstructions they create whilst out of action. Dr Faris was determined to find an alternative to LST radiators for the planned renovation of the Paediatric Wards, and recalled seeing a promising alternative on television.

## The Solution:

As Seen on Dragons Den, ThermaSkirt is a radiant panel designed to replicate a skirting board trim, providing a gentle and energy efficient heat, all around the room at low level. By working closely with the manufacturer, DiscreteHeat from Manchester, the company was able to develop a version especially suited to the demands of a busy hospital.

Over a 2 week period, with extensive renovations and rebuilding taking place, over 30 ward and treatment rooms were fitted with ThermaSkirt, which was able to be integrated into the vinyl flooring. This gave a completely sealed heating system that could be mopped free of infection at the same time as the floor, ensuring minimal maintenance and cleaning costs and maximum patient care – for less than the cost of installing conventional LST Radiators.

The complete freedom of room layout as well as an improvement in comfort and a reduction in trip hazards, means that ThermaSkirt has been reviewed and accepted as a new and viable technology by NTAC (NHS Technology Adoption Centre in the battle against HAIs' and rising running costs.



More than 30 ward and treatment rooms were installed with ThermaSkirt giving greater freedom and flexibility of layout.

## The Result



***“We selected Discrete Heat’s system of heated alloy skirting for clinic rooms when developing the new children’s unit at Trafford General Hospital because we thought it would reduce infection risk. We are proud of our record on preventing healthcare-associated infections here in Trafford and are always looking for new products that can further cement it by reducing risk. The Discrete Heat system keeps the whole children’s unit at a comfortable temperature and it is easy to keep it clean because, unlike a radiator, there are no nooks and crannies where airborne particles can hide. The new system is also proving more efficient and my estate colleagues tell me that it is saving energy and running costs.”***

Dr Barzo Faris,

Infection Prevention & Control lead at Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust