

**7 March 2011****Communications Department**  
Tel: 01225 82 5849/5799/6230communication@ruh.nhs.uk  
www.ruh.nhs.uk**Media Release****Making sexual health accessible at the RUH**

The Mayor of Bath is visiting the Department of Sexual Health and HIV Medicine at the Royal United Hospital (on Wednesday 9 March) to hear how the team is making healthcare accessible to the young people of Bath and beyond. At the same time he'll be unveiling the new name of the clinic formerly known as Genito-Urinary Medicine.

Cllr. Shaun McGall says: "I'm pleased to be able to visit the Sexual Health Department at the RUH to highlight the importance of sexual health. There were almost half a million new cases of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the UK last year. Currently around 86,500 people are living with HIV in the UK, and every year around 7,000 more are diagnosed.

"I hope re-branding the department will be a great help in breaking down barriers as not everyone is comfortable with sexual matters. We need to ensure open access to local sexual health services which allow people to enjoy a healthy sex life."

The Department of Sexual Health and HIV Medicine was one of the first health providers in Bath and North East Somerset (BaNES) to achieve the You're Welcome quality standard recently, which recognises its commitment to making health services young people friendly.

Consultant Dr Kate Horn says: "We ensure that our services are accessible to young people by providing walk-in clinics, which need no appointment, although booked appointments are also available. We also offer late appointments, which fit in with the active lives of our young local population.

"The service we provide is entirely confidential and we make that very clear to anyone coming into the sexual health department. In the waiting room we have a huge banner which states our confidentiality promise - we're here to listen, not to tell.

"As a result of engaging local youth groups and young people who use our services, we've launched a new sexual health website - [www.ruh.nhs.uk/sexualhealth](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk/sexualhealth) - which includes a page specifically for young people and we've redesigned some of our literature, based on their feedback, to make it more upbeat and young person friendly.

"We are delighted that our efforts to ensure that young people receive the best possible healthcare in a way that is accessible and meaningful to them, has been recognised by the You're Welcome quality standard and we are looking forward to meeting the Mayor of Bath and talking to him about our success."

**Ends**

**Notes to Editors:**

The 'You're Welcome' quality standard, awarded by the Department of Health, sets out principles to help health services - both in the community and in hospitals - to 'get it right' and become young people friendly, ensuring that wherever they live, those aged 11-19 are able to access services that are better suited to their needs.

The sexual health service was assessed using specific criteria, which covered ten areas, including accessibility, confidentiality and involvement of young people.

**Photo opportunity:**

Contact the Communications team to arrange a suitable photo opportunity during the Mayor's visit.