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Media Release

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RUH Nurse in the running for Nurse of the Year award

A nurse at the Royal United Hospital is a finalist in a national competition, which could see her as winner of Nurse of the Year.

Sue Leathers, Matron for Older People's services, has been shortlisted for the Nursing Times Award, a prestigious accolade that celebrates inspirational nursing, and which recognises how nurses innovate to provide better care for patients.

The Nurse of the Year Award aims to recognise an individual who has gone above and beyond what is expected of them in their day-to-day role. Candidates will have undertaken a piece of work on their own initiative that has required inspiration, determination and creativity. The work must have a tangible positive outcome, such as a demonstrable improvement in patient care or in the effectiveness of a service.

The winner will be announced at the Nursing Times Awards ceremony on Wednesday 31 October.

When asked how she felt about being put forward for the Award, Sue said: "I was very surprised and it was a bit of a shock, but it is lovely to be nominated. I wouldn't be in this position without the help and support of my team, so it's good to embrace it for them. It's a great way of raising the profile of Older People's Services."

Sue was nominated by her manager, Assistant Director of Nursing Mary Lewis, for her unfailing commitment to her patients and her staff.

Mary says: "We're so proud that Sue is being considered for this award. Her achievements are considerable, many of which have happened not as part of but in addition to her 'day job'. Since her appointment as matron for older people's services, Sue has improved the care of the acute stroke patient outstandingly, as well as care of older people across the Trust.

"She has led a series of changes to practice and reorganisation of services for stroke patients, who are now admitted and cared for on our dedicated stroke unit. Sue led and developed these changes through a challenging agenda, empowering and engaging staff. The stroke unit is now nationally recognised for its excellent performance.

"We're keeping everything crossed that Sue will be successful. She is very modest about her tremendous contribution to patient care. This national recognition is well deserved and whatever the outcome, Sue is already a winner in our eyes."

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This nomination comes after Senior Charge Nurse Simon Andrews and Junior Sister Lisa Brown both won at the National Nursing Standard Nurse Awards in March this year.

Simon won the Ward Sister category, which recognised outstanding ward leaders who excel in delivering safe, high quality patient care. Lisa won the RCN Professional Forums General Award, which was given to a nurse, or healthcare assistant, who has developed nursing policy and/or practice in their speciality area.

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