

9 January 2013

Media Release

RUH appoints new Chief Operating Officer

The Royal United Hospital Bath has today announced the appointment of Francesca Thompson as its new Chief Operating Officer.

Francesca has been Director of Nursing at the RUH since 2006, having previously been Board Director of Nursing at Great Western Hospital in Swindon.

She lives in Bath and has enjoyed her nursing leadership role immensely. When she arrived the rate of healthcare associated infections, such as MRSA and *Clostridium difficile*, at the RUH was amongst the highest in the country and now we are proud to say they are amongst the lowest.

Francesca says: "My admiration for the unstinting support, loyalty and hard work from my senior nursing team and dedicated staff has been so appreciated and I have been striving to see the RUH better recognised for all the high quality care and quality improvement work undertaken.

"This work is now on a national and international footing and will be a clear factor in influencing our NHS Foundation Trust success.

"This career opportunity for me is both personally and professionally exciting and I am delighted to be taking it on. There is of course a lot to do and learn but I am most certainly looking forward to leading the excellent work already started."

Francesca is a Registered Nurse, a Fellow of the Improvement Faculty - NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement, and holds an MSc in Social Sciences from the University of Southampton.

Ends

Notes to Editors

Francesca replaces Lisa Hunt, who has left the Trust for family reasons, as Chief Operating Officer.

The role of Director of Nursing will be filled on an acting basis by Assistant Director of Nursing (Medicine) Mary Lewis.