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Communications Department

Tel: 01225 82 5849/5799/6230

Media Release

RUHcommunications@nhs.net

www.ruh.nhs.uk

Planting for a greener RUH

The Royal United Hospital is taking part in NHS Sustainability Day on Thursday 28 March 2013.

Trusts across the region will be engaging with staff, patients and the public to get people to understand the mutual benefits of sustainability and health.

To mark the day, staff will be participating in a number of educational and imaginative activities, which includes joining forces with the NHS Forest to plant ten trees on the boundary of the hospital site.

NHS Forest will plant a tree for every ten people who agree to us keeping in touch with them via email, rather than by post. These ten trees represent one hundred people who have signed up to become members of the NHS Foundation Trust, and who are happy to supply us with their email addresses. They are all doing their bit to help us reduce our costs and our carbon footprint.

There will be a photo opportunity of the tree planting on Thursday 28 March at 12noon. Please contact Anita Houlding, Communications Officer, 01225 825799 if you wish to attend.

Howard Jones, Director of Estates and Facilities, says: "I am delighted that the RUH, like so many NHS organisations in our region, is taking part in NHS Sustainability Day. Sustainability has become an accepted way of working here at the RUH and we have already achieved so much in terms of reducing the amount of fuel we use, the energy we save, and creating more sustainable buildings."

Exhibition stands in the Lansdown foyer will promote greener travel and highlight some of the RUH's environmental progress to date.

The RUH is actively reducing its carbon footprint. A new Energy Centre; a gas-fired combined heat and power plant that replaced inefficient steam boilers was installed over a year ago. We have significantly reduced the amount of waste destined for landfill and we use a biodigester machine for more efficient disposal of food waste. LED lighting is also used widely throughout the hospital.

Ends

Notes to Editor

The NHS Forest is a national project coordinated by the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, to improve the health of staff, patients and communities through planting trees on or near NHS land.

This second NHS Sustainability Day follows on from last year, which saw over 100 Trusts participate in a varied set of events and initiatives up and down the country with further engagement online.