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Media Release

Commu-knitty spirit for RUH Bath babies

There's been an amazingly generous response to our appeal two months ago for people to knit bobble hats for newborn babies at the RUH Bath Birthing Centre.

Since then we've been sent thousands of them – but we still need more.

The bobble hats have a colour-coded system of green, amber and red pom-poms to help ensure that babies receive the individual care they need.

Our appeal certainly caught the public imagination and the Bath Birthing Centre's ante and postnatal Mary Ward has been inundated with gifts from all over the world.

Knitters aged from 9 to 94 have got involved with hats being sent from 159 different locations and from countries including America, Portugal, Spain, UK and Ireland. The maternity team is keeping track of every parcel they receive by adding it to mapcustomizer.com.

But with 5,000 babies a year being born at the RUH there's a never-ending demand for knitting aid.

Rachel Coleman, Practice Development Sister, said:

"We have been overwhelmed by the number of people from around the world who've taken the time to get knitting. The response has been incredible – every spare space we had is now filled with bags of hats. We can't reply to everyone personally, but a big thank you to everyone who's sent us hats.

"Babies will still receive traditional midwifery care, but this is an extra visual aid. A green bobble means your baby is term, warm and feeding well. Amber indicates a baby needs a little more help with feeding and keeping warm. Red indicates a baby will have regular observations by a nurse or midwife. The hats will make a real difference in further



improving the quality of care we provide and we are extremely grateful for every hat donated.”

If you would like to join the knitting brigade, you can follow the [pattern](#) and send your hats to The [Bath Birthing Centre](#), Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust, Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG.

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Notes to Editor:

- The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.
- The Trust provides 565 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.
- In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME.
- The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust is now working towards building a purpose built RNHRD and Therapies Centre and a new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future
- For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk

