

17.05.19

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Media Release

Sustainability awards success at the RUH

Staff at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust (RUH) are celebrating winning two national awards for their work in sustainable projects that help to save energy and money.

The RUH Estates and Facilities Sustainability team were named double winners last night at the NHS Sustainability Awards, which showcase action and innovation in creating a more sustainable NHS.

They won in two categories. Staff Engagement – for providing staff with the opportunity to take behind the scenes tours of seven different types of plant room across the site. The tours demonstrated the ways in which the Estates team are making the site more efficient and sustainable. The well-received tours showcased the Trust's generators which not only power the hospital but are also used to back up the National Grid, generating around £140,000 a year for the Trust.

The second, Infrastructure, celebrated the innovative design and build of the new Spiritual Care Centre at the RUH. That project, part of the RUH Fit for the Future redevelopment plan, made use of natural light, efficient heating, insulation and energy monitoring systems.

RUH Director of Estates and Facilities Brian Johnson said: "Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved in projects like these that help us to be a sustainable organisation that's fit for the future."

RUH Head of Sustainability Hayley Williams said: "I'm delighted that we won two out of the four awards we were shortlisted for. I'm especially pleased about winning the staff engagement category as the plant room tours idea came from a member of staff in the Estates department. He's delighted that not only was his idea taken forward and acted on but now it has won an award.

"It's great to get recognition for the work we do and to share with staff what improving sustainability in a hospital involves and why it's so important. It's more than recycling bins and bike sheds, we generate, support and embrace innovative ideas that lead to a green and sustainable RUH."

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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 759 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 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, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

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 building a purpose-built RNHRD and Therapies Centre and working towards 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