

## Press Release

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### **RUH staff dedicated to patient care and safety**

Big-hearted staff at the RUH won't just be demonstrating their passion to their nearest and dearest on Valentine's Day.

In a week long drive, from Monday 12 February, they will show their commitment and enthusiasm to the RUH's campaign to reduce hospital acquired infection, maintain high standards of cleanliness and make the hospital a safer place for patients and staff.

This is a continuation of the initiative, entitled 'Working Together: Your Hospital in Safer Hands', which was launched in October last year and is part of the RUH's ongoing efforts to reduce hospital acquired infections.

The week of activities includes de-cluttering wards and departments, raising awareness and reinforcing important messages through the creative use of art, and a promotional visit by the National Patient Safety Agency.

Decluttering of ward areas is already well underway. Unwanted items have been collected for disposal to help free-up valuable space. This clear out makes areas around the hospital much easier to clean and will also help improve the appearance and efficiency of the working environment.

On Wednesday 14 February, staff and visitors will have an opportunity to see a wonderful display of plaster hand casts, which illustrates that patients are in safe hands. Staff, patients, carers and visitors entered into the spirit of the campaign by taking part in the hand castings, which were made by two local artists Angela Cockayne and Roz Moorehouse.

On Thursday 15 February, The National Patient Safety Agency will be helping to demonstrate the RUH's continuing commitment to patient safety. Staff can enter a competition to demonstrate their 'risk' awareness, find out more about the ideas submitted by staff for improving patient safety and view posters promoting various safety initiatives. There will also be another opportunity to check on hand washing techniques using a lightbox.

Special posters are on display featuring a range of RUH staff that care for patients, ensuring they are safe, among them occupational therapists, porters, healthcare assistants, orthopaedic technicians and physiotherapists.



This campaign is also an opportunity to build upon the confidence that patients and public already has in our care and staff across the whole hospital have contributed with great enthusiasm.

Looking ahead to the campaign next week Francesca Thompson, director of nursing at the RUH says: "This week is once again our opportunity to demonstrate how much thought, skill and compassion that our staff put into patient care and safety. Across the hospital there are countless examples of where patients are feeling safe and well cared for. As always there is also the welcome opportunity to learn from each other, the public and patients as to how we can do even better."

**ENDS**

**Photo Opportunity:**

One of the artist's models will be new mother, Sharon Jones, who recently gave birth to twins, which are being cared for in the RUH's newborn intensive care unit. A cast made with the twins will be presented as a special Valentine gift for her partner.

Please contact the communications office.

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