

Press Release

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RUH welcomes new Chief Executive

On Friday 1 June 2007, James Scott takes up his post as the new chief executive of the Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust (RUH). James takes over from Mark Davies who led the trust for three and a half years before leaving at the end of March this year.

James joins the RUH from Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust where he was chief executive for eight years. During this time, he successfully led the hospital from a period of financial instability to become one of the top NHS Foundation trusts. Working closely with staff, James achieved lasting improvements in hospital performance. These saw the trust gain the top, three star rating for three years in a row which culminated in the hospital becoming an NHS Foundation Trust in June 2006.

Chairman of the RUH James Carine says: "We are delighted to welcome James to Bath. His experience in meeting financial challenges and taking Yeovil District Hospital into Foundation Trust status will bode well for the RUH in the future. The Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust has worked hard towards addressing its financial difficulties and breaking even at the end of the last financial year. James has arrived at a time when staff now have the opportunity to step back and consider what changes can be made so that we can provide more effective and efficient patient care, whilst remaining in a financially stable position.

"I would also like to acknowledge the contribution that John Williams has made to the trust as finance director for over three years and more recently as acting chief executive. On behalf of

the many staff here who will be sad to see him leave, I would like to wish him well in his new role as finance director for Wiltshire Primary Care Trust.”

During James Scott’s first week as chief executive, he is planning to meet as many hospital staff as possible, as well as local health care partners and - in his new role - meet with the management team at the NHS South West Strategic Health Authority.

James Scott says: “I am delighted to be joining the trust at this time. I am very much looking forward to working alongside the staff here who have clearly worked hard in recent years to improve the hospital’s financial position. I have already met a number of staff who have made me feel very welcome and who are clearly passionate about their work and about ensuring that everything we do is for the benefit of our patients.

“I strongly support their ambition to maintain the already high standards of clinical care, to improve the patient experience and to reduce waiting – whether that is in A&E or for surgery. The recently appointed change consultants will help us to realise these ambitions but the major effort will be from staff getting involved and contributing their ideas for improvement. Together, we will look at every aspect of our work with the aim of making efficiencies that will improve patient care and ensure that we continue to remain in financial balance.”

James lives with his family in a small village north of Yeovil.

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For more information please contact:

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Notes to editors

- James has worked in the NHS since 1983. Before moving to Yeovil he held a number of hospital posts including senior management roles at Chase Farm, the Hammersmith and St Mary’s Hospitals in London. He has a BA in History from Lancaster University and a Diploma in Health Services Management.
- James is keen to spend time in the hospital getting to know staff during the coming week. After this time, he looks forward to meeting local press and media.