

## **PRESS RELEASE ISSUE DATE 24 APRIL 2008**

### **What kind of Artwork would you like to see outside the RUH!**

#### **3 Photos (jbpng) attached of artworks outside other UK hospitals**

Staff, patients and members of the public are being invited to come and give their views on what kind of sculpture they'd like to see outside the front entrance of the RUH.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> a consultation event is being held in the main entrance foyer of the hospital. During this event, the public will have an opportunity to view photographic examples of sculptures which appear outside other public buildings in the UK and then share their views on the kind of artwork they think would be appropriate for the RUH. It's hoped the new sculpture will be in place by 2009 – funding will be sought from arts foundations. The day is being organized by public arts agency Artpoint .

Beccy Waldman from Artpoint says

“A public art commission in this location will be seen by over half a million visitors to the hospital and will contribute to their expectations of what awaits them inside. It will help create a strong immediate impression, provide a clear focal point for the main entrance, and reinforce the values of the trust.

Patients, visitors and staff are the users of the space, and their participation in the process of drawing up the vision for the scheme is therefore very important. We are looking forward to meeting and talking to a wide group of users on the 1<sup>st</sup> May and we hope that members of the community will understand the value of their contribution in developing this project”.

RUH Arts co-ordinator Hetty du Pays says the new sculpture should make a strong impact!

“I would like the sculpture to be beautifully made and visually uplifting; if at all possible it could suggest or include water to reflect our Heritage City as well as the healing benefits of water”.

Hetty says all views will be taken on board and encourages people to come to the hospital on May 1<sup>st</sup> to have their say

“Public art has often caused a certain amount of controversy, often because it appears 'overnight' and is unexpected; by consulting and informing staff and the public any strong preferences can be addressed early on. Also if the public and staff are aware that the funding has not come from the hospital's NHS Funds but has been sourced through grants for the arts; many will feel less adverse to the idea”.

To be involved in the consultation at the start of the project and then to see the final artwork installed in early 09 will be an interesting and exciting process”.

## **Editors Notes**

We would welcome views on the proposed artwork. If anyone is unable to attend the consultation event, but is still interested in expressing their ideas, please contact James Winnett of Artpoint either by emailing the following address [james.winnett@artpointtrust.org.uk](mailto:james.winnett@artpointtrust.org.uk) or phoning 01865 248822.