



Communications Department
Tel: 01225 825489 / 821299
Email: communication@ruh.nhs.uk

Issue Date: 25 September 2008

Media Release

Major £100 million Modernisation Plans for the RUH **Unveiled**

Draft plans for a major modernisation programme for the Royal United Hospital in Bath were unveiled at last night's AGM.

The 6 year redevelopment programme will, if approved, include:

- The creation of a new cancer centre.
- New block of wards with mainly single bedrooms – improving patient privacy and dignity.
- New neo-natal intensive care unit
- a new perimeter road.
- Demolition of older buildings on site to make way for more energy efficient, patient friendly buildings and facilities.
- A vastly improved working environment for staff.

This Strategic Outline Programme takes account of a very clear need to develop and modernise both the infrastructure of the RUH and the provision of local health services. To deliver these improved clinical services in a more sustainable environment, the trust needs to undertake a major programme of capital investment.

Interim director of facilities Peter Wearmouth says

"Many of our existing buildings are very old, have high maintenance costs and do not allow many key clinical services to be co-located. This makes poor use of staff time and can be inconvenient for patients and carers. The new development will offer a better experience to local people using the hospital."

The hospital currently experiences high bed occupancy levels and in line with the Department of Health strategy, the regeneration plans will see the provision of more long term care and other acute activity being moved into a community setting. This will in turn lead to an improvement in the experience of patients whose care is provided within the hospital.

If the proposals go ahead, funding is expected to come from a combination of trust capital, donated funds, land disposal, joint venture and NHS strategic capital.

It is likely to be the middle of next year before the final plans are given trust board approval.

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Drawings of new look buildings attached to email as PDF