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Media Release

Bath Rugby giving the RUH an advantage

RUH staff dropped in to the Rec for a quick huddle with Bath Rugby players, though no infringement occurred. The staff were there to convert the players, encouraging them to complete an NHS Foundation Trust membership form right there on the pitch.

David Flatman, England and Bath Rugby player, says: "The Foundation Trust is a great idea, and both personally and as a Club, we are more than happy to show our support for the RUH. As a member of the Trust you can directly influence the type of care and service the hospital provides, which we all may benefit from someday."

Trauma Nurse Specialist at the RUH, Erin Houlihan, says: "The Royal United Hospital is becoming an NHS Foundation Trust and we're urging people to sign up to become a member of the Trust and to have more of a say in local healthcare."

"We're delighted to be here with the players and see them encourage more people to join up. We've had over 1,400 public members express an interest and we want to keep this momentum going."

"We believe that the RUH should 'belong' to our patients and local community, and you should be given a greater voice in how it's run. Becoming an NHS Foundation Trust will allow that to happen."

NHS Foundation Trusts are based on the concept of mutual organisations or cooperative societies, formed to run in the public interest. As a member, you can directly influence the types of care and services the hospital provides and have a say in the decision-making process.

Being an NHS Foundation Trust will give the hospital more control on how it spends money, so it can invest in new services, equipment and innovations. It will enable the hospital to respond more rapidly to the changing healthcare needs of the local community, and build on its significant achievements.

In recent weeks the RUH has held more than 60 public meetings across Bath, north east Somerset, South Gloucestershire, and north and west Wiltshire. Some 1,000 people attended, asking 330 questions.

Why not get involved? Please sign up as a member, and encourage family and friends to join too. For membership forms, call the Foundation Trust membership office on 01225 821299, or write to FREEPOST RSLZ-GHKG-UKKL, Foundation Trust Membership Office, Department C28, Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust, Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG.

Alternatively you can pick up a leaflet at the hospital or sign up by visiting www.ruh.nhs.uk/foundationtrust

ENDS

A Photo opportunity is scheduled for 10.45am on Thursday 25 August. Please contact the Communications Office on 01225 825799