

30 September, 2011

Communications Department
Tel: 01225 82 5849/5799/6230/1299

communications@ruh.nhs.uk
www.ruh.nhs.uk

Media Release

Hundreds sign up to support RUH bid to become NHS Foundation Trust

Visitors and patients have been signing up to have their say on local healthcare at the RUH.

A recruitment drive kicked-off this week, and 300 people signed up as prospective members in just three days - supporting the hospital's bid to become an NHS Foundation Trust by Spring 2012.

A special display has been set up in the hospital atrium where recruitment teams, dressed in distinctive purple uniforms, have been handing out membership forms and answering queries from members of the public. 'Team purple' has also been targeting outpatient areas.

Frank and Hazel Dineen, from Radstock, were one of the first couples to sign up at the recruitment event, which will continue until October 14.

Mrs Dineen said: "We attend the hospital regularly and are happy to support the RUH in any way we can. Becoming NHS Foundation Trust members will help us keep in touch with all that's happening at the hospital, which is important to us."

A strong membership base is vital to the success of the hospital, and the application to become an NHS Foundation Trust. Some 1,800 people have signed since our launch in March – but we'd like more.

By becoming NHS Foundation Trust members, people will receive all the latest news about the RUH, as well as notification of local health events. They will be offered opportunities to get involved by taking part in consultations, surveys or volunteering. Membership is free, and open to those aged over 16 who live in the City of Bath, North East Somerset, Wiltshire, Mendip, and even the Rest of England and Wales.

The recruitment drive will continue for the next three weeks at the hospital, in town centres, at supermarkets, GP surgeries and walk-in centres. If you can't make it to one of our events and meet 'team purple', don't worry, as there are lots of ways to sign up and have your say. For membership forms, call the Foundation Trust Membership Office on 01225 821299, or write to us at FREEPOST RSLZ-GHKG-UKKL, Foundation Trust Membership Office, Department C28, Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust, Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG. Alternatively you can sign up online by visiting www.ruh.nhs.uk/foundationtrust

Ends

Notes to Editors

1. NHS Foundation Trusts are individual organisations which are still an integral part of the NHS, but based on the concept of mutual organisations or cooperative societies. They have members who are representative of local communities and staff.
2. NHS Foundation Trusts are:
 - ☐ free from Department of Health and Strategic Health Authority control
 - ☐ duty-bound to deliver free care based on need, not ability to pay
 - ☐ locally accountable to their members who are drawn from staff, patients and the local community
 - ☐ more accountable to patients, staff and the public.
3. Details of how to become a member are available on the RUH website at www.ruh.nhs.uk/foundationtrust
4. For further information about NHS Trusts, go to www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk
5. Subject to approval from the SHA, Department of Health and Monitor, we plan to become a Foundation Trust in the Spring 2012.

Photographs

There is a photograph available with this press release.
The picture caption reads: NHS Foundation Trust recruitment 'team purple' members Katy Hulin and Marla Cattelona assist Frank and Hazel Dineen from Radstock, with their membership forms.