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Media Release

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RUH launches Governor election campaign

The Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust is seeking 16 elected Governors to help shape its future.

Following approval from the Secretary of State for Health, the RUH is just one step away from becoming an NHS Foundation Trust, and is now asking its public and staff members to take a more active role in the hospital's future.

Members from across the region have until 5pm on **Tuesday 18 September** to send their nominations in to stand as a Governor in the hospital's Council of Governor elections.

The Council of Governors will act as a link between the Trust Board and people in the local community. Over 5,250 people have already signed up to become public members of the NHS Foundation Trust and more than 500 of these members have expressed an interest in becoming a Governor. In addition the Trust has over 3,780 staff members.

Many members will have already received notification of the forthcoming elections and are being encouraged to put themselves forward.

Are you interested in being a voice for your community, to ensure that local people have a say in the running of their hospital, provide advice and support and help influence the Trust's decision-making in terms of how it develops its services?

Brian Stables, Chairman of the RUH, says: "Being a Governor is a hugely rewarding role and one in which you can really help make a difference to patient care. The role involves talking and listening to members about issues and concerns, about what's working well and what could be improved at the RUH and feeding those views into the work of the Council.

"I would encourage anyone who is thinking of standing to find out more and put their name forward now."

Anyone wishing to stand as a Governor must first of all be a member of the RUH, then you simply need to contact the Electoral Reform Services (ERS) who is the Trust's Returning Officer, to request a nomination form. The deadline for receipt of all nominations is 5pm on Tuesday 18 September 2012. ERS contact details:

Electoral Reform Services

The Election Centre

33 Clarendon Road

London N9 8NW

Tel: 0208 889 9203

Caroline.hinchcliffe@electoralreform.co.uk



If you are not already a member you can sign up online at www.ruh.nhs.uk or request a nomination form by calling 01225 821299

The Council of Governors comprises 21 Governors; 11 elected public Governors (two each to represent the following constituencies; the City of Bath, North East Somerset, Mendip, North Wiltshire, South Wiltshire and one to represent England and Wales) , five Governors to be elected from hospital staff, and a further five appointed Stakeholder Governors from partner organisations.

More information is available on the hospital website www.ruh.nhs.uk or you can call Membership and Governance Manager Roxy Poultney on 01225 821299.

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