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New Chief Executive for Bath's RUH hospital

Cara Charles-Barks will become the new Chief Executive of the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust in September 2020.

Cara has been Chief Executive of Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust since January 2017 and under her leadership the Trust moved from a CQC rating of 'Requires Improvement' to 'Good' in March 2019.

Before her move to Salisbury, Cara was Deputy Chief Operating Officer at North Anglia Health Service and Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer at Hinchingsbrooke Health Care NHS Trust.

Prior to this, Cara, who is a registered nurse, held a wide range of clinical and management roles in both the NHS and the Australian healthcare system.

Cara said: "I am delighted to be joining the team at the RUH at such an exciting time. I've been impressed with the passion and ambition of staff to deliver services of the highest standard, and to challenge themselves to do even better."

Alison Ryan, Chair of the Trust, said: "Cara embodies the RUH's commitment to quality improvement and she has a strong sense of how our BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care System can evolve. With Cara as our new Chief Executive we will be able to provide the best services for our patients and a strong future for the RUH."

Outgoing Chief Executive James Scott will be leaving the RUH to begin his retirement on 31 March. Libby Walters, Director of Finance and Deputy CEO, will take on the role of Interim CEO from 1 April until Cara joins in September.

Ends

Notes to Editor:

The World Health Organization has announced that 2020 will be the Year of the Nurse and Midwife to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. Our nurses and midwives are a big part of the RUH family and throughout the year we will be celebrating the work they do, going above and beyond every day to give our patients compassionate care.

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.

The Trust provides 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust has opened the purpose-built RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre and is now working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk