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Super mini-market a hit for RUH staff

Staff working flat out at the Royal United Hospital in Bath can now pick up bargain shopping essentials while they're at work – at the hospital's very own pop-up mini-market.

It's the brainwave of the catering team who run the hospital's Lansdown Restaurant. They realised some staff were struggling to get to the shops after their shifts, so decided to bring the grocery store to them instead.

Catering manager Jason Joyce said: "We opened a few days ago and it's been a fantastic success. We started off with selling basic items like tea, milk, biscuits and bread and now we're expanding our range every day. Favourites are pasta, rice, eggs and bacon which are flying off the shelves, and now we're looking to expand to fresh fruit and vegetables."

The shop is a big hit with staff and on social media, reaching 100,000 people. Comments include: "This is a brilliant idea! Keep the wonderful staff safe and well" and "Excellent, well done and a massive thank you for all the work you are doing."

The shop is just one of the ways the RUH Trust is looking after its hard-working staff during the coronavirus pandemic. Counselling and psychology services are available, a Thank You board displays messages of support from the public, and care packages of items including snacks and toiletries donated by the public are being distributed to teams across the hospital by our charity The Forever Friends Appeal

<https://www.foreverfriendsappeal.co.uk/>

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

