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Media Release

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A touch of Hollywood arrives at the RUH's Radiology Department

Nervous young patients undergoing MRI examinations at Bath's Royal United Hospital can now watch a film to take their mind off the scanning process, thanks to the generosity of the Time is Precious charity.

A specialised DVD player has been installed in one of the MRI scan rooms in the Radiology department which will allow patients to watch a top Hollywood movie while they have their scan.

The RUH's Radiology Department has continued to operate throughout the COVID-19 crisis. While some routine scans have been temporarily postponed, urgent scans have continued to take place to provide essential care. The department has adapted its ways of working, to offer as many appointments as possible whilst maintaining social distancing and infection control measures.

Di Pressdee, Team Lead Radiographer for CT and MRI, said: "This extremely generous donation will be a huge benefit to our patients, especially children who are understandably nervous about having a scan.

“MRI scanners can look quite imposing and are noisy too, so by putting on their favourite DVD and listening through the dedicated headphones, patients can enjoy a film and take their mind off the scanning process. Due to the strong magnetic field of the scanner, the DVD player has to be highly specialised which makes it expensive and we would not have been able to provide this without the help of Time is Precious.

“This donation is the icing on the cake for the Radiology department. We’ve just finished upgrading and replacing all six of the RUH’s CT & MRI scanners – the final stage of a development project that makes our Radiology department one of the most modern and best-equipped in the South West.”

The Time is Precious charity was set up in 2011 by Neil and Nicky Halford in memory of their son Ben, who died from cancer aged just five. Ben was treated at the RUH, as well as Bristol Children’s Hospital and the former Frenchay Hospital.

The aim of the charity is to help create a more comfortable and relaxed atmosphere for children and their families in hospital or at home. To date, it has donated more than £200,000 to the RUH in the form of equipment and refurbishment projects.

Neil said: “It’s a pleasure for Time is Precious to support such amazing piece of equipment. From our personal experience in the past, this will make a massive difference.”

The Radiology department upgrade was a five-year, £7.5m investment programme by the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust.

It means the department now has six modern MRI and CT scanners as well as X-ray and ultrasound facilities. The department also has a PET-CT scanner used in the detection and diagnosis of cancer and dementia, which was installed in 2016. There are also larger and improved waiting areas for patients.

Around 275,000 patients come for imaging in the Radiology department each year – of which, over 60,000 were for CT and MRI scans.

For more information about Time is Precious go to www.timeisprecious.org

Ends

Notes to Editor:

- CT scans can produce detailed images of many structures inside the body, including the internal organs, blood vessels and bones. They can be used to:
 - **diagnose conditions** – including damage to bones, injuries to internal organs, problems with blood flow, strokes and cancer
 - **guide further tests or treatments** – for example, CT scans can help to determine the location, size and shape of a tumour before having radiotherapy, or to allow a doctor to take a needle biopsy (where a small tissue sample is removed using a needle) or drain an abscess
 - **monitor conditions** – including checking the size of tumours during and after cancer treatment
- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a type of scan that uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of the body.
- An MRI scanner is a large tube that contains powerful magnets. You lie inside the tube during the scan.
- An MRI scan can be used to examine almost any part of the body, including the:
 - brain and spinal cord
 - bones and joints
 - breasts
 - heart and blood vessels
 - internal organs, such as the liver, womb or prostate gland
- The results of an MRI scan can be used to help diagnose conditions, plan treatments and assess how effective previous treatment has been.
- The RUH Radiology Department undertakes a full range of diagnostic imaging, including PET-CT. The department operates on seven separate sites across the locality undertaking around 293,615 patient examinations per year.

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 is now building a purpose-built RNHRD and Therapies Centre and working towards 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

Chair:
Alison Ryan

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