

07.02.22

Tel: 01225 826230 / 821459

Mobile: 07557 756658 (office hours)

Ruh-tr.communicationteam@nhs.net

www.ruh.nhs.uk

<https://twitter.com/RUHBath>

Media Release

Hundreds of careers kick-started by apprenticeships at the RUH

More people than ever before are enrolled on apprenticeships at the Royal United Hospitals (RUH) Bath NHS Foundation Trust. Over 230 people are currently combining paid work, practical training and study in a range of clinical and non-clinical roles at the hospital.

“Apprenticeships offer people an alternative route into working here,” said Helen Back, Associate Director of Learning and Culture at the RUH.

“This is great for us, as it means we can employ an even wider range of talented people, and it’s great for apprentices who might not have been able to pursue their careers via more traditional routes.”

Apprenticeships provide people with the opportunity to put their learning into practice on the job and gain support from experienced colleagues. The RUH offers clinical and non-clinical apprenticeships in roles such as nursing, business administration and occupational therapy.

Doug Mackenzie has been completing an engineering apprenticeship at the RUH since 2018. After missing out on the grades he needed to go on to further education, Doug discovered that an apprenticeship could offer a way into his dream career as an engineer.

Doug said: “I always wanted a career in engineering but I missed out on my maths GCSE so thought it might not be possible until I heard about the engineering apprenticeship at the RUH.

“I’ve struggled in the past academically as I have dyslexia, so the main benefit of doing an apprenticeship for me was the learning style.

“The hands-on experience I’ve gained working with the team here at the RUH has been great. I’ve learnt so much and I’m really happy with how far I’ve come.”

Since introducing apprenticeships in 2017, the RUH has supported hundreds of people to progress their careers in healthcare, many of who are still working at the Trust.

Apprenticeships are available at different levels and can take between one and four years to complete, depending on the type of apprenticeship and the level. Levels range from intermediate, which is the equivalent of a GCSE, right up to degree which is equivalent to a master's or bachelor's degree.

Many of those enrolled on apprenticeships at the RUH are existing staff members looking to develop their skills and progress their careers.

Katy Stevenson, Assistant Practitioner, said: "I started working at the RUH as a healthcare assistant and have recently completed the level 5 Assistant Practitioner Apprenticeship. ...

"It was a perfect fit for me as I was earning while I was learning, which was helpful as I have a young family. I have now started the next apprenticeship programme with the University of Gloucester and in a couple of years' time I will hopefully be closer to my ultimate goal of being a registered nurse."

The RUH was also a finalist in last year's Bristol and Bath Apprenticeship Awards in recognition of the work done to expand the range of apprenticeships on offer and providing development opportunities for staff.

"We have apprentices of all ages and backgrounds and I'd encourage anyone who's interested to apply for one. We have a growing range of apprenticeships on offer so there really is something for everyone," said Helen.

To apply for an apprenticeship at the RUH search the NHS Jobs website: www.jobs.nhs.uk

Ends ...

Notes to Editor

- National Apprenticeship Week takes place from 7 – 13 February to showcase the positive impact apprenticeships have on businesses and individuals.
- Follow our social media channels where we will be celebrating our apprentices throughout the week @RUHBath
- All NHS apprenticeship opportunities are advertised on www.jobs.nhs.uk

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