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Media Release

New children's art exhibition at the RUH aims to inspire climate action

Children and young people have filled the corridors at the Royal United Hospitals (RUH) Bath NHS Foundation Trust with a new thought-provoking art exhibition on climate change.

Last year, the RUH's Sustainability team, in partnership with hospital art charity Art at the Heart of the RUH and the Schools Climate Network, invited local children to submit art work on the theme 'a healthy planet'.

More than 80 pieces of colourful art are now on display as a reminder for staff and patients of the importance of taking care of the planet.

Tony Smith, Exhibition Manager at Art at the Heart of the RUH, said: "We can all play a part in helping to reduce our impact on the planet and I believe that the arts play a vital role in this. Not just in raising awareness of the issue, but in helping people develop a meaningful connection to climate change and the world around them."

Ruth McNab, Sustainability Manager at the RUH, said: "I'd like to thank all of the children and young people who submitted their art for this exhibition. We had a huge number of submissions which just goes to show how important climate change is to the younger generation.

"We hope the exhibition will inspire staff, patients and visitors to take action against climate change to protect our planet and future generations.

"Sustainability is a key priority for the RUH and this exhibition is one of a number of projects we have introduced to help ensure we are a Trust fit for the future."

Other initiatives include encouraging sustainable travel to the RUH site and introducing electric fleet vehicles, reducing use and wastage of anaesthetic gases, which are responsible for over 2% of all NHS emissions, and using more environmentally friendly building materials in the construction of the new Dyson Cancer Centre.

The artwork will be displayed in the hospital until 6 May 2022. The exhibited art will be available to purchase by donation to Art at the Heart from 11 March. Donations will be used to buy art materials for the Children's Ward.

Visiting is currently limited at the RUH to stop the spread of COVID-19 so an online gallery has been set up to allow everyone to view the exhibition:

www.ruh.nhs.uk/get_involved/art/childrens_climate_art.asp

Ends

Notes to Editor:

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