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Communications Department

Royal United Hospital
Combe Park
Bath
BA1 3NG

Tel: 01225 826230 / 821459
Mobile: 07557 756658 (office hours)

ruh-tr.communicationteam@nhs.net
www.ruh.nhs.uk
www.twitter.com/RUHBath

New appointment for RUH Trust Board

A former corporate lawyer, businessman and charity executive has been appointed as a new Non-Executive Director of the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust.

Paul Fairhurst has enjoyed a diverse 25-year commercial career which has seen him take on leadership roles with world-leading companies in the legal services, hotels and beverage sectors.

Paul also has four years' senior executive experience in the non-profit sector. He has an extensive track record of leading large, culturally diverse teams to deliver stretching goals in highly complex circumstances.

Since 2020, Paul has been a trustee of national charity Designability, which is based at the RUH, and earlier this year he joined the trustee board of spinal injuries charity Back Up.

Paul, who suffered life-changing injuries following a cycling accident in 2011, said: "The accident changed my life and inspired me to do all I can to achieve exceptional things that can make a difference for others by creating opportunity, inspiring them or giving them hope.

"I am delighted to join the board and am very grateful to the Council of Governors for putting their faith in me. There are many challenges ahead for the hospital and the local community but also opportunities too.

"I believe that my skills and lived experience can make a real difference to the people we work with, the people we care for and the people in our community. I can't wait to start working with the hospital's amazing staff and volunteers, governors and colleagues on the Board."

Trust Chair Alison Ryan said: "I'm delighted to welcome Paul to the Trust Board. His experience and professional skills will be a real asset and support the governance and strategic development of the Trust."

Ends



Notes to Editor:

At the RUH we're proud to put people at the heart of what we do, striving to create an environment where everyone matters. Everyone means the people we care for, the people we work with and the people in our community.

We provide a wide range of services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

We also provide specialist services for rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME via the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases which we acquired in 2015.

In 2021, we acquired Sulis Hospital Bath, an independent hospital that provides care for both private and NHS patients. This has enabled us to provide more care for NHS patients, as well as continuing to provide private care to those who choose it. Any additional income earned through private care is reinvested in services for the benefit of the people we care for at both Sulis and the RUH.

We're currently building a new Cancer Centre at the RUH. The Dyson Cancer Centre, which is set to open in autumn 2023, will help transform the care we provide for patients, families and carers.

We work closely with other health and care organisations as members of the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board. We strive to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in our community by working together build one of the healthiest places to live and work.

We are rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

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