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## RUH celebrates International Year of the Nurse and Midwife

The outstanding work of nurses and midwives at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust (RUH), both before and during the coronavirus pandemic, is being praised and celebrated today to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale.

Nurses and midwives make up the largest numbers of the NHS workforce, with just over 1,500 nurses and midwives working in the Trust. They are highly skilled professionals from a host of backgrounds that represent our diverse communities.

Lisa Cheek, Trust Director of Nursing and Midwifery, said: "Now, more than ever, I'm so proud to be a nurse. Over the past few months we've seen our resilience and our skills tested in ways none of us could have ever expected. But we have continued to care with bravery and empathy in the face of the unknown.

"Nursing now looks very different to how it did it Florence's day, and I'm so inspired by the diversity of skills and opportunities represented within our profession at the RUH. But there are common threads – we all care with the utmost compassion, we lead and inspire, and we learn and we teach."

The World Health Organisation has designated 2020 as International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, a 12-month campaign to showcase the diverse talents and expertise and to promote the two professions as careers with a great deal to offer.

The RUH Trust had planned a number of events throughout the year to highlight the skills and dedication of its nurse and midwife workforce, but sadly had to put them to one side to prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

Lisa Cheek said: "I'm so sorry we're not celebrating this special milestone in the exciting ways we'd hoped. But for now, let me say a huge thank you to all our midwives and all our nurses for making a difference. I'm sure Florence, and every nurse who blazed a trail for us, would be so proud."

Mariann Charlton, an Intensive Care nurse educator, said: "Working on the front line during all of this has been hugely challenging. It's been difficult, I won't deny that. It's been amazing, I've met

such amazing people and they have really made it a joy to come to work in such stressful times. The best moment is definitely when we clap a patient out – because it means they've got better and we've beaten it.”

Midwifery Sister Linda Davis said: “I was a bit anxious at first when the pandemic hit. We didn't know what to expect, or how many cases we were going to have. Personally, I have just taken things day by day and come to work as normal, and as the days and weeks have gone we've all continued to provide the best possible service and care we can in these difficult times.”

Jirah Armandico, an Emergency Department nurse, said: “As a nurse you should expect the worse, you should expect to see different cases. At first, when Covid arrived, I had a little bit of fear. But the passion to do my best, to be with a patient, to touch their lives and make a big difference – that's more important than the virus, I think.”

You can watch a film celebrating RUH nurses and midwives [here](#)

If you're interested in a nursing career at the RUH, you can find out more information on our website <https://bit.ly/3dyuiEg>

Trust Head of Nursing for Medicine, Mandy Rumble, has just celebrated 40 years' service at the RUH. Listen to Mandy's memories here <https://youtu.be/HngRPF7cUJE>

## Ends

### Notes to Editor:

The World Health Organization has announced that 2020 will be the Year of the Nurse and Midwife to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

Chair:  
Alison Ryan

Chief Executive:  
James Scott



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