

5.11.20

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## Media Release

### Have you considered a career in occupational therapy?

Occupational therapists at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust are calling on more people to consider occupational therapy as a career.

The call to action comes as part of national Occupational Therapy Week (2-8 November), which aims to raise the profile of occupational therapists and their work, while also encouraging people from all backgrounds to choose occupational therapy as a career.

Occupational therapy provides practical support to help people in their recovery and overcome barriers preventing them from doing the activities (or occupations) that matter to them.

An occupational therapist's job role involves helping people of all ages overcome the effects of disability caused by illness, ageing or accident so that they can carry out everyday tasks or occupations.

Occupational therapists work across all different departments at the RUH, including trauma and orthopaedics, acute medicine and surgery, rheumatology, the Older Persons' Unit, acute stroke and neurology, paediatrics and fatigue and pain services.

Anna Keen, Occupational Therapy Team Lead in Surgery and Critical Care said: "It is such a rewarding and varied job, and it is a genuine privilege knowing you are helping people to maintain their independence and carry on with day to day activities which so many of us take for granted.

"A lot of our work focuses on not just the physical but the emotional, psychological, social and cognitive side too.

"I would urge anyone starting a career in the health and care sector to seriously consider becoming an occupational therapist. If you enjoy working with people, supporting them in their recovery and improving their quality of life, this is just the role for you."

You can find out more about how to become an occupational therapist on the Royal College of Occupational Therapists website: [www.rcot.co.uk](http://www.rcot.co.uk)

Keep an eye out for occupational therapist vacancies at the RUH on the NHS Jobs website – [www.jobs.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk)

## Ends

### Notes to Editor:

The World Health Organization has designated 2020 as 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 are 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)