

06.11.20

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Media Release

RUH 'Veteran Aware' this Remembrance

As the nation marks this Remembrance week, staff at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust are working towards achieving full Veteran Aware accreditation, committing to further improving NHS care and support for members of the armed forces community.

Veteran Aware status is granted by the Veterans Covenant Hospital Alliance (VCHA). To achieve it, Trusts make a series of pledges such as training staff in veteran-specific needs, supporting the armed forces as an employer and ensuring that members of the armed forces are never disadvantaged when receiving care.

Trust Chair Alison Ryan said: "We're really proud to be making this statement of intent to become a hospital that leads the way in improving NHS care for veterans and members of the armed forces community.

"The RUH has always had strong links with our armed forces across the South West and has a long track record in the care and employment opportunities we can provide members of the services. It's really important that we continue to support veterans and reservists, and achieving Veteran Aware status will be a great honour for us."

Hospital Trusts that are accredited as Veteran Aware will display posters in their clinics and public waiting areas, highlighting their status and encouraging members of the armed forces to identify themselves to staff.

The RUH has appointed clinical and management Veterans' champions who are working with Medicine, Surgery and Women's and Children's Divisions, and plans to achieve full Veteran Aware status by 31 March 2021.

Note to editors

The Veterans Covenant Hospital Alliance (VCHA) was inspired by the heroism of Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse VC and Bar, a doctor who gave his life rescuing men on the battlefields of the First World War.

In 2014, leading orthopaedic surgeon Professor Tim Briggs CBE wrote The Chavasse Report on improving armed forces and veteran care while raising NHS standards, which recommended establishing a support network of hospitals. The resulting VCHA works closely with NHS England and NHS Improvement, service charities and the Ministry of Defence, and is managed by the Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme.

The VCHA is working with NHS trusts across the country to improve standards of care for the armed forces community. In time, the alliance hopes to see every NHS provider meeting the Veteran Aware standards.

To find out more information about the scheme and which hospitals are Veteran Aware, visit the [NHS website](#).

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Notes to Editor:

The World Health Organization has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife to commemorate the 200th 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

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

Chair:
Alison Ryan

Chief Executive:
Cara Charles-Barks

