

21.04.21

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Media Release

Scooter power arrives at the RUH

Staff and visitors to the RUH can now leave the car at home and use an exciting new electric scooter service to get to and from the Combe Park site.

The hospital has been included within an expanded trial zone for Voi E-Scooters. By downloading the Voi app, you can hire a scooter from sites across the city to travel to and from the hospital, and around Bath, with no noise or pollution.

Cris Fletcher, Sustainable Travel Coordinator at the RUH, said: “The scooters are a fantastic way to travel around the city sustainably and are already proving popular with people of all different ages across the trial areas in Bath and Bristol.

“There has already been a lot of interest from staff and NHS workers are currently eligible for a 100% discount on some deals. We expect the scooters to be popular with visitors to the hospital too.”

Jack Spence, Estates Maintenance Worker Team Leader, said: “The scooters are much easier to ride than you'd think, and they make travelling sustainably a lot more enjoyable.”

Dr Chris Meehan said: “I signed up to the long-term rental scheme, which costs me £35 a month. I went for the long-term option because there was no guarantee of a scooter near my house in the morning. The big advantage of long-term rental scooters is that they can be taken outside of the normal Voi zone that standard rental scooters can.”

E-scooters are available to unlock for £1 and cost 14p per minute. There are also a variety of subscriptions available (daily, weekly, and monthly), as well as discounted passes for students, key workers, and those on low-incomes. To ride a Voi E-Scooter, a user must have a provisional driving licence and be at least 18 years of age.

Voi has plans to situate a number of scooters next to bike stands outside of the RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre, but for the time being staff and visitors are asked being asked to park responsibly by using the app to find the nearest designated parking bay.

Riders can download the Voi app for free in the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

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