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Media Release

Books make RUH patients and staff smile

Free books have been given out to patients and staff at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust as part of World Book Night.

World Book Night, which took place on Friday 23 April, is the Reading Agency's annual celebration of books and reading. The aim of World Book Night is to encourage people to put aside some time to read for pleasure, and to share the joy of reading with those who may not always have the opportunity.

This year's theme, for the 10th Anniversary of World Book Night, was Books to Make You Smile.

The hospital's Academy Library was lucky enough to receive dozens of copies of award-winning Belfast writer Glenn Patterson's *Where Are We Now*, a funny, gentle and heart-warming story.

Working with wards and departments across the hospital, the library gave away copies to staff and patients, aiming to reach people who could really benefit from the uplifting power of fiction.

There was also a display, freebies and book giveaways in the Academy Library, in the week leading up to the event.

Library Assistant Liz Pope said: "World Book Night is always a lovely and worthwhile thing to be involved in and we look forward to next year's event.

"We also encouraged everyone to take part in #ReadingHour on the same day, by putting aside just one hour that evening to read for pleasure. People could share their reading ideas, stories and pictures on Twitter and share a connection with other readers all over the UK."

The Academy Library also runs a series of popular virtual book groups for staff and the June group will be discussing *Where are We Now*.

The RUH Academy Library provides staff with a range of resources, both print and electronic, to support work, research and educational studies.

The library was also behind the hospital's innovative audiobooks scheme for patients, particularly those patients with dementia, which has proved very successful and has been copied by other hospitals around the country.

The audiobooks allow patients to listen to plays and TV and radio shows during their stay.

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