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Media Release

RUH raises Pride flag to demonstrate inclusive care for all

The Pride flag is now flying at the front of the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust, representing the hospital's commitment to being an inclusive environment for all.

Chief Executive Cara Charles-Barks was joined by other members of the Executive team to raise the flag on Wednesday 16 June, to tie in with Pride Month.

Cara said: "It was a huge honour to raise the flag. It represents an important step in our journey to ensuring we're providing the highest quality of care for our patients and supporting our staff to be themselves at work, regardless of how they identify.

"One of our core values at the RUH is that everyone matters, and we are absolutely committed to continuing to develop our equality agenda. This flag is a way for us to demonstrate that."

The Pride flag is the first flag flown on the RUH's brand new flagpole, and the installation was organised by the RUH's LGBTQ+ staff network.

The design flying is the updated and more inclusive version of the Pride flag, featuring pink, purple and brown triangles. This incorporates elements of the transgender flag and represents people from different ethnicities too.

The RUH has a number of initiatives to ensure an open, non-judgemental and inclusive environment for patients, their loved ones, and staff.

These include the NHS rainbow badge, which staff can wear to signal that people can feel confident in discussing LGBTQ+ issues with them. Before wearing a badge, staff pledge that although they might not have all the answers they will listen, and signpost to the support available.

LGBTQ+ Staff Network Chair Steve Dunne-Howells said: “On behalf of the staff network, it’s such an honour to see the flag at the front of the hospital. This was a fantastic and proud day for us.

“Simple visual signals like the flag and the rainbow badges can make a real difference to people who may feel unsure about their identity or whether they can talk to healthcare professionals about it.”

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