



05.10.21

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Media Release

RUH awarded Veteran Aware status

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust is celebrating becoming one of 75 trusts across the UK awarded Veteran Aware accreditation for its commitment to leading the way in improving NHS care for veterans and 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.

The VCHA accreditation certificate was presented to RUH Chief Executive Cara Charles-Barks by the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Annie Maw, at a signing ceremony attended by a number of RUH armed forces staff members. Cara wore uniform in her role as Honorary Colonel for 243 (Wessex) Field Hospital, part of the Army Reserve Medical Services.

Cara said: "We are really proud to have received this honour that recognises how importantly we take our responsibility towards the armed forces personnel and 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. This covenant is our pledge to further improve the support from all our staff that we can offer them."

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.

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 page](#)

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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