

01.04.22

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Media Release

Children's Emergency Department thanks local community for their donation of 'bravery prizes'

The Children's Emergency Department at the Royal United Hospitals (RUH) Bath NHS Foundation Trust has given thanks to the local community for donating over 400 parcels containing gifts for children who attend the department.

The 'bravery prizes' wish list was set up online by Paediatric Emergency Sister Sarah Potter last week so that children could be given small gifts to reward their bravery following treatment in the Emergency Department.

Sarah said: "We care for lots of children who have had a frightening accident or injury and have to have a procedure in the department and I wanted to make the experience of coming to the hospital better for them. We already had a supply of stickers, but I wanted to be able to do something more so I created the online wish list.

"I was encouraged to share the list on Facebook and it completely blew up, with over 600 shares and hundreds of messages to date. We've since received over 400 parcels containing crayons and felt tips, colouring books, sticker sheets, fidget toys and puzzles.

"We store the gifts in a treasure chest in the Children's Emergency Department and children are invited to choose a prize as a reward before they go home or get admitted as an inpatient. We hope that this makes the Emergency Department a less scary place, and the experience a positive one in the eyes of the children and young people who visit us.

"I am completely overwhelmed with the generosity of our local community and so grateful for every person who bought a gift, it really will make such a difference to our patients."

Jenni Lee, Sarah's manager and Emergency Department Matron, said: "I am so proud of Sarah and all our Emergency Department colleagues who continuously go above and beyond for our patients.

"I'd also like to extend my sincerest thanks to our community for supporting this cause. We're really touched by the response and excited to see the impact this is going to have on our young patients."

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