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Media Release

RUH maternity care praised by parents

The results of the National Maternity Survey 2022, published last week by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), show the RUH as scoring better than most others in a number of aspects. These include whether parents feel they are treated with dignity and respect during antenatal care, whether enough information was provided to help parents decide where to have their baby and whether they felt involved in decisions about antenatal and postnatal care.

The results also showed that women and birthing people had high confidence and trust in the staff caring for them at the RUH, felt that any concerns raised were taken seriously and were able to have skin to skin contact with their babies shortly after birth.

The survey, which went to those who gave birth in February 2022, looked at the whole experience of maternity care, from antenatal appointments through to giving birth and postnatal care. There were no areas where the RUH scored worse than other trusts who took part in the survey.

Zita Martinez, Director of Midwifery at the RUH, said: "We strive to provide the people we care for with a high standard of personalised, supportive care, and we are really pleased to see this reflected in the CQC's results. We would like to express our gratitude to women, birthing people and their families who took the time to complete the CQC survey last year. This information is absolutely vital for the ongoing development of our services.

"Nationally midwifery services have been under a lot of pressure over the last year due to staffing challenges and the impact of COVID-19. To have received such positive results against this backdrop is testament to the hard work and dedication of our midwifery teams who have remained committed to ensuring women and birthing people have a safe and positive experience in our care.

"We know there is always room for improvement and one of our key focuses at the moment is reopening our Chippenham birth centre and reinstating home births after we had to make the difficult decision to pause these services earlier this year due to staffing challenges."

“We know how important it is that people have choice about where they have their babies and were pleased to be able to reopen our Frome Birthing Centre in October after recruiting a number of additional midwives. We remain committed to restoring the full service as soon as it is safe for us to do so.”

The RUH maternity service continues to make great progress recruiting more midwifery staff, with over 30 new colleagues joining the team in the last year: “We’re really keen to build on this recruitment success and have plans to expand our leadership team and increase opportunities for progression to support the retention of our existing midwives and enhance the experience of the people who use our services” added Zita.

Ends

Notes to Editor:

At the RUH we’re proud to put people at the heart of what we do, striving to create an environment where everyone matters. Everyone means the people we care for, the people we work with and the people in our community.

We provide a wide range of services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

We also provide specialist services for rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME via the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases which we acquired in 2015.

In 2021, we acquired Sulis Hospital Bath, an independent hospital that provides care for both private and NHS patients. This has enabled us to provide more care for NHS patients, as well as continuing to provide private care to those who choose it. Any additional income earned through private care is reinvested in services for the benefit of the people we care for at both Sulis and the RUH.

We’re currently building a new Cancer Centre at the RUH. The Dyson Cancer Centre, which is set to open in autumn 2023, will help transform the care we provide for patients, families and carers.

We work closely with other health and care organisations as members of the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board. We strive to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in our community by working together build one of the healthiest places to live and work.

We are rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk