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Media Release

New mural reassures young RUH surgery patients

Children recovering from surgery at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust now have a bright and cheerful mural on display in the recovery room to help make the experience less daunting for them.

The new colourful and vibrant jungle scene aims to distract young patients and improve the experience for them and their families and has been installed thanks to funding from the charity Time is Precious.

Heather White, Junior Sister, said: "The mural has made such a positive difference in the department.

"Thanks to the support of Time is Precious we have been able to make what is often a worrying experience for our young patients much more positive.

"The mural changes the overall feeling of the department, identifying it as an area specifically for children. But it has also proved really popular with staff, who love working amongst the animals!"

Nicky Halford from Time is Precious, which has supported key improvement projects across the RUH, said: "Time Is Precious is honoured to of made a positive difference for children and their families at the RUH. It is a pleasure to support the RUH and the children's recovery area in any way we can."

Time is Precious charity was set up in 2011 by Neil and Nicky Halford in memory of their son Ben, who passed away from cancer aged just five. Ben was treated at the RUH, as well as Bristol Children's Hospital and the former Frenchay Hospital.

The aim of the charity is to help create a more comfortable and relaxed atmosphere for children and their families in hospital and at home, by purchasing equipment and refurbishing areas for children.

To date, it has donated more than £450,000 to the RUH in the form of equipment and refurbishment projects.

You can find out more about Time is Precious on its website: <https://timeisprecious.org/>

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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