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## Media Release

### Banging the drum for music as therapy

Some of the youngest patients at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust can now make their hospital visit less worrying and more entertaining by trying out a new selection of musical instruments.

The Children's Ward now has two ukuleles, a large drum, bells and other percussion instruments, all thanks to funding from the charity Friends of the RUH, to support the work of Musician in Residence, Frankie Simpkins.

Thanks to ongoing support from the Friends of the RUH, Frankie is able to spend one morning a week on the Children's Ward making music and having musical interactions with the patients.

Frankie chooses the selection of instruments with the patients in mind. She adapts and tailors her musical interactions to suit the patient's age, from song writing and singing lessons, to lullabies, Disney classics and even ukulele lessons.

Hospitals across the country will this week celebrate national Play in Hospital Week (9 – 15 October), a national campaign which aims to raise awareness of the benefits of play in the treatment of poorly children.

RUH Play Specialist Jo Powell said: "At the RUH we've found that play creates an environment which reduces stress and anxiety and helps our young patients cope with their illness and recover more quickly.

"We're so grateful to the Friends of the RUH for the new musical instruments to support Frankie's work, which have really helped to brighten up the Children's Ward and put smiles on the faces of so many of our patients."

Ronny Helvey, Friends of the RUH Trustee, said: “We are delighted to be involved in this initiative. It’s so rewarding to see how the work our volunteers do, raising money through running the Friends’ on-site Café @B18 and the RUH shop in the Atrium, can make such a difference to young patients and their families.”

Art at the Heart of the RUH, which provides the hospital with art and design programmes for patients, also offers artist-led workshops - Artsparks, on the Children’s Ward, along with video workshops and creative materials for when the artists can’t be there, activities most recently funded by Arts Council England and RUHX, the RUH’s charity.

## **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](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)