

13.02.24

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## Media Release

### RUH on target to deliver Sustainable Travel Plan

- 92% of sustainable travel actions have been completed or are in progress
- The travel plan supports the NHS national target to reduce 18% of the NHS carbon footprint currently attributed to travel

Since the launch of the Non-Patient Travel Plan in 2020, The Royal United Hospitals Bath (RUH) NHS Foundation Trust is on course to successfully deliver its ambitious 5 year sustainable travel strategy, meeting 92% of its actions.

The plan informs and supports staff and visitors to travel to the Trust in a way which is environmentally and socially sustainable as well as cost-effective. The RUH is scaling up a number of initiatives alongside our community partners to reduce air pollution in the area, including:

- More than doubling the cycle storage space onsite
- Introducing an e-bikes loan scheme for staff to trial
- Children's Therapies using an e-cargo bike to visit our patients in the community
- Launching the "*Join My Journey*" staff car sharing scheme
- Offering e-scooter discounts and a salary sacrifice scheme for electric and ULEV cars
- Supporting BANES "[Kick the habit](#)" campaign by encouraging everyone to turn their vehicle engines off when stationary
- Increasing air quality monitoring
- Increasing the value of bicycles available through the staff salary sacrifice cycle purchase scheme
- Subsidising staff discount for travel on First Bus services
- Encouraging use of public transport, including Park & Ride facilities

Ruth McNab, RUH Sustainability Manager said: “We have been conducting staff surveys, running site audits and working closely with our community partners to reduce the negative environmental impacts of travel as well as enabling equal access, regardless of ability. I wanted to thank staff, patients and visitors for their energy and enthusiasm in ensuring that we make steadfast progress towards achieving our remaining sustainable travel targets by 2025.”

The Trust is also successfully progressing a number of other sustainability initiatives:

- **Cutting carbon** - Decommissioning anaesthesia nitrous oxide manifolds (fixed gas pipelines) and replacing with portable cylinders which has removed substantial risk of leaks of this potent greenhouse gas estimated to be nearly 300 times worse than carbon dioxide for the environment.
- **Investing in sustainable built environments** - The new Dyson Cancer Centre that has a targeted BREEAM ‘Excellent’ rating. The building is assessed at various stages during construction for its environmental sustainability and wellbeing benefits for patients, staff and the wider community.
- **Finding ways to reduce waste** – such as replacing sterile packaging with reusable metal containers saving environmental costs by 84% and reducing single use plastic disposal by 5.5 tonnes annually
- **Green spaces** – Works have started on a wellbeing garden for staff and patients launching this Spring

**The Trust is also** hosting an RUH Sustainability Day in the lead up to Earth Day in April 2024, which will focus on staff sharing ideas on reducing waste. The event will also host speakers from Greener NHS

Cara Charles-Barks, RUH Chief Executive said: “We have a wide range of initiatives underway to reach our sustainability targets. These are important to us because we know that many of the actions needed to respond to the climate emergency also have positive health impacts. For example, cutting emissions and restoring biodiversity improves air quality and can reduce the incidence of asthma, heart attacks and stroke. Achieving these aims will require an unprecedented shift in behaviours and practices, and everyone has a role to play.”

## 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 spring 2024, 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)

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