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Media Release

Ambitious new strategy underlines RUH's commitment to research

Supporting and developing research studies that address the healthcare needs of the local community through collaborative working are among the key commitments at the heart of a new research strategy, launched this week by the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust.

Richard Graham, Director of Research and Innovation, said: "Hospitals that actively engage in research deliver better care to their patients and have better staff recruitment and retention, which is why we are fully committed to ensuring research is at the heart of what the RUH does.

"The RUH has an excellent reputation nationally for conducting research that will help the NHS to better support its patients of the future.

"This new strategy not only sets out our commitment to research at the RUH and to the people we care for and the people we work with but, crucially, the people in our community.

"We want to make sure that we are able to engage even more patients, carers and members of the local community in our research by facilitating the type of research studies that address local health concerns."

Other commitments made in the strategy include:

- Develop and implement systems to ensure that research studies are accessible to all patients, regardless of location, demographics or characteristics.
- Implementing referral systems and pathways that seamlessly connect patients to appropriate research studies.

- Collaborate with community organisations and patient advocacy groups to identify barriers to accessing research opportunities and develop targeted interventions for those patients underserved by research.
- Provide ongoing training and mentorship programs to support the continuous development of research skills and knowledge among the workforce.
- Develop and signpost to career pathways, secondment schemes and shared posts that support all staff to engage in research activities.

You can view the new research strategy on our website [here](#) and see the RUH's You Matter strategy [here](#).

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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.

Our new Dyson Cancer Centre brings together many of the RUH's cancer services under one roof to provide a cancer services hub for over 500,000 people in the South West. The centre includes the RUH's oncology, chemotherapy and radiotherapy services, a 22-bed inpatient ward, a dedicated pharmacy, research team and nuclear medicine and physics teams.

A key feature of the new centre is the Macmillan Wellbeing Hub. The three-storey hub provides a welcoming, non-clinical space designed around the needs of patients and their families. It also includes comfortable accommodation where relatives and loved ones can stay overnight.

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