



2.8.2024

Communications Department

Royal United Hospital
Combe Park
Bath
BA1 3NG

Tel: 01225 826230 / 821459
Mobile: 07557 756658 (office hours)

ruh-tr.communicationsteam@nhs.net
www.ruh.nhs.uk
www.twitter.com/RUHBath

Media Release

Welcome return to RUH for England's top nurse

England's new most senior nurse has been welcomed back to the ward that kickstarted his career two decades ago at the Royal United Hospitals Bath (RUH) NHS Foundation Trust.

It was more than 25 years ago that Duncan Burton ironed his brand new bright white nursing tunic and arrived for his first day as a registered nurse. Last week Duncan was named as the new Chief Nursing Officer for England, and on Tuesday he returned to the Respiratory ward at the RUH where it all began.

Duncan said: "I have very fond memories from the RUH and working here helped to make me the person I am today. This is the first time I've returned to the hospital, but I still have many friends from my time here and it's been great to come back and visit.

"I remember my first day, feeling a bit scared but so excited to get started. I was really proud to get my blue epaulettes for my tunic, which marked that I was now a registered nurse.

"My time here taught me to try different things and take on new challenges, and there were many opportunities to learn new things and develop. However, back then, I never would have believed that I'd go on to become the Chief Nursing Officer for England one day."

After several years on the Respiratory ward Duncan took a new job on the Neurology ward. Then, in 2002 the bright lights of the city beckoned and he moved to London to become a junior charge nurse in acute admissions.

Duncan's varied career has since seen him gain experience in many roles, settings and specialties varying from infectious diseases to emergency care, and from Director of Nursing roles to Regional Chief Nurse, and then Deputy Chief Nursing Officer at NHS England, all leading to his latest appointment as Chief Nursing Officer for England.

Duncan added: “It has been brilliant to hear from RUH staff and to see that in many ways the RUH has evolved and is still, in some ways, the same as it was 25 years ago. It feels like it has the same sense of community, and I’ve heard so much enthusiasm from the nurses I’ve met here.

“With a career in nursing, the opportunities are vast and varied. My advice to nursing colleagues at RUH is to embrace every opportunity, support each other, and try different things to achieve your goals.”

The RUH also welcomed Donna Ockenden, Chair of the independent review into maternity services at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, on the visit with Duncan. Together they toured Maternity services, which were rated ‘outstanding’ by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) earlier this year.

They also visited the Neonatal Unit to hear about the family-centred care provided there.

RUH Chief Nursing Officer Toni Lynch said: “It has been really special to welcome Duncan and Donna to the RUH, and we have felt proud to show what we do here.

“Ultimately it was a chance to share the great work our dedicated and talented colleagues do every single day, to ensure we are making a difference for the people we care for.”

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.

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.



Royal United Hospitals Bath
NHS Foundation Trust

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