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Media Release

Her Majesty the Queen visits the RUH to officially open the Dyson Cancer Centre

Her Majesty the Queen officially opened the Dyson Cancer Centre at the Royal United Hospitals Bath (RUH) NHS Foundation Trust today (Tuesday 3 September). Patients, staff, supporters and guests from the wider community were on hand to mark the occasion.

Her Majesty was given a guided tour of the new purpose-built centre, which brings together many of the RUH's cancer services under one roof, including the RUH's oncology, chemotherapy and radiotherapy services, a 22-bed inpatient ward, a dedicated pharmacy, research team and nuclear medicine and physics teams.

The building is designed around a land, water and sky theme, making use of natural light and the work of local artists and designers to create a place where excellent clinical care is matched by a soothing, healing environment.

The Queen met with staff and patients in the Medlock Day Care Unit, which provides specialist non-surgical treatments for people with cancer, including chemotherapy and other anti-cancer treatments.

The Queen visited the William Budd inpatient ward, and spent time in the special courtyard space which was created to allow the hospital's most vulnerable patients the opportunity to spend time outdoors.

Her Majesty also visited the Macmillan Wellbeing Hub, which offers a welcoming space for patients and families, as well as a range of services to support people and their loved ones to live well with cancer.

The Queen was hosted on the day by RUH Chief Executive Cara Charles-Barks, who said: “It’s been a real pleasure to welcome Her Majesty the Queen to the RUH today. The Dyson Cancer Centre is a wonderful building which supports us to provide the highest quality of cancer care for our community.”

Before leaving the Dyson Cancer Centre, Her Majesty unveiled a plaque to commemorate the day and was presented with a posy by Riya Gowda, a pupil at a local school whose father is a consultant oncologist within the centre.

Following the plaque unveiling Her Majesty said: “Can I congratulate all of you on this wonderful centre. I’ve had a brief tour around and everybody I’ve met - whether it’s the patients, the families or the nursing staff and the helpers - all seem to be over the moon about it.

“It’s got a very welcoming atmosphere and you can see that it actually raises people’s spirits in a very difficult time. So, congratulations to you all... it is very special so thank you very much for asking me to open it.”

The new centre sees around 350 patients a day, and is backed by over £40m in government funding as part of the New Hospital Programme. A spokesperson for NHS England said: “We’re delighted that today the Dyson Cancer Centre has been officially opened. This centre is crucial for the people of the South West and is one of the largest cancer centres in the region.

“It’s a huge success for the Trust, the New Hospital Programme and everyone involved in enabling the centre to be able to provide the highest quality care and experience for patients and their loved ones.”

The Dyson Cancer Centre was also supported by an additional £10m fundraising campaign from RUHX, the hospital's official charity, including a £4m donation from the James Dyson Foundation and £1m by the Medlock Charitable Trust.

Rhyannon Boyd, Head of RUHX said:” We are so proud of and grateful to all of the 11,000 wonderful supporters who helped create this transformational new centre for their community.”

The Macmillan Wellbeing Hub was also supported by a £1.5m donation from Macmillan Cancer Support. Richard Pugh, Macmillan Head of Partnerships attended the opening and said: “We’re so pleased to be a part of the state-of-the-art Dyson Cancer Centre which will provide much needed cancer treatment and support.

“At the heart of the centre is the Macmillan Wellbeing Hub, a welcoming, non-clinical space designed around the needs of patients and their families. It is there to support anyone affected by cancer from the point of diagnosis, through treatment, into recovery and end of life.

“Macmillan Cancer Support and the RUH have been working in partnership for over 20 years. We are continually exploring new collaborative opportunities to develop and improve cancer services, to provide the best possible care and support for people affected by cancer in the

area. With this shared vision in mind, we are proud to come together once more to create a space for people living with and affected by cancer.”

The new Dyson Cancer Centre is located near the main entrance of the RUH and has its own entrance – patients and visitors do not need to enter the main RUH building.

The Macmillan Wellbeing Hub is open from 8am – 6pm and patients, loved ones and the wider community are welcome to drop in for information during these times. Spread across three floors, the Macmillan Wellbeing Hub includes counselling rooms, complementary therapy spaces, information space, and comfortable accommodation where relatives and loved ones can stay overnight. Face to face appointments along with specific support services can be booked in advance.

Ends

Notes to Editor:

RUH

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



RUHX

RUHX is the official NHS charity of the Royal United Hospitals Bath. We're here to make our place healthier, happier, and stronger for the future. And we do that by supporting the extra extraordinary work that leads to exceptional care for everyone.

RUHX is dedicated to putting the 'extra' in extraordinary care for everyone who needs it – whether that means funding innovative new technologies or collaborating with groups tackling health inequalities. We're supporting our staff to do what they do best, taking care of the people who take care of you. We're helping more people to live healthier, happier lives, reducing the pressure on our hospitals by empowering positive change. And we're working closely with community partners to ensure the most positive future for Bath and beyond.

The James Dyson Foundation

Founded in 2002, the James Dyson Foundation is an international charity that inspires aspiring engineers, supports engineering education and invests in medical research, donating more than £145m to charitable causes to date.

In the UK, the Foundation has funded inspiring engineering spaces at universities including the Dyson School of Design Engineering at Imperial University, the Dyson Building at the Royal College of Art which hosts over 70 startups in its incubator hub, and the James Dyson Building for PhD research and the Dyson Centre for Engineering Design at the University of Cambridge. Most recently, the Foundation pledged £6m to Malmesbury Primary School, close to Dyson's Malmesbury campus, to support its expansion and build a dedicated STEAM centre.

The James Dyson Award, the Foundation's annual design competition, is open to current and recent design and engineering students. Since 2005, the Award has supported more than 400 inventions worldwide, providing funds to support their commercialisation. This Spring, the Dyson Cancer Centre at Royal United Hospitals in Bath opens, and the Foundation continues to support the Race Against Dementia Dyson Fellow, Dr Claire Durrant, in accelerating finding answers to Alzheimer's disease.

The Foundation has a website, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

About Macmillan Cancer Support

At Macmillan, we give people with cancer everything we've got. If you're diagnosed, your worries are our worries. We will do whatever it takes to help you live life as fully as you can. And we don't stop there.

We're going all out to find ever better ways to help people with cancer, helping to bring forward the day when everyone gets life-transforming support from day one. As cancer is evolving, so must we. Macmillan will not settle for anything other than the best possible support for people living with cancer.

As a charity, we can't afford to stand still. Now more than ever, we need to take every chance to make a difference. But we cannot do it alone. We have been working with others for over 100 years and will continue to do so.

So, we're working to create a vision of Macmillan that is shaped side by side with the people and communities we exist to support. To find out more about how Macmillan is doing this visit [Transforming Macmillan together | Macmillan Cancer Support](#)