Royal United Hospitals Bath
NHS Foundation Trust

12.11.26

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Media Release

Time is Precious charity supports revamp of children's A&E

The children's waiting area of the emergency department at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust has been given a complete makeover thanks to the charity Time is Precious.

The area has undergone a major revamp, with new flooring, furniture and freshly decorated walls with an eye-catching jungle theme, complete with elephants, zebras and giraffes

The waiting area for teenagers has also been refurbished, keeping the jungle theme but with a more mature, urban spin on the design.

As well as refurbishing the baby room and toilet, there are also new toys and distraction equipment to help keep the youngest patients occupied while they wait to be seen.

Sarah Potter, Joint Lead Nurse for the Children's Emergency Department, said: "This project has completely transformed the waiting area for our younger patients.

"Before the revamp the area was looking a bit tired and run down, but now it's much brighter and much more colourful too – the new printed graphics for the walls are stunning.

"I'm so grateful for the incredible generosity of the Time is Precious team, which has made children's ED a more pleasant and relaxing environment for the people we care for."

Nicky Halford MBE, from Time is Precious, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to completely refurbish the Children's Emergency Department waiting area. Creating a brighter, more welcoming environment for children and their families means so much to us.

"A huge thank you to the staff for their support, enthusiasm and input - it has been a fantastic team effort.

“We have completed several projects within RUH and would love to do more. We could not do any of this, of course, without the incredible support of our fundraisers and supporters. Their time, effort and generosity mean the absolute world to us. Thank you!”

Time Is Precious charity was set up in 2011 by Neil and Nicky Halford MBE in memory of their son Ben, who passed away from cancer aged just five. Ben was treated at the RUH, as well as hospitals in Bristol.

The aim of the charity is to help create a more comfortable and relaxed atmosphere for children and their families in hospitals, by purchasing distraction equipment and refurbishing areas.

To date, it has donated more than £600,000 to the RUH in the form of equipment and refurbishment projects.

You can find out more about Time is Precious on its website: https://timeisprecious.org/

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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 NHS services for the benefit of the people we care for.

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