

5th March 2012

Press Release

The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases Charitable Fund has launched the 'Refresh' appeal to raise £250,000 to refurbish the outpatient department at the Royal National Hospital of Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) in Bath.

This appeal is an approved programme of refurbishment taking place throughout the hospital. This includes those areas requiring modernisation, new equipment or a decorative face-lift, the first phase is the outpatients department.

The department is situated at the main entrance of the hospital and is the primary access for all patients and visitors attending the RNHRD; from here all other services are reached.

The present appearance of the outpatient's area does not reflect the excellent quality of care provided by the hospital's clinical services nor does it present the forward looking, high quality patient care image which the RNHRD wishes to project.

As well as the need to update the department's premises there is also the opportunity to embrace new technology and other advances, made in the years since this area was last refurbished. These advances include significant opportunities to increase the number of outpatient services offered, particularly in the areas of post cancer fatigue and paediatric and adolescent pain and fatigue services.

The department is used by each of the five hospital specialities and supports more than 25,000 appointments each year. The hospital cares for people with long term conditions. The RNHRD is a small specialist hospital in the centre of Bath and is known locally as the 'Min'. It has an international reputation for research and expertise in neuro rehabilitation, rheumatology, chronic fatigue and pain management. The hospital also provides diagnostic, endoscopy and clinical measurement services.

Kirsty Matthews Chief Executive of the RNHRD says "we are really excited about this appeal as it will allow us to increase the services on offer and the number of patients treated. We will also be able to improve the facilities and environment for patients, their relatives and carers, staff and visitors to the trust."

For more information please contact fundraising@rnhrd.nhs.uk or 01225 46591

ENDS

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Notes for Editors:

- The RNHRD NHS FT is a national specialist rehabilitation and rheumatology hospital based in Bath. Offering services to adults, children and young people, the trust has expertise in general and complex:
- Rheumatological and musculoskeletal conditions
- Neurological rehabilitation
- Chronic pain management
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME
- www.rnhrd.nhs.uk