

6th August, 2012

Press Release

Positive patient experience at the heart of the Min

Following the news that the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, commonly known as the Mineral Hospital, plans to join with the RUH, work is underway to determine how the two hospitals can best come together.

Over the next few months, the Min and the RUH will work together to lay the foundations for a new organisation, which continues to hold at its heart the standards of patient care currently provided by both hospitals.

Chief Executive Kirsty Matthews said: "We know that patient experience at the Min is highly regarded, patients tell us they really value the way the Min cares for people with warmth, dignity and respect.

"Working with our patients, patient groups and staff, it is essential to ensure we get the right set of arrangements to carry forward the best of the Min into the future. As we go through our transition, we will be talking carefully with our members, Governors and patient groups and establishing a patient forum, to work with us on further determining what is most important for people.

"It is useful to re-emphasise why we are doing what we are doing. The Min is a small organisation and has a serious and deteriorating financial situation due to its high operating costs, reducing income and the cost of operating from an 18th century building. It is no longer viable for us to continue as an independent foundation trust and joining with the RUH offers financial security and builds on what is already a close relationship to further strengthen the already strong clinical links between the two organisations. We will strive to keep patients and interested parties informed as we progress through the change."

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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
- Fatigue Management
- www.rnhrd.nhs.uk