

The Editor
Bath Chronicle,
James Street West
Bath
BA1 2DA

16th April 2013

Dear Editor,

As the smallest Foundation Trust in the country the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, known locally as “The Min”, is facing considerable challenges. For some years the Trust, which provides specialist care and research, has been unable to maintain financial independence amidst changing patterns of commissioning and delivery of these services. This had a particular impact on our Neuro-rehabilitation service and our ability to ensure the clinical sustainability of that service in the longer term. Readers of the Chronicle will be aware of these issues, the actions we have taken in response and of the concerns that have been raised about the future of the Trust.

The Board of the organisation are united and fully focused on steering the organisation through its current difficulties and resolving the underlying financial challenges. The priority is to establish a long term solution that addresses the needs of our patients who rely upon the specialist multidisciplinary treatment of long term conditions primarily in rheumatology, pain management and chronic fatigue.

The Min is a well-loved local institution with a renowned national and international reputation and commands the respect and affection of those people who use its services. It is particularly encouraging that despite the financial pressures the Trust is facing, the most recent independent inspection by the Care Quality Commission again endorsed without reservation the quality of the patient experience; something also reflected in the latest patient survey. Our first priority is to ensure the continuing quality of our clinical services and to maintain the excellent patient experience we are renowned for. The quality of that experience is the result of the vision, the culture and the dedication of all our staff.



**Royal National Hospital
for Rheumatic Diseases**
NHS Foundation Trust

T 01225 465941 F 01225 421202
E info@rnhrd.nhs.uk W www.rnhrd.nhs.uk

Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases
NHS Foundation Trust, Upper Borough Walls,
Bath, BA1 1RL

As chief executive and medical director we would like to reassure your readers that all those who are involved are working tirelessly to deliver the best outcome and the Trust is indebted to them for their support.

Kirsty Matthews
Chief Executive, RNHRD

Dr Ashok Bhalla
Medical Director, RNHRD



in association with:

INSERT LOGO

HERE

Royal National Hospital 
for Rheumatic Diseases
NHS Foundation Trust