Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and University of Winchester join forces to improve patient care and treatments

The University of Winchester and Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT) have signed a partnership agreement that will see the two organisations collaborate on research and education activities.

The Memorandum of Understanding for Collaborative Research and Education was formally signed by Alex Whitfield, chief executive of HHFT, and Professor Joy Carter, vice-chancellor of the University, at an event on Monday 19 February.

The agreement formalises the partnership between HHFT and the University which began in April 2013 with the establishment of the Hampshire Collaboration for Health Research and Education in which both institutions are equal partners.

The collaboration aims to increase research and education opportunities for both hospital staff and University academic departments. Since 2013, at least 20 projects, involving 10 clinical specialties and five academic departments, have been undertaken.

Professor Joy Carter, vice-chancellor at the University of Winchester, said, “We are thrilled to be formalising our strong links with Hampshire Hospitals with the signing of this new agreement.

“Building on the firm foundation of work already carried out, and the excellent research capabilities here at the University, this collaboration will provide a springboard for exciting research and education ideas, benefiting both academic knowledge and clinical practice.”

Hampshire Hospitals, which runs Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, Royal Hampshire County Hospital, in Winchester, and Andover War Memorial Hospital, actively supports research to improve patient experience and treatments.

Alex Whitfield, chief executive of Hampshire Hospitals, said: “This document formalises something which is already a living, breathing entity. It has been brought to life by many people who are already collaborating across a huge range of initiatives.

“Hampshire Hospitals and the University of Winchester share the same values and the same aspirations for the populations we serve. Our vision is to provide outstanding care for every patient, and this collaboration absolutely supports that. It is a catalyst for innovation, it supports our staff to maximise their potential and it encourages some of the very best staff to come and work in our area.”

The collaboration is led by Professor Simon Jobson, director of health and wellbeing at the University, Professor John Ramage, consultant gastroenterologist and visiting research fellow, and Barbara Parry, research advisor and collaborative research Fellow, at HHFT.

The partners are working together to identify future research and education collaborations and share expertise. The partnership also offers opportunities to bid for research funding outside what is generally available to health researchers and the collaboration recently secured its first Higher Education Innovation
Funding (HEIF) grant, winning £55,000 for a project entitled ‘A Digital Infrastructure for Hampshire Health’.

ENDS

PHOTO – (Left to right): Professor John Ramage; Alex Whitfield; Barbara Parry; Professor Joy Carter; Professor Simon Jobson

Notes to Editors

About Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust:
1. Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital services to a population of approximately 570,000 people in Hampshire and parts of West Berkshire.
2. HHFT has around 6,000 staff and a turnover of £385million a year.
3. HHFT delivers one hospital service across multiple locations including its own hospitals, Andover War Memorial Hospital, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital and Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. It also provides outpatient and assessment services from Bordon and Alton community hospitals.
4. As a Foundation Trust, HHFT is accountable to the local community through a system of local ownership with members and elected governors. HHFT has around 18,000 staff and public members. Foundation Trusts are free from central government control and can reinvest any surplus to develop clinical services. They are authorised and regulated by NHS Improvement, an independent regulator.

About the University of Winchester:
1. The University of Winchester is a leading university for teaching excellence (ranked tenth in England in The Times and The Sunday Times 2016 Good University Guide) and was shortlisted for University of the Year in the Times Higher Education Awards 2017.
2. Founded in 1840 the University offers undergraduate and postgraduate study on a range of subjects within the arts, humanities, social sciences, business, law, sport, education, and health and social care.
3. The University received the British Quality Foundation UK Excellence Award 2016 in recognition of excellence across its operations. It also received the BQF Sustainable Future Achievement Award 2016 for outstanding environmental or social contribution to achieving a more sustainable world.

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