**Press Release – New CEO**

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| A much-loved Devon charity prepares for a new leader at the helm as it pays tribute to its Chief Executive of 17 years. |

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| Chair of Devon Air Ambulance’s Board of Trustees, Will Matthewman, has announced the appointment of a new Chief Executive following the decision of current leader, Heléna Holt, to step down in the New Year following her 17 years of stewardship.  Following a two-day interview process, the board has appointed Greg Allen - who lives in Devon with his family, to lead the charity which delivers time-critical, lifesaving care to thousands of patients every year.  Greg is an experienced CEO, chair, non-executive director/trustee and advisor, with a career of over 30 years. His board and consultancy roles have spanned the commercial, public, third and academic sectors, in addition to his experience as a senior civil servant. He has spent the last 20 years in board and executive roles across the health and care sector in the UK and internationally.  He has overseen a range of operational medical and clinical services as well as research and policy initiatives linking business, start-ups, national policymakers and academia in the UK and overseas. He is also a Professor of Practice at the Exeter University Business School and he is currently the Interim Chief Executive of the national Point of Care Foundation and a Board Trustee of the national Shaw Trust.  Mr Matthewman commented that in addition to his impressive credentials, Greg would provide the perfect personality for the direction the organisation is currently heading. He said:  'There was a unanimous sense from the board and staff members involved in the interview process that Greg was the person we needed to lead the next chapter for Devon Air Ambulance, and I am delighted that he has accepted the appointment.  There are some exciting challenges ahead of us; and we need to ensure we're in the best position to grow and develop our services for our patients, families and communities.  We look forward to welcoming Greg to Devon Air Ambulance and working with him to help us continue to deliver critical care and lifesaving treatment to the people in Devon and beyond.'  Mr Matthewman added that Heléna’s leadership has steered the charity through a period of enormous transformation and growth and has been instrumental in developing its iconic reputation and status across the county and nationally.  'I know our board, staff, supporters and partners will join me in paying tribute to Heléna for her incredible legacy to Devon Air Ambulance, its patients, families and communities.  When she joined DAA in 2007, we were deployed to 1,580 missions, employed 28 people, and had an income of £4.9m. Last year, we carried out 2,226 missions with around 158 staff, and our income has grown to more than £10m.  In 2019 we became the UK’s first fully independent Air Ambulance, with responsibility for all aspects of aviation and clinical delivery, receiving an ‘outstanding’ rating from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), on our first inspection.  Heléna has also overseen the introduction of doctors on board and enhancing the clinical skills and knowledge of our team of specialist and advanced paramedics to ensure patients in Devon are now receiving expert, hospital-level care in their time of need. These outstanding achievements are testament to her passion and commitment, and she will leave Devon Air Ambulance in a very good place for the new Chief Executive to  take over.'  Greg Allen will start his tenure at Devon Air Ambulance in the New Year. |

* **ENDS -**

*Notes for the editor:*

- Greg Allen will be available for interview when he starts his new role at DAA in the New Year (January 2025). To discuss a future interview, please contact PR & Comms Officer, Jessica Behenna, at j.behenna@daat.org