

TRUST BOARD
27th November 2014

TITLE	Chairman's Report
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	The report presents highlights of recent activities.
BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS	N/a
STAKEHOLDER / PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS	The report refers to meetings with external stakeholders.
LINK TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE/BAF	Report encompasses reference to all Trust Strategic Objectives.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES	N/a
LEGAL ISSUES	None known.
The Trust Board is asked to:	Receive the report.
Submitted by:	Aileen McLeish, Chairman
Date:	18 th November 2014
Decision:	To Receive

Chairman's report

November 2014

Current Performance

The Trust continues to see major pressures for much of the month due to the numbers of patients requiring emergency patient care. Maintaining safe effective care for all our patients is a major challenge for our staff. We have ensured the interests of patients come first and this is one of the factors behind our decision to forecast our financial outturn for the year to a deficit of £1.25m. This was a major decision by the Board last month and is the first time since before becoming a Foundation Trust that we have forecast a deficit for the year. This deficit is despite extra funding of £1.454m which we have been promised by the Government.

Given recent announcements of further funds being made available, it is hoped that more will be allocated to NW Surrey. Notwithstanding this, a major effort is going into finding further savings to mitigate the impact of the loss making emergency care pathway, as well as ensuring we have the resources to maintain high quality care for patients.

Thank you to all our staff for their hard work caring for our patients.

CQC Inspection

A great deal of work is going into preparing for our CQC inspection which is scheduled for the start of December. This will be our first experience of the new inspection regime. We will have three days of inspection from a team of 40-50 inspectors. A public meeting has been organised for 27th November in Chertsey when members of the public will have their chance to have their say about their experiences of the Trust.

The inspection will be an interesting experience for us all providing the opportunity to talk about the things we are proud of as well as to share the areas we are concerned about. The feedback we get will be important in helping us understand our priorities for improving care in the future.

Proposed merger with Royal Surrey County

Our submission to the Competition and Markets Authority will be delivered by the end of this month. We then expect a response from them by the end of January. If we clear that hurdle, we will then move quickly towards a merged Trust by June.

A great deal of work is being put in by both Trusts to prepare for the merger. Work continues on the Full Business Case for the merger as well as planning for the activities of the new organisation. A joint Nominations Committee of the Council of Governors has had its second meeting to consider the process for appointment of the Chairman and Non-Executive Directors of the new Trust. Likewise the Joint Nominations Committee of the Non-Executives has had its second meeting to consider the process for appointing the Chief Executive. It is planned that the new Board will be in place in shadow form by the end of March 2015. It is this body which will work with Monitor to deliver the merger.

One important factor behind delivering a successful merger is recognising and dealing with the cultural differences between the two organisations. Work has been underway led by the Hay Group to review this area and their findings and recommendations were presented to a joint Board session this month.

Planning is also underway for a major engagement programme with members of the public and other stakeholders to gather views on the proposed merger. This is being planned for the new year following the decision by the Competition and Markets Authority. In response to a request to the Royal Surrey Board, a public meeting was held in Haslemere earlier this month. It was well attended and the feedback about the merger was generally positive.

Governors

The majority of Governors attended a training session which covered their role in the merger. A similar session was held for the Royal Surrey Governors. This was a well-run session, which helped Governors focus on their role in approving the merger.

Governors also held the first of regular informal meetings with Suzanne Rankin and I to catch up on and discuss any areas of concern they might have. One area which has been raised by Governors is concern about patients' experiences of the various Outpatient services. A special meeting was held which gave Governors the opportunity to highlight their main concerns as well as influence the Trust's plans for improvements in this area.

Staff

Congratulations to Consultant Dr Radcliffe Lisk, Consultant Orthogeriatrician, who has been shortlisted in the NHS Kent, Surrey & Sussex Leadership Collaborative Recognition Awards for 2014. Dr Lisk has been recognised for his work on significantly improving our performance on treating patients with hip fractures. The results will be announced at an event which coincides with our Board meeting.

This month there was sad news about two colleagues. The deaths were announced of Sheila Ferguson and Sue Smit. Many colleagues had their opportunity to attend their funerals and memorial services. In addition a memorial service was held at St Peter's Hospital for Margaret Egeman another colleague who died suddenly in August.

Remembrance services were held on both sites on 11 November. In addition to the service and two minutes service at 11.00, a further service including the last post and reveille with a flag lowering service occurred at 5pm on both sites. It is hoped these services will form a regular part of future remembrance services.

Other

I was delighted to attend the ceremony to mark the opening of Birch Ward as our new cardiology in-patient unit located alongside our cardiology labs.

I met with Bill Caplan the newly appointed Chairman of Central Surrey Health.

I represented the Trust at Professor Philip Beesley's retirement from The Royal Holloway, University of London.