### 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: 22 May 2015

Decision: To Receive
Proposed merger from Royal Surrey County Hospital Foundation Trust

The Competition and Merger Authority (CMA) continue to consider the proposed merger and are not expected to publish a decision until late summer at the earliest. At the moment they are sifting through a great deal of information and asking a lot of questions. In addition they are conducting telephone surveys of local GPs and patients. CMA representatives met with members of our patient panel to have a more in depth conversation about how patients make their choices of where they have hospital treatment.

Earlier this month I participated in a question and answer session at the end of a seminar held by Royal Surrey County for their Governors. This was a useful opportunity to hear directly their questions about the merger as well as to give an ASPH perspective on the proposed merger.

In addition to our work on the merger, in collaboration with our Clinical Commissioning Group (North West Surrey CCG) we are considering a range of options for working in closer alignment with our local health economy. The first meeting of the Transformation Agenda Steering Group, which is overseeing this work, took place this month. This work is expected to be completed by the end of the summer so that the Board can consider the range of options open to ASPH once we hear back from the CMA.

During the month I met with Liz Lawn, the Chairman of North West Surrey CCG.

Performance and Improving services for patients

Good progress is being made with getting back on target for both elective work and cancer treatment. However the main concern remains our A&E performance, where we continue to perform below the target of treating 95% of patients within 4 Hours. All this is reported on elsewhere in the Board papers, and working with North West Surrey CCG, the Board is considering a number of options to transform our performance in A&E.

We were all delighted to see ASPH listed as a Top 40 Trust by CHKS for the fourth time. We were even more delighted for ASPH to be awarded the top prize for Quality of Care, which is a tremendous accolade for staff across the Trust.

We are hopeful of further awards as ASPH has been shortlisted as a finalist for two awards in the National Patient Safety Awards 2015 for the following categories: Cancer Care Category for our work on ‘Supportive Care for Those Who are Living with and Beyond Cancer and Their Families/Careers and Quality of Care Award for our work on ‘Chemotherapy Closer to Patient Home’. Congratulations go to Sarah Burton (Clinical Cancer Lead) and her team for their continued hard work.
During the month we celebrated the first anniversary of the opening of the Abbey Birth Centre. Staff were joined by Mums who gave birth this time last year for the celebrations. There was a double celebration last week as the Abbey Birth Centre saw its 505th baby born. Jacob Oliver Evans was born at 5am on the 5th day of the 5th month!

During National Dementia Awareness Week, Chief Nurse Heather Caudle and I were delighted to invite the Mayor and Mayoress Elect of Runnymede, Councillor Derek Cotty and Mrs Susan Jones, to open our new memory loss clinic, which will be available for the use of carers of people with dementia, as a place to network with each other as well as experts involved in dementia care. Our thanks to David Sills, our Dementia and Admiral Lead Nurse for his work in driving forward our dementia strategy and Anitra Camargo and her colleagues from Home Instead (a domiciliary care agency supporting people with dementia) for supporting this initiative.

On behalf of the Trust I was delighted to accept a cheque for £2000 from The Hospital Saturday Fund towards improvements for the benefit of our younger patients suffering from cancer and other long term conditions. This is a direct collaboration with Momentum who fundraise on our behalf and take the lead on improving the facilities in Little Oaks Ward, a project which is likely to cost in the region of £50,000. The improved facilities will include a “chill out” area for the patients, new bays for better privacy for patients and a small staff office for dealing with sensitive information and difficult phone calls.”

International Clinical Trials Day is celebrated around the world on the 20th May each year to commemorate the day James Lind started his renowned trial on scurvy. The day promotes the importance of research to health care and how crucial high-quality, relevant research is. It is important patients, carers and the public are involved in all stages of the research process and the recent “OK to ask” campaign aims to encourage patients and public to ask about clinical research.

The Research and Development department has been expanding to ensure both sites at Ashford and St Peter’s are research active and are increasing the areas in which research is conducted.

Rebecca Busby led on a range of initiatives throughout the Trust to mark National Thrombosis Week which also occurred this month. Despite all the calls on people’s time, Rebecca attracted a large audience to a one-day conference covering a range of topics relating to the prevention and treatment of VTEs.

Staff

I was able to hand out WOW award certificates for colleagues who were unable to attend the Staff Appreciation awards last month. It was lovely to be able to visit and congratulate people in the normal place of work in front of their work colleagues.

Congratulations to Consultant Physician and Endocrinologist Dr Thang Han has been given an International Award for Publishing Excellence by the prestigious Endocrine Society, based in Chicago, USA, for his article published last summer in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism titled “Comparison of immunoassay and mass spectrometry measurement of serum estradiol [oestrogen] levels and their influence on clinical association
studies in men”. This is a prestigious award for Dr Han which also enhances the reputation of ASPH.

I joined representatives from the League of Friends of St Peter’s Hospital at an event to mark the refurbishment of the staff room for midwives and other labour ward staff. This is the latest in a series of projects which have been funded and managed by the Friends. We thank the Friends for all their work in supporting staff.

Our fourth annual Pride in Nursing and Midwifery Day coincided with Florence Nightingale’s birthday. Congratulations to Kathryn Wood and her team for organising this well attended event. The Pride in Nursing and Midwifery Day energised staff from throughout the organisation with innovative projects and presentations based around the nursing values - known as the 6Cs (Care, Compassion, Commitment, Communication, Courage and Competence).

During Learning at Work Week ASPH’s Library & Knowledge Services, led by Laura Strafford, showcased the range of opportunities available for everyone to learn skills and gain qualifications. It was also an opportunity to engage and gain feedback from staff about their current experience when accessing learning and development in the organisation.

Six members of the ASPH Choir performed at the world premiere of a new community opera at the Royal Albert Hall on the 12th May. Liz Davies, Matthew Tambling, Julie Morland, Dr Aisling Parker, Marie Buckley and Judith Thompson joined a cast of more than 1,000 children and adults from across Surrey in a performance of Magna Carta - The Freedom Game. It was commissioned by Surrey Arts to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta in Surrey. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for all those taking part.

I was very pleased to be invited to represent the Trust at this year’s Honorary Fellows ceremony at Royal Holloway, University of London. Among those being honoured was ASPH Non-Executive Director, Professor Philip Beesley. Congratulations to Philip on this award.

This month brought news of the devastating earthquakes in Nepal. Many of our staff are of Nepalese origin and have family members affected both directly and indirectly by the earthquakes. Tremors and aftershocks are still occurring and it will be many years before the Nepalese community will be able to recover. Housekeeping Supervisor Puma Pun and colleagues have organised a collection of clothes and blankets and were overwhelmed by the generosity and support displayed across our two hospitals. They have also organised a cash collection in Woking town centre and are now working on how best to get the funding and supplies to Nepal.

We have lost two well-known members of staff this month; Mary Green, and Pauline Earley, an ex- colleague. Mary had been at the Trust for twenty years, mainly at Ashford, working in Medical Staffing, the Walk in Centre and latterly in the Rapid Access Centre. Pauline had worked in the Trust for over twenty years as a supervisor in reception and switchboard. They will both be missed by friends and colleagues.
Governors

We held a meeting of the Constitution group to consider a number of changes to the constitution which are considered necessary to ensure stability at the top of the Trust while the CMA continues their review of our proposed merger. Recommendations will be made to the Council of Governors next month.

There was a meeting of the Nominations committee, to start to consider the appointment of Non-Executive Directors, a number of whose terms of office come to an end over the next few months. Recommendations will be made to the Council of Governors’ meetings in June and September.

Chief Executive, Suzanne Rankin, and I had an informal meeting with governors, when we were able to update them on progress with the merger, performance issues, and a range of other items of significance.

Other

I attended a NHS Providers discussion group on improving quality though governance.

I attended a dinner hosted by NHS Providers where the principal guests were from the Care Quality Commission: Chief Executive, David Behan; Chief Inspector of Hospitals Mike Richards; and Non-Executive Director Dr Jennifer Dixon.

On behalf of the Trust, Chief Nurse Heather Caudle and I received a cheque for £400 from Councillor Mohammad Ilyas Raja and his colleagues from Hum Nawa. The collection had been raised at a mother’s day lunch and the donors specifically wanted the money raised to go to our maternity Unit. We are very grateful for the support provided by Hum Nawa and other members of the local Muslim community.

I addressed the AGM of the North-West Surrey branch of the NHS Retirement Fellowship.