

**TRUST BOARD**  
**31<sup>st</sup> January 2013**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Chairman's Report</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	Highlights of activities in January 2013 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hospital performance</li><li>• Changes in the NHS</li><li>• Governors</li><li>• The Board</li></ul>
<b>BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS</b>	N/a
<b>STAKEHOLDER / PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS</b>	Refers to meetings with external stakeholders.
<b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES</b>	N/a
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	None known.
<b>The Trust Board is asked to:</b>	Receive the report.
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Aileen McLeish, Chairman
<b>Date:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2013
<b>Decision:</b>	To Receive

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**Chairman's Report**

**Hospital performance**

We are now in the middle of the winter season and the recent cold weather has inevitably resulted in an increased number of patients needing to be admitted to hospital. Despite the snow and low temperatures, it has been business as usual in the hospitals. However, the Trust has been operating close to capacity at various times over the last few weeks. Our new arrangements for emergency medicine are enabling us to cope better with the demands on our services and have given us greater resilience to recover from the peaks in demand. I would like to thank all staff for the efforts they have made to ensure we provide the best care for our patients.

The good news is that we hit all our targets in the quarter ending 31 December, underlying how well we are performing notwithstanding the levels of demand in our services.

Members of the Board met with the Foundation Trust regulator Monitor in December. This was a meeting to follow up on the Annual Plan stage 2 review. Overall it was a very positive meeting and we were able to demonstrate improved performance across a number of areas including emergency care as well as our responses to the various inspections by the Care Quality Commission during the previous 12 months. Both our hospitals are in full compliance with the national standards inspected by CQC

I went round both hospitals on Christmas morning, to thank staff and volunteers and speak to patients and their families and also to see how well the hospital was operating. All was running smoothly and it was good to see that we had our cafes open for the first time on the day so that staff and visitors could buy refreshments.

**Changes in the NHS**

There has recently been a lot of discussion in the media about how we ensure high standards of care in the NHS. On 6 February 2012 we will see the publication of the Francis report on failings at the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. This is expected to receive extensive media coverage. Robert Francis's recommendations will be closely studied and may have implications for the structure of the NHS. At this Trust we will be reviewing the recommendations to see what more we can do locally to improve the care of our patients.

Meanwhile the changes to the arrangements for commissioning are well underway. NHS Surrey, our local Primary Care Trust will close at the end of March, with responsibility for local commissioning transferring to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). Congratulations to our local CCG, North West Surrey, who received their formal authorisation earlier this month. Covering GP practises in Runnymede, Spelthorne., West Elmbridge and Woking, they are now

positioned to take control of a £400mil budget from April 2013. Meanwhile responsibility for the commissioning of specialist services transfers to the National Commissioning Board.

During December there was a meeting of NHS provider organisations with the members of the Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board for Surrey. From April, the Health and Wellbeing Board will be a forum for health and care system leaders to identify local priorities for improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities. The meeting was hosted by County Councillor Michael Gosling and was an opportunity to understand how this new Board will operate and discuss how we can work together in the new arrangements.

### **Governors**

The Council of Governors met on 5<sup>th</sup> December. We trialled a new format for the meeting to shift the engagement of Governors and Board Directors to a more strategic level. The plan is to focus on each of our strategic objectives in turn, covering them all during the cycle of four Council meetings in a year. At the meeting in December we discussed Quality with Non-Executive Director Sue Ells facilitating the discussion and Chief Nurse Suzanne Rankin making a formal presentation. Many of the Governors came to the meeting well informed having attended an update meeting on our Quality Account reporting during the previous week. Overall the new format was judged to be a success and we will repeat it at our next meeting which will be dedicated to our Efficiency and Effectiveness strategic objective.

Earlier this month Andrew Liles, George Roe and myself had an informal meeting with governors to update them on our performance and recent developments and also to respond to any issues or concerns they might have.

### **The Board**

Congratulations to Sue Ells whom the Governors have reappointed as a Non –Executive Director for a period of three years with effect from February 2013.

I am sorry to report that Raj Bhamber Director of Workforce and Organisational Development will be leaving us later this year to take up a similar role at Medway NHS Foundation Trust. Raj has agreed to stay until her successor comes into post. Recruitment is underway with interviews taking place at the beginning of February.

Members of the Board have been participating in 360 appraisals. This is a process facilitated by an independent company called Foresight which enables each member of the Board to receive confidential feedback from colleagues, members of staff, Governors and other stakeholders. WE each get helpful feedback on how well we are doing in fulfilling our roles and what we should focus on in the future.

During December and January I have attended meetings of the Strategy, Finance and Audit Committees.

## Other

Andrew Liles and myself spent a morning with our reception staff at St Peter's Hospital. Andrew was with main reception and I spent time in the main Outpatients Dept. This gave us both a good insight into how our visitors and patients are looked after in two of the busiest areas in the hospital.

I was pleased to join a seminar on the Management of the Overactive Bladder. Led by Consultant Obstetrician and Urogynaecologists Wolf Gelman and James Thomes, it was interesting to hear about the range of treatments available to men and women who suffer from this condition. Wolf and James were joined on the platform by colleagues Andrea Duggan, Kate Anders and Jenny Sheppard as well as Dr Raad Nari explaining the issues for patients with dementia and Mr Philip Bearn talking about surgical treatments. In addition Dudley Robinson from Kings College Hospital and Dr Annette Kuhn from the university of Bern both gave an external perspective.

I was pleased to accept an invitation from Probus in Staines to address one of their monthly lunches. It was particularly pleasing to receive a lot of positive feedback about people's experience of care within the hospitals.

I attended a Cambridge Health Network talk by Mathew Kershaw on his experiences as the Special Administrator of the South London Healthcare NHS Trust.

I had meetings with Christopher Smallwood, Chairman of St George's Hospital Trust and with Dr Mike Irani Chair of the Trust's Local Negotiating Committee.

I was pleased to represent the Board at David Stanley's leaving lunch. David has been interim manager of Ashford Physiotherapy team and was recognised by colleagues to have been hugely successful in improving teamwork within the department.

I attended the Staff Christmas party which this year was held at Botley's Mansion. Other Christmas events included carol services at both hospitals. Our annual Volunteers lunch was held on 30<sup>th</sup> January at Ashford and was a great opportunity for the Board to thank all our volunteers for the contribution they make to the Trust.

Aileen McLeish  
January 2013  
Chairman