Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

TRUST BOARD
16th December 2010

TITLE	**Chairman's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Highlights of activities since November 2010
BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS	Refers to progressing the Foundation Trust Application which is an element on the BAF
STAKEHOLDER / PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS	Refers to meetings with external stakeholders
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES	None known
LEGAL ISSUES	None known
The Trust Board is asked to:	Note the report.
Submitted by:	Aileen McLeish
Date:	9th December 2010
Decision:	For Noting

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Chairman's Report

Foundation Trust

With a great sense of pride I am delighted to confirm that Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals were authorised as a Foundation Trust with effect from 1 December 2010. This is the culmination of a lot of hard work by our staff and Board, and means that Monitor, the regulator, are satisfied we meet the high standards of care and safety necessary for a hospital to become a Foundation Trust. It is also a reflection on our sound finances and Monitor's confidence in our plans and vision for the future.

We were the first Trust to be authorised against new tougher quality criteria and the Monitor team were particularly complimentary about the strength of our submission. This is a great tribute to all who have worked so hard to enable us to reach this point. Now our challenge is to achieve our aim of becoming one of the best healthcare trusts in the country.

On our first day as a Foundation Trust, the Board supported by the Communications and Corporate Affairs teams, distributed c2400 cakes and mince pies to staff across our sites as a thank you and celebration of our Foundation Trust status.

Council of Governors

We held our first meeting of the new Council of Governors on the evening of 1 December. Despite the treacherous weather, we had a good turn out and were able to conduct all the business necessary to ensure we had our governance arrangements in place as a Foundation Trust. The Council of Governors accepted the appointment of the chairman and Non-Executive Directors and the Chief Executive. They also approved the appointment of Professor Phillip Beasley as Deputy Chairman (for a preliminary period of a year) and noted the appointment of Peter Taylor as Senior Independent Director. They approved the appointment of KPMG as our external auditors pending a review during 2011/12. They also agreed the formation of the Nomination and Appointment Committee and the Remuneration and Appraisal Committee so that work can start early on the recruitment to fill the 2 Non-Executive Director vacancies.

Generally it was a good start with an excellent contribution from the new Governors. We are now working with them to arrange their full induction and training so they are better able to fulfil their roles.

During the last few weeks I have been having one-one meetings with our newly elected Governors. I have also met a number of the candidates who were unsuccessful in the elections, to explore whether there are other ways they can support the Trust.

Quality of services

Two major publications in the last month have recognised the quality of services provided in our hospitals

The Doctor Fosters Guide for 2010 showed that we continue to be the among the small group of safest Trusts with a lower than expected standardised mortality rate. This reflects both the expertise of our staff and our commitment to quality.

We have also seen a significant improvement across all aspects of care in our results in the national survey of Maternity services. This is a significant achievement by the team led by Eileen Nolan.

Both of these will be reported on in more detail elsewhere in the meeting
The hospitals continue to be very busy with winter weather arriving early this year. I would

like to pay tribute to staff who managed to get into work despite the snow and exceptionally low temperatures and also for working so hard to meet the needs of patients.

Celebrating Success with staff
I was delighted to present a number of colleagues with certificates at the Training and Development Awards Ceremony at St Peter's Hospital. This was a great occasion to celebrate the achievements of a wide range of staff from porters, to cleaning staff, to nurses to administration staff and others who have achieved a wide range of qualifications. With support from the Trust every individual demonstrated personal commitment and responsibility and it is a tribute to their hard work that they were successful in achieving their qualifications.

I was very pleased to be invited to address the Annual General Meeting of the Trust's BME Network. With c 30% of our staff coming from a BME background we have one of the most diverse workforces in the South East Coast region. Our success as a Trust is dependent on tapping into the talent and energies of all our staff. Although we have made progress this year with a number of significant senior appointments, we recognise we need to do more to enable everyone to achieve their potential. I was particularly pleased to share in the launch of our new programme, Road to Success, which is designed to develop staff and prepare them for promotion. We have 17 participants on the Programme this year.

Departures
I am very sorry to report that Nadeem Aziz has had to resign as a Non-Executive Director with effect from the end of this month. Nadeem's primary employer is relocating to Switzerland and Nadeem's new role does not allow him to continue as a member of our Board. Nadeem has been very active in chairing our Finance Committee enabling it to look forward, and has been an active contributor to Board discussions. We are all very sorry to lose him as a colleague.

We also say farewell to Susan Osborne this month, who has been our Interim Chief Nurse, ably filling the gap between Caroline Becher's retirement and Suzanne Rankin's appointment. Susan has been an exemplary Chief Nurse, as a Board colleague, leading her team and conducting the review of our nursing resources which is designed to further improve the experience of our patients.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank both Nadeem and Susan for everything they have contributed to the Trust particularly during the final phase of our Foundation Trust application.

Other
Apart from many one-to-one meetings with successful and unsuccessful candidates in the Council of Governors during the month I have also:

Helped as Master of Ceremonies at the highly successful Dragon's Den development event (See the Chief Executive's report for more information)
Met with Peter Dunt the new Chairman of Royal Surrey County NHS Foundation Trust and also with Tom Hayhoe, the new Chairman of West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
Met with candidates for the Consultant role in Orthopaedics
Met with Gulam Patel, newly appointed Divisional Director for Ambulatory Care

Finally, Andrew Liles celebrates his second anniversary as Chief Executive of the Trust at the end of this month. I would like to thank Andrew for his leadership in enabling the many improvements within the Trust and not least our achievement of Foundation Trust status.

Submitted by: Aileen McLeish 9 December 2010