Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS
NHS Trust

TRUST BOARD
24th June 2010

TITLE	**Chairman's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Highlights of activities since May 2010
BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS	Refers to performance in 2009/2010. 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	N/A
LEGAL ISSUES	N/A
The Trust Board is asked to:	Note the report
Submitted by:	Aileen McLeish
Date:	15 May 2010
Decision:	For Noting

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Chairman's Report
June 2010

Non-Executive Directors: I would like to welcome Nadeem Aziz and John Kelly to their first Board meeting. Nadeem will be chairing the Finance Committee and be a member of the Audit Committee. He is a resident of Hounslow, an experienced Accountant and is currently Director for Group Financial Planning at Actavis, a leading generic pharmaceutical drugs manufacturer and distributor. John is our new Non-Executive Director Designate. He will be recommended to the new Council of Governors as the additional Non-Executive Director we will need when we become a Foundation Trust. In the meantime John will work as a extra member of the Board. John is a resident of Weybridge and a very experienced business leader. He has previously been the UK Managing Partner of Ernst and Young Consulting and now is Senior Partner of Bridge Consulting International. I have asked John to focus on Patient Safety. Both John and Nadeem have started their inductions with the Trust and I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead.

Foundation Trust application: At the time of writing, our application remains in the Department of Health awaiting final sign off by the Secretary of State. We are advised that the Secretary of State is very busy with the Health White Paper which is due to be published next month and our application is being held in a queue of paperwork awaiting his attention. Once this happens we will be able to start discussions with Monitor, the Foundation Trust regulator, and will have a clearer idea of the timetable for the final stages of our application.

The delays mean that September is the earliest that we will be able to hold elections for our Council of Governors. In the meantime we have reminded our stakeholders that we need nominations for their representative Governors. Royal Holloway, University of London have informed us that Chris Howarth, Deputy Dean of History and Social Sciences will be their Stakeholder Governor. A meeting is being arranged to brief Chris about his role.

During the month I attended a dinner organised by the Foundation Trust Network which was addressed by Stephen Bundred, the new Chair of Monitor. For much of the event Stephen was in listening mode, wanting feedback from existing FTs about the current monitoring regime. It was interesting to hear other FTs extolling the benefits of greater engagement with their members and therefore the improved local accountability that they are experiencing. With regard to aspirant Foundation Trusts, Stephen made it clear that the process for becoming a Foundation Trust will not change under the new Government.

National Developments: In the last few weeks there have been a number of announcements from the Department of Health about their priorities within the new Government. These are:

- **A patient led NHS** – every patient will be empowered to choose any healthcare provider (including any GP) that meets NHS standards within NHS prices
- **Deliver better health outcomes** – a shift from targets to outcomes and a stronger role for CQC in regulating quality (with Monitor as the economic and market regulator)
- **More autonomy and accountability** – a new independent NHS Board and a significant shift in power to GPs who will have a considerably greater role and influence in commissioning and leading the local NHS. Local Authorities given more power to challenge NHS service closures

- **Improve public health** – Fewer PCTs, rebranded as the local office of the Dept of Public Health
- **Reform long term care** – improving access and options for long term home care, focussing on prevention. A commission on long term care to report within 12 months

We are expecting a new operating framework for the current year, which will start the process of implementation of these priorities. In addition a White Paper is expected next month which will be the precursor of legislation needed to deliver these priorities.

Earlier this month the Board met with Candy Morris, Chief Executive of South East Coast SHA, and Ann Sutton, Acting Chief Executive for NHS Surrey, to consider the implications for ASPH of these national changes as well as the turnaround plan for NHS Surrey. It is clear that we face many challenges ahead, but everything we have heard has reinforced our strategy to strengthen the performance of ASPH and ensure we are the hospital of choice for the communities we serve.

Front line visits: Two visits I would like to highlight are a ward round when I accompanied Colorectal surgeons and a morning I spent in St Peter's Out-Patients. On both occasions I was able to have wide ranging chats with colleagues and patients about how well we are performing. I received good feedback from patients about the quality of care and was able to observe first hand the professionalism of colleagues. It was good to see the refurbished ward areas as well as the much improved Outpatients area. The builders hadn't quite finished in Outpatients but there was generally an enthusiastic reaction from staff about their new environment. I have been able to feed back to the Matrons of these areas my impressions from these visits.

I was also privileged to witness one of the first uses of our new Lithotripter. This is a first for Surrey and is a huge benefit for patients with kidney stones who will be able to avoid the alternative of intrusive surgery.

Launch of Acute Hospital Liaison Learning Disability Nurses: ASPH were very pleased to host the launch of this service across Surrey. This is an initiative led by NHS Surrey and Surrey and Borders Foundation Trust which aims to improve the health care for people with learning disabilities within our communities. At the launch we had representatives from all parts of the NHS within Surrey being joined by Mencap and other community groups as well as some patients. Vanessa Avlonitis, Deputy Chief Nurse, shared with us the actions being taken at ASPH to improve care for patients with Learning Disabilities.

Other activities this month:

- I represented ASPH at a community event organised by BP Sunbury
- The Non-Executive Directors had a farewell supper with Norman Critchlow to thank him for all his work for the hospitals.

June 2010