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

TRUST BOARD
24th November 2011

TITLE	**Chairman's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Highlights of activities since October 2011
BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS	N/A
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:	16th November 2011
Decision:	For Noting

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Epsom Hospital

Earlier this month the Board decided to submit a bid for Epsom Hospital. Our bid was lodged on 10 November. We now expect to spend the period until the end of January 2012 exploring with the Transaction Board whether we can move to become the preferred bidder. We have put together an exciting proposal for Epsom hospital but this will take some time to implement. Our approach focuses on an integrated campus model and includes ambitious new partnerships with the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, the community provider Central Surrey Health and Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust. This will bring additional and more sustainable services to Epsom, as well as providing additional benefits to Surrey patients and staff.

As a successful Foundation Trust the Board will want to ensure any final agreement is in the best interest of Ashford and St Peter's and this will require agreement with the Transaction Team for a period of financial support to protect Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals from the deficit in Epsom.

During the month Andrew and I had another open meeting with Epsom staff to answer their questions as well as holding a special session with our Governors both to brief them and gain their views about a bid. I also joined Executive Directors at a meeting with our equivalents at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Foundation Trust to share experiences of bidding for a neighbouring NHS Trust.

Foundation Trust Network Chairs' and Chief Executives' meeting

This was a useful meeting to catch up with national developments. There was a strong message that Foundation Trusts are now seen as one of the successes within the NHS and therefore have been seen to be "uncontroversial" in the context of the health and social care bill. However some opponents of the bill are querying the removal of the FT private patient income cap as well as pressing for a process for de-authorisation of Foundation Trusts which don't perform. With regard to the former, the Foundation Trust Network is being active in pushing for broader freedoms for FTs to earn private income as a compliment to the NHS services being provided.

There was an overall message that Foundation Trusts should deliver the efficiency agenda, doing more for less, while not letting quality slip. However, it is clear that the financial pressures within the NHS are affecting an increasing number of FTs, albeit still a minority of the total. Some of the problems emerging in other Trusts will require whole healthcare system solutions.

South East Coast Chairs and Chief Executives Forum

Andrew and I attended the first meeting of this forum with the new board of NHS South of England, the new Strategic Health Authority cluster covering our area. The meeting was led by Dr Geoffrey Harris and Sir Ian Carruthers, respectively the Chair and Chief Executive, plus Kate Lampard, Vice Chairman of the SHA. This cluster now covers a population of 13.4million extending from Lands End to Margate.

The priorities of NHS South of England are:

- Improving the quality of care: outcomes, safety, experience
- Ensuring services are delivered within available resources
- Driving benefits out of reform

- Tackling long standing strategic issues through transition
- Supporting staff through transition

There were a number of messages about our locality. NHS Surrey is no longer seen as a major problem, predicting a performance in line with plan for the full year, albeit it is behind on target at the half year. At Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals, we need to improve our performance in two areas where we lag behind national targets: Accident and Emergency (91% seen within 4 hours in quarter 3 to date v a target of 95%) and our Referral to Treatment performance (currently 89.6% admitted within 18 weeks compared with target 90%).

Governors

In addition to the meeting to brief Governors on the proposed bid for Epsom hospital, the other meeting taking place this month is a Joint Planning Seminar with the Board. This takes place immediately after this Board meeting.

I continue to have one to one meetings with individual Governors to review progress through our first year. In addition the Governors have met on their own, chaired by Lead Governor David Frank, to consider how to fulfil their changing responsibilities. Feedback from these meetings was discussed at a meeting between David Frank, Andrew Liles and myself earlier this week.

People

I am very pleased to welcome Dr David Fluck to the Board as Interim Medical Director, replacing Mike Baxter who retires from the NHS in the New Year.

This month has seen the retirement of Professor Mark Britton, Consultant in respiratory medicine and former Medical Director of the Trust. Mark has had a long distinguished career within the NHS, and is a national figure in the treatment of lung diseases. He is a former Chairman of the British Lung Foundation having been active in the founding of this important charity, and is a visiting professor at the University of Surrey. There have been a number of events to mark his retirement, including a valedictory lecture on 22 November.

Other
I represented the Trust at:

- A Foundation Trust Network dinner with Jo Williams, Chair of the Care Quality Commission
- An event organised by Gatenby Sanderson on The Future Leadership Needs of the NHS
- Breakthrough Breast Cancer's Service Pledge for Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals
- Royal Holloway's 125th Anniversary Celebration at the Royal Society

I chaired a panel to appoint a new respiratory consultant

The Board met with the Board of Assura Medical who are in the process of taking over responsibility for community services in Surrey. This was a good opportunity to share areas of common interest as we plan to work together to deliver improved services within the local health economy.

I also attended the Act of Remembrance at St Peter's Hospital Multifaith Centre on 11 November.

Aileen McLeish
Chairman