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

TRUST BOARD
24th November 2011

TITLE	**Chief Executive's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	General overview of issues/developments
BOARD ASSURANCE (RISK)/ IMPLICATIONS	n/a
STAKEHOLDER/ PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS	Stakeholder engagement in Trust's catering tender.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES	n/a
LEGAL ISSUES	n/a
The Trust Board is asked to:	Note the report
Submitted by:	Andrew Liles, Chief Executive
Date:	15th November 2011
Decision:	For Noting

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Chief Executive's Report

Key News and Developments

Trust Medical Director

Following Dr Mike Baxter's decision to retire from the Trust at the end of January, we have recently appointed Dr David Fluck as our new Acting Medical Director. Currently the Trust's Deputy Medical Director, Dr Fluck first joined St Peter's hospital as a Consultant Cardiologist in 1996 and has since introduced many service improvements and developments as well as undertaking a number of roles including Clinical Director for Medicine and Clinical Lead for the Surrey Cardiac Network. The Board is looking forward to working with Dr Fluck when he takes up his new role in February.

Dr Mike Baxter will have been Medical Director for nearly 10 years on his retirement and has made a very considerable contribution to the Trust over that time. The Board is pleased that he will continue to work with Ashford and St Peter's on a number of important strategic projects.

The substantive post of Medical Director will be advertised next year when our plans for acquiring Epsom Hospital are clearer.

NHS South of England

From early last month, the strategic health authorities covering the South of England - NHS South East Coast, NHS South West and NHS South Central - have been placed under a single management framework, now working together as NHS South of England. Earlier this month I attended my first meeting with representatives from the new NHS South of England Strategic Health Authority where we were able to show that our performance against elective waiting time targets during September were the best in Surrey, making a positive first impression. We are also broadly on target with our Service Level Agreement with NHS Surrey for this year, which was a further demonstrator of overall good performance.

Summary Hospital level Mortality Indicator (SHMI)

The new hospital mortality indicator – published earlier this month by the NHS Information Centre - shows that Ashford and St Peter's continues to be a safe hospital trust, with a lower than expected mortality index. The Trust received a score of 90 (where 100 would be the expected level), which takes into account variables such as age, type of illness, social demography and other factors.

The Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI) was developed by the NHS Information Centre after recommendations from the Francis Review following events at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. For the first time, the indicator considers all deaths that take place both in hospital and within 30 days of patients being discharged, offering a more comprehensive picture of deaths following hospital care. Whilst the new index is still experimental, the lower than expected mortality data is reassuring.

Epsom and St Helier Transaction

Earlier this month the Board approved our detailed plans to acquire Epsom Hospital which would create a new, three hospital NHS Foundation Trust providing a strong long-term future for local health services. Part of the bid involves partnerships with The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, the community provider Central Surrey Health and Surrey and Sussex

Healthcare NHS Trust, bringing added benefits to Surrey patients and creating an innovative campus approach for Epsom hospital.

Our plans will now be scrutinised by the Epsom and St Helier Transaction Team, which based at NHS London, and assessed against their objectives for Epsom Hospital and the criteria they have developed with staff and local stakeholders before a final recommendation is made early next year. St George's NHS Healthcare Trust has also submitted their bid for St Helier hospital which will be considered at the same time.

As a successful organisation coming up to our first anniversary as a Foundation Trust, the Board will be careful to ensure that any final agreement remains in the best interests of both organisations and of our patients and staff before proceeding to the next stage.

Catering Update

The Trust's catering contract has fallen due for renewal and we are now part-way through the tendering process for appointing a new catering contract to cover all catering throughout our two hospitals, including patient food, all staff and visitor food and retail outlets. Bringing all the Trust's catering and retail services into one new contract gives us the best opportunity to make significant improvements to the quality of these services, and to patient food in particular.

An initial meeting has been held with the Trust's Catering Steering Group – which includes both patient and staff representatives – to consider the detailed service specifications from those organisations who are tendering. A wider stakeholder panel will meet next week to listen to detailed presentations from those tendering before scoring these against an agreed set of criteria as part of the overall decision making process. This, along with similar representation on the Catering Steering Group - will ensure robust stakeholder engagement at all stages of the process before the final recommendation is made to the Trust Board in December. The new contract would be expected to start on 1st April 2012.

Award for Home Monitoring of Pacemaker Patients

Earlier this month the Trust's Cardiology department won a Silver Award for being the first centre in the UK to register over 100 active users on the Biotronik Home Monitoring system for pacemaker and ICD (Implantable Cardiovertor Defibrillator) patients. The home monitoring device works alongside all Biotronik pacemakers and defibrillators and is placed at patients' bed sides. The monitor transmits readings via a satellite to the Biotronik control centre in Berlin, Germany, which then gets sent back to a computer at the hospital loaded with Biotronik software. Being able to follow a patient's heart rate remotely allows the detection of atrial fibrillation before the patient really notices and also helps to detect any early indication of device malfunction.

Further capital developments at St Peter's Hospital

Earlier this month our new office block – Chertsey House – opened at St Peter's hospital. The new area will house a number of corporate departments including Quality, Health Informatics, Business Development, Finance, Occupational Health, Media and Communications and our EQUIP team. Chertsey House also has a number of large meeting rooms which will replace our current Board Room and Lecture Theatre on The Ramp. The new accommodation is part of our overall masterplan for the St Peter's site and demolition of the lower part of The Ramp will begin later this month. This will allow the creation of additional staff parking spaces as part of our overall Travel Plan.

Meetings and visits

This month, I made a presentation to new staff at our monthly induction meeting which is held at Ashford Hospital, and was on the interview panel for a new Acting Medical Director and for a new Consultant. I also made an informal visit to our Theatres where I was able to attend one of their weekly team briefing sessions and observe an operation by Mr Elliot Chisholm who performed a laparoscopic (keyhole) cholecystectomy.

I have continued to chair our six month performance reviews for our clinical divisions, which is an important part of tracking how the Trust is doing, in terms of patient experience, quality of care and meeting activity and financial targets.

I attended the North West Surrey Transformation Board and a further meeting to discuss integrated working across health and social care in Northwest Surrey with our local partners. I also attended the new South East Coast Chairs and Chief Executives meeting and a wider meeting with the new NHS South of England Strategic Health Authority.

With other members of the Board, I attended a very positive Board Development Day with Assura Medical, the new provider of community services in West Surrey. I also attended a meeting of the Comprehensive Local Research Network Chairs Board in London.

Along with Aileen McLeish, I made a second presentation to around 50 staff at Epsom hospital. I have also had meetings with Alison Edgington from Surrey Community Health, with representatives from NHS Surrey and attended the farewell dinner for Candy Morris, Chief Executive of the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority.

Submitted by: Andrew Liles, Chief Executive

Date: 15th November 2011