Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS
NHS Trust

TRUST BOARD
25th February 2010

TITLE	**Chairman's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Highlights of activities since January 2010
BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS	Refers to Dr Foster and mortality
STAKEHOLDER / PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS	Refers to meetings with Strategic Health Authority
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES	N/A
LEGAL ISSUES	N/A
The Trust Board is asked to:	Note the report
Submitted by:	Aileen McLeish
Date:	17 February 2010
Decision:	For Noting

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Chairman's Report

Foundation Trust application: A great deal of work has gone into preparing for the next stage of our application. The culmination of this is our Board to Board meeting with the Strategic Health Authority scheduled for 22 February. Many updates have been made to the SHA in anticipation of this meeting, not least the submission of the revised Integrated Business Plan which was approved by our Board at its meeting in January. The Trust Board have attended a series of Masterclasses where we have been challenged by external experts on a number of areas which has given us reassurance on the governance of the Trust. I would like to thank everyone within the Trust for their efforts and our partners for their support in getting us this far in the process. By the time of our February Board meeting we hope to know whether the SHA has decided to recommend our FT application to the Department of Health.

Dr Foster and Standardised Mortality Rate: Myself and other Non-Executive Directors had a very useful training session from Dr Foster, the organisation responsible for collating standardised mortality rates across the country. We learned a great deal about the composition of this measure and our Trust's performance. We received a high level of assurance about the quality of Trust data, the relatively low level of alerts on our activities and the speed of response of our Executive team.

South East Coast Chairs and Chief Executives Forum and Foundation Trust Network Chairs and Chief Executive Meeting: Andrew Liles and I attended both these meetings during the month. Much of the discussions at both meetings were around how we can all respond to the challenges of reduced funding in future. Andrew gave a presentation at the South East Coast meeting sharing the work which has started in NW Surrey aimed at reducing emergency admissions. This has the potential to improve patient care while reducing costs within the local health economy. Delivery is dependent on a high level of co-operation between all parties and Andrew and his team are investing a great deal of time in making this happen. We should not under estimate the financial challenges ahead. However, having listened to Chairs and Chief Executives from other acute Trusts, I have been reassured that we have realistic plans in place to meet these challenges.

Stakeholder meetings: I have held a number of meetings this month with Stakeholders both to talk about the improved performance of the Trust and the outlook for the future as well as gain feedback on how we are seen within the community we serve. Andrew and I met with Philip Hammond MP and separately with Cliff Busch Chairman of Surrey LINk. I also had meetings with Graeme Carmen, Chairman of ASPH LINk and with Maurice Cohen, Chair of our Patient Panel. These meetings are very important to us as they are an opportunity to identify and discuss issues of importance to all parties.

Membership meeting: We held the first of our planned quarterly special interest seminars for members of our aspirant Foundation Trust. This topic this month was specialist surgery. Overall just under 50 members attended and following presentations from three of our consultants (Mr John Hadley, Mr Namir Kalif-Hussain and Miss Helen Witherow) there was a lively question and answer session. Feedback from attendees was generally very positive and we hope to build on this enthusiasm at similar events in future.

Maternity service: We were all delighted to hear at the end of last month that our Maternity service has achieved CNST Level 2 with strong encouragement that we have a good chance of achieving CNST level 3 in the next 12 months. This is a powerful validation of the improvements demonstrated by our maternity team. Importantly, this year, this has been recognised by the people who matter most with prospective mothers increasingly opting to have their babies at St Peter's. Congratulations must go to Eileen Nolan and the rest of her team for this turn around in the performance of the maternity unit.

Submitted by: Aileen McLeish

Date: 17th February 2010